

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ TIME: October 6, 2014
7:26 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

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

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

Absent:

The October 6, 2014 Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:26 PM by Cindy Huber, President. Huber noted nine board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Lombardo thanked board members for their support and participation during the September 26 Critical Incident Response Exercise (CIRE). Lombardo received positive feedback from observers. Chief Mark Bentzel, Northern York Co. Regional Police, complimented district administrators, faculty and students for a job well done, especially during the reunification piece. Trettel questioned where the district goes from this point and board members requested a written report following debriefings. Board members congratulated Karyn Brown for coordinating and planning the drill. Brown will continue to work collaboratively with local law enforcement and EMS personnel to update emergency procedures.

George Ioannidis outlined advantages to proceeding with public water connection at Paradise Elementary. Steps following board consent to proceed with the hook up include a request to York Water Company to run the line, installation of a meter pit, and a commitment to connect within one year. The district is currently awaiting an answer from the solicitor as to the best approach for completing the additional work. Board consensus was to include an action on the October 20 meeting agenda to move forward with negotiations with York Water. A contract with York Water would follow approval of that action.

Czapp presented an update on campus signage following the board’s recommendation to research options and costs. Czapp shared examples from Fast Signs and noted a preliminary cost analysis of approximately \$14,000 for installation of three basic signs. Trettel suggested sharing specs with YCST to see what they can do through their metal shop. Chief Bentzel recommended placing quality signage at the entrance to Spirit Lane for emergency responders. Czapp will make an inquiry to YCST.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Annette Julius, Paradise Elementary Principal, shared data from the Summer Pre-K Program and noted 47 students participated in the program. Sharon Akers and Travis Winemiller were instructors, with Christine Kauffman and Barb Meckley serving as classroom assistants. Students that were part of the first cohort in 2010 took PSSA assessments this year; 70% tested proficient in reading and 78% tested proficient in math. The program is funded through Title I funds.

Lombardo noted that 16 district classrooms, 1st through 8th grade, are currently piloting technology with the use of iPad minis and chrome books. John Sengia and Kristen Henning, technology support instructors, are conducting research through the piloted program. Lombardo noted that professional development is key, curriculum is driving use of the technology, and student test scores should measure the equipment's enhancement to student learning. Lombardo noted the Educational Fund is considering support of future purchases, and he recognized Stacy Meyer for her role and backing as an Ed Fund board member.

Brent Hoschar presented a memo detailing a request for Amanda Grant, High School ELA teacher, to attend ALER (Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers), an overnight conference in Delray Beach, Florida October 30 – November 2, 2014. Following brief discussion, the board will consider approval at the October 20 voting meeting.

Hoschar presented three Major Trip Proposals for review and discussion: Science Olympiad State Competition – April 24-25, 2015; Team America Rocketry Challenge Nationals – May 7-10, 2015; and National Art Honor Society – November 6-8, 2014. The board will consider approval of the three proposals at the October 20 voting meeting.

Emily Sindlinger presented a proposal for two wrestling competitions for review. At the October 20 voting meeting, the board will consider approval for the Sr. High Wrestling Team to attend the Indian River Tournament in Delaware on December 29 and 30, 2014, and the Jr. High Wrestling Team to attend the Wilson Junior High Wrestling Tournament on February 6 and 7, 2015.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Stacy Meyer presented a proposed 2015 School Board Meeting Calendar for review. Lombardo noted inclusion of a July meeting and September board conference meeting; however, the board did not hold a July meeting in 2014 and a board conference meeting has not been necessary for some time. The board will consider approval of the calendar at the October 20 voting meeting.

Meyer presented revisions to Policy No. 000, Board Policy / Administrative Procedures, Policy No. 002, Authority and Powers, and Policy No. 004, Membership, for consideration. Following brief discussion, the board will consider approval of a first reading for the revisions at the October 20 voting meeting.

Doug Stein presented a recommendation for additional hours to existing Intermediate School food service staff for consideration. Lombardo noted the increase is necessary to meet the needs of students following a reduction in cafeteria staff by one person. Lombardo also noted the hours will not change the part-time status of staff members. The board will consider approval of the increase at the October 20 voting meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chris Gibbons, Concord Public Finance, explained details associated with the third phase of a three-phase process to refinance GOB Series 2009A and 2009B. Gibbons explained that the total principal to be refunded is approximately \$33 million, and the savings projected at this point is \$1.7 million. Due to a prior action in 2014, the board is restricted from settling another refinance in this calendar year. Board members were amenable to considering approval of a Parameters Resolution authorizing the advanced refunding and setting forth the terms and conditions for the refunding. Ioannidis will contact Steve Hovis, RBC, who will join Gibbons and present details to the board at the October 20 meeting. The Resolution will be included on the voting meeting agenda.

Ioannidis stated his attempt to reconnect with a secondary real estate company regarding marketing of district properties received no response. He noted Bennett Williams continues to demonstrate an interest; he will make contact to obtain information for sharing with the board during a future meeting.

Eric Cable presented a memo and listing of 2013-2014 budgetary transfers for discussion. Ioannidis noted the transfers are necessary to complete the audit work and prepare the annual financial report for yearend 2013-14. The board will consider approval of the transfers at the October 20 voting meeting.

Ioannidis presented 2015-2016 projected budget information, recapping the 2013-14 and 2014-15 fiscal years and presenting an official base Act 1 Index of 1.9% and enhanced Index for Spring Grove of 2.4% for the 2015-16 fiscal year. He noted the district's potential eligibility for PSERS and Special Education Cost exceptions and shared existing enrollment data, assessed values, revenues and expenditures. The board will review preliminary 2013-14 audit data, 2015-16 budget parameters, and discuss Act 1 Index, exceptions and optional motions during the November 3 discussion meeting.

Board members questioned Meatless Monday, a promotion included on the district's October calendar/menu. Mark Czapp stated the effort promotes meatless lunch items each Monday and includes such choices as pizza, grilled cheese and tomato soup. Czapp will remove the promotion from the menu so as not to give an inaccurate perception to students and parents.

Cable moved for adjournment at 8:55 PM. Sindlinger seconded the motion, unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary