

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ April 7, 2014
TIME: 7:10 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

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

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

Absent: Emily Sindlinger,

The Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:10 PM by Ms. Cindy Huber, President. Huber noted eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

George Ioannidis, Business Manager, presented a memo and summary of proposals received from six respondents to the Transportation RFP. Ioannidis explained the summary, noting the administration took the proposed cost of each and ran a comparison of services. Following extensive review, Ioannidis recommended the board give direction to negotiate with Lincoln Transportation and Red Lion / Krapf. Trettel proposed that Ioannidis meet with each of these two companies one-on-one and interview them before bringing one company back for board vote on April 21. Ioannidis will attempt to renegotiate the cost. Ioannidis will share a summary of those interviews with the board at the time of the vote.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Lombardo, Superintendent, noted his appreciation for High School administrators and instructional staff who recently reviewed objectives and features of the competitive Marching Band program. Dr. Renaut presented a memo proposing to move the band to a non-competitive status for the coming school year. The change would potentially increase student participation, reduce the amount of time a student commits to the program, and reduce expenditures by approximately \$13,700. The administration will research requirements for halftime activities during home events and present a summary to the board when considering approval of the change at the April 21 voting meeting.

Lombardo presented a memo and requested the board consider putting the Ninth Grade Football program on hiatus. Lombardo noted that other districts are also removing junior high programs as a cost saving measure. The change will not affect scheduling and ninth grade students will have opportunity to be part of the JV squad. Board members noted removal of this program, as well as a decision to change the marching band program, would address athletic and music reductions in keeping with recent academic changes. The board will consider approval at the April 21 voting meeting.

Dr. Renault shared that the district is in the second year of transitioning from PA Standards to the PA Core Standards as per changes and requirements at the State level. He discussed a memo that outlined proposed new/revised curriculum for the 2014-2015 school year. Online access was given to board members to review the curriculum and Renault noted that department chairs and curriculum leaders would be available at the May 5, 2014 discussion meeting when board members will be given opportunity to discuss the curriculum further and present questions. This initiative represents the largest the district has experienced. The Superintendent expressed great appreciation to Renault and his team for their hard work on the project. A vote to approve the proposed curriculum is tentative for the May 19 voting meeting.

Brent Hoschar presented a major trip by the High School Music Department to Florida, in February 2015, for consideration. The board will consider approval of the trip at the April 21 voting meeting.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Renault presented a PowerPoint summarizing the proposed 2015-2018 District Comprehensive Plan. Renault explained the next step is to place the plan on public display for a period of 28 days, after which the board will review the plan a second time at the May discussion meeting and consider approval at the May 19 voting meeting. Contingent upon Chapter 4 guidance, the administration will submit the plan to PDE, with implementation slated for July 1, 2015.

Renault presented a memo outlining modifications to the 2013-2014 school calendar in an effort to have seniors graduate on Friday, May 30, and abide by PDE's regulations for a minimum of 180 days. The district will apply for Act 80 days on October 14, October 15 and May 5, for seniors only, to count toward the 180-day minimum. PDE also allows seniors to attend school on a Saturday in May and have that day count toward the 180 days, if used for graduation practice. Seniors attended school on February 18 and will attend on Saturday, May 10, for two hours of graduation practice. The board will consider approval of these changes at the April 21 voting meeting. These changes have no impact on students in grades K-11, whose last day remains Friday, June 6.

Hoschar presented revisions in language of Policy #504, Employment of Classified Employees, and Policy #541, Benefits for Regularly Employed Part-Time Personnel. Revisions presented are reflective of language in the Affordable Care Act and are suggested following review by the District Solicitor. The board will consider approval of the revisions at the April 21 voting meeting.

Dave Trettel requested an update on the status of reducing food waste associated with changes required through the National School Lunch Program. Cable requested a cost analysis, by building, of opting out of PDE's Program, and also requested an update on the district's current position with the Old Hanover Road farmhouse and the former Administration Building properties.

Cable moved for adjournment at 8:10 PM. White seconded the motion, unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary