

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ November 3, 2014
TIME: 7:15 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

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

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

Absent: Stacy Meyer

Ms. Cindy Huber, President of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District, called the Directors’ Study Forum meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Huber noted eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Brent Hoschar introduced Dr. Cugliari, High School Principal, to share an overview of new and revised courses proposed for the High School beginning in 2015-2016. Heather Fluke, Abbie Sechrist, and Claire Shubert presented information concerning three new courses, and Cugliari presented eight courses slated for slight revisions. Dr. Cugliari noted that AP classes are very prevalent and affect a portion of the overall SPP number for the school. Following lengthy discussion, the board will consider approval of the new and revised course proposals during the November 17 voting meeting.

Hoschar presented one overnight conference for discussion, for Timothy Bupp, Elementary Music Teacher, to travel to Rhode Island on April 9-12, 2015. Dr. Renaut congratulated Mr. Bupp on being selected to present at the 54th NAFME conference. The board will consider approval of the conference request during the November 17 voting meeting.

Dr. Lombardo recognized elementary teachers seated in the audience and updated board members on current instructional technology pilot programs in several first grade classrooms. Lombardo noted administration would like to see all first graders using iPads by the close of the current school year, but noted staffing for the professional development piece is currently in need of additional support. Lombardo requested board consent to advertise for a third Instructional Technology Specialist, noting it may be necessary to hire an additional technology person down the road. The board granted consent to advertise for the position.

Lombardo stated that infusion of instructional technology is critical, reflected in the 109 resident students currently enrolled in Cyber / Charter School. These enrollments will translate to more than \$1 million in district expenditures this year alone. Dr. Renaut shared that the administration is currently working on a plan to provide K-12 learning through a district online academy as an option to those students currently enrolled in outside cyber/charter programs. Lombardo noted a hopeful kickoff of the online academy at the start of 2015-16. The academy would need to be named, and sharing resources with other districts is not yet out of the question. Details will be presented to the board during a future meeting.

Hoschar presented the following Proposals for Major Trip for discussion: Mock Trial Competition at the University of Pittsburgh, January 2-4, 2015; Mock Trial Competition at the University of Pennsylvania, January 17-18, 2015; Student Launch Initiative's competition in Huntsville, Alabama, April 6-13, 2015; and the Music Department's trip to New York City, April 25, 2015. Each of the four proposed trips will be considered for approval by board members during the November 17 voting meeting.

Sindlinger presented a wrestling tournament in Bellefonte on January 23-24, 2015 for consideration. The board will consider approval during the November 17 voting meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

White presented color and design options for the Spring Grove Elementary canopy for consideration. Mark Czapp shared samples and the board selected rocket blue as the color; they consented moving forward with the project.

White presented a memo setting a date for board members' annual district facilities walkthrough. Several members noted a schedule conflict for the proposed date. Mark Czapp will consider other dates and present for consideration at a future meeting.

Lombardo requested direction from board members regarding district signage. Consensus of the board was to put the issue to rest and not pursue campus signage.

Ioannidis presented 2015-16 proposed budget information for review and discussion, recapping 2013-14 audited fiscal year figures and noting an estimated ending fund balance for 2014-15 as \$4,244,536. Ioannidis presented a spreadsheet of year-over-year revenues, expenditures, and projected fund balances through 2018-19; totals reflected a steadily growing deficit. Board members will review and update parameters and the staffing profile during December 2014. Ioannidis noted future considerations include collective bargaining unit salaries, uncertain state funding, and PSERS planned increases. Sindlinger requested a listing of district programs and their estimated costs; Staub concurred and requested best-case scenarios. A compiled list will be shared with board members during a January 2015 meeting. Ioannidis noted the board will need to adopt a resolution to stay within the 2.4% enhanced index by January 29, 2015 or adopt a preliminary budget no later than February 18, 2015.

FUTURE PLANNING

Lombardo proposed closing the district on Friday, December 26, 2014 and Friday, January 2, 2015 over the Christmas and New Year Holiday in an effort to save on heating and electrical costs, with the only exception being the High School due to outside requests for usage. Twelve-month staff would be required to use available leave time or arrange making up the hours with their direct supervisor by the close of January 2015. Board members were in favor of the closings.

Huber reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and encouraged all to get out and vote.

Cable moved for adjournment at 8:15 PM. Staub seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary