

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ November 2, 2015
TIME: 7:17 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

The Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:17 PM by Cindy Huber. Ms. Huber noted that eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Cugliari, High School Principal, presented 13 new High School courses proposed for the 2016-2017 school year, offering a brief description for each course. Also present to field questions were professional staff members representing respective curriculum areas.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Lisa Smith, Community Relations Coordinator, shared several handouts with board members and noted the recent addition of Tracy Haper to the department, who is focusing efforts largely on district fundraising and advertising. Smith also spoke about the Veteran’s Memorial Garden, inviting board members to the dedication ceremony slated for November 11. She highlighted changes to the district website and commented on e-newsletters now going out on a regular basis and having a 25% (+) open rate. She is developing a Communications Committee to begin meeting after the holidays.

Emily Sindlinger presented revisions to Board Policies #113.2 and #913.2 for review and discussion. PSBA forwarded recommendations for changes indicated, which were reviewed by our District Solicitor before presenting to the Board. Sindlinger then presented a draft of new Board Policy #113.4, Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information, for review and consideration of adoption. PDE forwarded a sampling of this new policy in keeping with upcoming special education compliance monitoring. Consensus of the Board was to consider approval of a first reading for each of the three policies at the November 15 voting meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

George Ioannidis presented information regarding the 2016-2017 general fund budget for review and discussion, noting the official Base Index of 2.4% and an enhanced Index of 3.0% for Spring Grove. Ioannidis recapped fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16, highlighting revenues and expenses, and noting the current anticipated ending fund balance for the current year as roughly \$3,856,000, with an unassigned fund balance of \$7.5 million. He spoke to the budget impasse at the State level and the impact this is having on districts. He highlighted the budget parameters for expenditures and revenues, and relatively huge unknowns at this point such as salaries and benefits with ongoing negotiations, and PSERS and health care rate increases not yet finalized. Following lengthy discussion, Ioannidis noted that currently the district is not experiencing negative repercussions to its cash flow from the existing budget impasse; however, he did share that there are actions to consider in January if the situation has not changed. Among the possibilities for consideration are the withholding of the state's share of payments to PSERS, delaying payments to the Lincoln Benefit Trust, withholding payments to charter schools and applying for a line of credit. The Board will consider adoption of the Index Resolution at the November 15 voting meeting.

White reminded board members of the walkthrough of facilities scheduled for Saturday, November 7. Lombardo asked for a final RSVP prior to the Saturday date for planning purposes. Board members are to meet at the ESC building at 7 AM.

There was no future business brought to the table for discussion.

Huber noted the next scheduled meeting date as Monday, November 16, and reminded audience members that tomorrow, November 3, is election day that includes a ballot for Board members for the 2016-2020 four-year term.

Huber reminded board members of the executive session for negotiations following adjournment of the meeting. Sindlinger moved for adjournment at 8:15 PM. The motion, seconded by Cable, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary