



MINUTES
SPRING GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
DIRECTORS' STUDY FORUM MEETING

DATE/TIME of MEETING: September 12, 2022 @ 7:38 PM

LOCATION of MEETING: SPRING GROVE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL
244 OLD HANOVER ROAD, SPRING GROVE, PA

ATTENDANCE: **The following School Directors were in attendance:**
Karen Baum, Ben Ramsay, Michael Ritz, Rachel Rohrbaugh, Rodney Shearer,
Doug Stein (*via Zoom*), Dave Trettel, Doug White, Nicole Wilson

The following School Directors were absent:

The following Spring Grove Area School District Administrators were in attendance:

Dr. George W. Ioannidis, Superintendent
Dr. Steve Guadagnino, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Mark Czapp, Director of Business Operations/Board Secretary
Dr. Michelle Ludwig, Director of Pupil Services

A Directors' Study meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, following adjournment of the voting meeting. Rachel Rohrbaugh, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM, noting the same board members remained in attendance from the earlier voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CURRICULUM

Dr. Guadagnino, Assistant Superintendent, shared a presentation summarizing preliminary 2022 PSSA and Keystone test results and data. He noted this was the first "typical" assessment cycle since 2019, as no assessments were given in 2020.

Dr. Dietrich, High School Principal, shared a handout and comments summarizing Advanced Placement courses, scores, and student participation for 2018-2019 through 2021-2022 school years.

Guadagnino shared a Summer School/Summer Camp Memorandum summarizing and highlighting the success of the programs. Elementary students' pre- and post-test data reflected growth in ELA and Math. Secondary level student participants earned credits in ELA, Math, Science, and/or History.

Ioannidis shared an update to the community survey process. Leadership team members have been divided into three groups to study results. A summary and action plan, including a long-term plan in the areas of growth, will be prepared by each group, with a goal of bringing a presentation to the board at the October DSF. Summaries will be made available to the public at that time.

Ioannidis reported that, at present, approximately 40 students have returned from cyber/charter school instruction to in-person instruction within our buildings. This represents a significant savings to the district and better learning opportunities for the students.

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Three overnight conference requests were presented to the board for consideration. The board will consider approval for Dr. Ioannidis to participate in the 2022 Superintendent Fall Symposium, Mark Czapp and AnJie Doll to participate and present at the AASPA Annual Conference, and Tim Bupp to participate in the NAFME Annual Conference, at the September 26th Regular Voting Meeting.

Guadagnino presented a Proposal for Major trip from the music department for consideration. The board will consider approval for High School Music faculty, students, and chaperones, to go to Disney World Performance in April 2023, at the September 26th meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Mark Czapp, Director of Business Operations, presented the proposed 2023-2024 budget timeline/calendar. Czapp commented on key dates that include a vote to stay within the Act 1 Index, adoption of the proposed final budget, and adoption of the final general and nutrition fund budgets. The board will consider approval of the calendar at the September 26th meeting.

Czapp presented a Memorandum for the board to consider disposal of obsolete athletic jerseys. Jeff Laux, Student Athletic Coordinator, is working with the football team and athletic booster club to confirm a fundraising option, with proceeds going toward the booster account. The board will consider approval at the September 26th meeting.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ioannidis re-presented a list of buildings and grounds projects approved by the board in September 2021, with some of the items listed being included for conversation during the upcoming 2022 board facilities walkthrough. Mark Czapp and Bill Stiles will lead the walkthrough, after which board members Shearer and White will be asked to consider scheduling a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICY

Baum presented a proposed 2023 Board Meeting Calendar for review. Board members will consider approval of the proposed meeting dates at the September 26th meeting.

Guadagnino presented revisions to Policy No. 101 for consideration, noting the changes are in keeping with updates to the mission/vision/value statements approved with the comprehensive plan. The board will consider approval of a first reading at the September 26th meeting.

Ioannidis presented draft Policies No. 218, 220, and 237, approved for a first reading at the August voting meeting, for discussion per the board's request before moving forward for a second reading. Trettel inquired about Policy 218's language under Authority. Attorney Chris Harris noted that for legal liability reasons, Stock and Leader recommends including statements for protected classes to guard against lawsuits. Shearer expressed his concerns and suggested school boards consider taking a stand against such federal government requirements.

Shearer stated his objection to changing "will" to "may" in Policy No. 237, noting it then becomes discretionary and allows room for playing favorites. Ioannidis stated that when there are items within the law that may prohibit the district from taking certain actions, the administration must be mindful of students' due process rights. Trettel added the proposed change would give opportunity to make a reasonable decision based on the circumstances. The board will consider approval of a second reading for the policies at the September 26th meeting.

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Shearer stated that the government is currently taking public comment related to Title IX proposals. As he understands, the proposed changes will take away parental rights of students in the school. Shearer said he reached out to Lloyd Smucker's office and was informed that thousands of districts did respond to proposed revisions.

Wilson asked to include Title IX on a future agenda. She believes the period to receive public comment on the proposed revisions is going to be extended. Wilson stated her concern that board members are not being made aware of things passed through the federal government until after they are approved and asked how the board can be kept informed in a timely manner on matters such as Title IX. Ioannidis stated that PSBA is a resource available to board members related to legislative activity. He noted that the administration takes its direction from the board and has been engaged in responding to other items at the board's guidance.

Chris Harris, attorney with Stock and Leader, shared an overview of Title IX from a legal perspective, noting that Title IX has been in existence since 1972, and sex was defined differently by the Third Circuit Court in 2018. Harris noted the differences between sex discrimination and sexual harassment, and constitutional law and civil law. Current proposed changes to Title IX are at the federal level.

Harris noted that public comment related to proposed changes can make a difference, as suggested by Wilson. If proposed changes result in students not wanting schools to contact parents about confidential issues, a district could include language within its policy to reach out to the parent. Wilson does not want the separation of families based upon federal law that is funding the school. If the comment period is extended, she requested the board present comments indicating objection to proposed changes.

Board members requested more information regarding Title IX, so members are aware of what is in the current proposal. Harris shared his experience with Title IX training for administrators and implementing the law. Ioannidis will work with Harris to schedule a presentation sooner than later and noted that issues on which the board would like more information should be communicated beforehand.

Baum inquired about the free breakfast program announced recently by Governor Wolf. Ioannidis noted implementation is October 1, adding the initiative may present some challenges to overcome. It is assumed that there will be additional reimbursement because of increased costs to districts. Trettel and Shearer stated their disagreement with the initiative, noting responsibility should not fall on school districts as educators; rather, it should fall on the state or other governmental programs. White encouraged other board members to visit buildings and observe the number of students whose only meals are provided by the school district.

Czapp presented a list of PSBA Officer candidates, noting there is a short resume available for each candidate on the website. The board will consider approval for Czapp as Board Secretary to cast a vote for the proposed candidates at the September 26th meeting.

PERSONNEL

Karen Baum presented a list of proposed personnel actions to be considered for approval at the September 26th regular voting meeting.

PLANNING:

Ioannidis reminded board members of the annual facilities walkthrough on Saturday, September 17. He will also reach out to Chris Harris to schedule a Title IX presentation for board members at a future meeting.

Ramsay again thanked students for coming and for their presented comments. He noted his availability to speak with the students following adjournment of the meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT: Trettel moved for adjournment at 8:51 PM. Ritz seconded. The meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Mark A. Czapp,
Director of Business Operations/Board Secretary