

TO: Board of School Directors

FROM: George W. Ioannidis, Business Manager / Board Secretary

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ TIME: May 1, 2013
7:18 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

PARTICIPANTS: School Board: Eric Cable, Brent Hoschar, Cindy Huber,
Douglas Stein, David Trettel, Douglas White

District: Karyn Brown, George Ioannidis, Robert Lombardo,
David Renaut

Absent: Stacy Meyer, Emily Sindlinger, Todd Staub

The Directors’ Study Forum, of the Spring Grove Area School District Board of School Directors, was called to order at 7:18 PM by Mr. Douglas Stein, President. Mr. Stein noted that six Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Renaut introduced teacher leaders from the district to present information concerning ELA and Math K-6 revised curriculum and new secondary level Math curriculum for review and discussion. Renaut noted these revisions take into consideration district alliance with PA common core standards, developed as part of national common core requirements.

Kathy Gross, third grade teacher at Paradise Elementary, and Julianne Janusz, reading specialist at Spring Grove Intermediate, presented a brief overview of the process in which teachers looked over common core standards and considered necessary revisions to ELA K-6 curriculum. The revisions to the curriculum focus on five state standards, and emphasize rigor and higher-level thinking.

Stephanie Winemiller, first grade teacher at Paradise Elementary, and Andrew Howell, fourth grade teacher at Paradise, presented a brief overview of the process in which they, as math committee co-chairs, revisited curriculum and revised content based upon standards for Math K-6 common core.

Melissa Grim, co-curriculum leader of the Math department at the High School, presented an overview of proposed AP Calculus BC course. Grim explained that this rigorous course, when reflected on graduates’ transcripts, eliminates a math requirement for students entering many colleges.

Board members will consider approval of presented new/revised curriculum at the May 20 voting meeting.

Dr. Renaut presented the 2013/2014 proposed District Assessment Plan for discussion, noting changes from the previous year reflecting Keystones at the secondary level. Board members will consider approval of the proposed plan at the May voting meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

George Ioannidis presented the 2013-2014 general fund budget for review and discussion, reflecting a proposed millage rate increase of 2.1% over the current millage rate of 20.0831. Board members discussed items having potential financial impact to the district in the future, including the Affordable Care Act, refinancing opportunities, and the collective bargaining agreement. The Board will consider approval of the proposed budget at the May voting meeting.

Ioannidis presented the 2013-2014 nutritional fund budget for review and discussion, which indicated total revenues of \$2,179,240 and total expenditures of \$2,178,980. The Board will consider approval of the balanced nutritional fund budget at the May voting meeting.

Ioannidis presented a U.N.I.T.E. Alternate Revenue Source memo for discussion. This proposal will allow Alternate Revenue Development LLC (ARD) to provide online advertising by placing banners at the top and bottom of the website, at a cost of dividing revenue generated at 60-40%, 60% for the District. Ioannidis reported the agreement would not interfere with our existing relationship with local advertisers, and all advertising would be conducive to education. Following brief discussion, the board will consider approval of the agreement at the May voting meeting.

Ioannidis proposed continuing to engage local auditing firm Kochenour, Earnest, Smyser & Burg, to conduct an audit of our financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2013, and noted a proposed fee increase of \$50 over the previous year. The board will consider engagement of the firm at the May voting meeting.

Ioannidis presented a Utility Rate Analysts (URA) memo for discussion, noting URA provides consulting services for review of utility bills to identify erroneous billings / taxes. If savings are determined to be due, URA files the paperwork, and receives a portion of the savings realized as a fee. Following brief discussion, the board will consider approval to enter into agreement with URA at the May voting meeting. Potential exists for expanding such services to include a review of phone bills.

Mark Czapp, Support Services Director, proposed engaging Brian S. Bingeman of Turf, Track & Court, LLC to oversee renovations during the summer tennis court resurfacing project, for a cost of \$8,330. Services under this engagement include facility analysis, construction document prep, bid analysis, project oversight, and closeout. Project cost for resurfacing and fence repair is estimated at \$25-30,000. The Board will consider approval to engage Bingeman at the May voting meeting.

Czapp presented three quotes for construction of parking lot steps in the rear of the High School, for discussion. The scope of work would take less than two weeks and would begin at the close of the school year. Board members discussed the need and cost of the construction, and requested administration include the quotes on the May voting agenda for consideration. White indicated being willing to donate materials to assist with costs, and will speak to Music Boosters to see if they have any interest in helping with costs for the project.

Ioannidis shared that Keystone Christian Academy approached the District to inquire of the Board's interest in renting a portion of the former Middle School to run a private school program for one year. Czapp and Ioannidis walked through the north end of the building with Keystone, and noted regulatory issues that would need addressed. These could potentially be included in the Windy Hill Sr. Center land development proposal. Ioannidis will obtain a figure from the code inspector of costs necessary to bring the building up to code, and prepare an estimate of those costs for Board members to review at the May voting meeting.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brent Hoschar presented minor revisions to Policies #610, Purchases Subject to Bid and #611, Purchases Budgeted, for review. Hoschar also presented revisions to Policy #822, Automated External Defibrillator for discussion, which correct School Code citations and remove language more suitable to an Administrative Procedure. The Board will consider approval of a first reading for the three policies at the May voting meeting.

Hoschar presented the 2013-2014 Code of Student Conduct for review and discussion, noting minor changes to policy references and transportation guidelines. The Board will consider approval at the May voting meeting.

Eric Cable stated his agreement to retain the Board Treasurer position. The Board will consider appointment of Cable at the May voting meeting.

Cindy Huber presented a listing of 2013-2014 winter season extracurricular coaches for review and discussion. Following brief discussion, the Board will consider approval with personnel actions at the May voting meeting.

Huber made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM. Trettel seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary