

Planning for the Future Community Shares Perspectives on Realignment, Feasibility Study



The functionality and adaptability of all SCSD buildings are being discussed in realignment meetings that focus on strengthening the SCSD educational experience.

the opportunity to share their thoughts.”

During the meetings, discussions have focused on the possible realignment, including ways in which a streamlined district could provide students with more resources; offer new programs, such as a Kindergarten for four-year-olds (K-4); ensure teaching consistency across grade levels, especially at the elementary level; alleviate some bus scheduling issues; and provide a better balance between student, program and personnel supervision. The meetings have also included candid discussions about the readiness of some school buildings to accommodate more students and the impact that a restructured district may have on the community.



The district has also surveyed the community about possible new programs, such as K-4. Results of the online survey, conducted in early March, found strong support for the program.

Much like many school districts across the Commonwealth, Spring Cove School District is facing declining enrollment and

anticipating the challenges of aging buildings. A study by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania found that enrollments are rapidly declining in rural schools across the state.

The decline is most notable in western Pennsylvania, where more than 40 percent of elementary schools and 60 percent of high schools are projected to experience significant enrollment decreases of 15 percent or greater by 2019.

Dr. Vadella remains hopeful and is confident that a solution can be found.

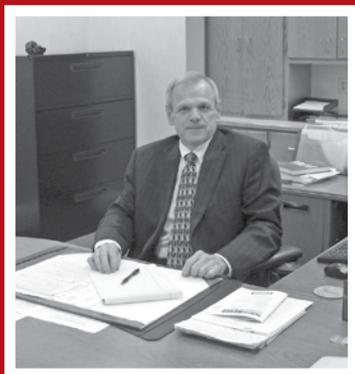
“We have a tremendous group of teachers and parents who want what’s best for the children,” he said. “Working together, I know can develop and carry out a district-wide plan that ensures our students will receive the exceptional education that our community expects and the children deserve.”

Over the last several weeks, SCSD administrators have scheduled a series of community meetings to talk with area residents about ways to strengthen the educational experience at SCSD schools. This year’s wintry weather forced the cancellation of many of the scheduled meetings, but more meetings are on the way.

As of late March, two public meetings and three faculty meetings had been held. At each forum, guests shared their perspectives, ideas and concerns with district administrators and board members on a wide range of issues, including the possible realignment of the district schools and the results of the recently completed district-wide feasibility study.

“We’re very interested in what our faculty, families and district taxpayers have to say,” said **Robert J. Vadella**, Superintendent. “Without a doubt, their perspectives are critical to our long-term planning process. They are such an important part of what we do and where we’re headed. We’re not going to move forward until everyone has had

Superintendent's Corner



Although the end of school is quickly approaching, the summer months will be busy at Spring Cove. We are moving forward with several initiatives that will offer many short- and long-term benefits to SCSD and its students. This includes changes to the Life

Skills Program and the continued upgrade of the district's network and technology systems (see page 5 for more information). We're also taking a close look at a possible kindergarten program for four-year-old children (K-4).

The district currently hosts five Life Skills classrooms administered by Intermediate Unit 8. The IU employs the teachers and classroom paraprofessionals, provides materials, and supervises the staff. Four other districts also enroll children in these classrooms.

After thoughtful evaluation, I'm pleased to announce that SCSD will assume responsibility for the Life Skills classrooms beginning with the 2014-15 school year. By bringing the program under the SCSD umbrella, the district will save more than \$150,000 per year without impacting the quality of the Life Skills program. Neighboring districts that enroll their students will also see significant savings.

There are several factors that will contribute to the savings. If you would like to learn more about them, please feel free to contact me at rvadella@scsd.k12.pa.us.

These savings will be invested back into educational programs at SCSD, including a possible K-4 program. Decades of research confirm that high-quality early learning programs offer life-long benefits to children, including:

- greater readiness for learning
- more lifetime success

- higher achievement in school
- completion of more rigorous academics
- better preparation for post-secondary education
- better attendance and lower truancy levels
- higher lifetime income and standard of living
- reduced likelihood to engage in criminal behavior as juveniles and adults

There are also significant advantages to families when a school district offers a K-4 program, such as:

- all children can attend regardless of family income
- reduced childcare costs
- parents can work
- classrooms are staffed by certified Early Childhood teachers and qualified paraprofessionals
- district sets the curriculum
- district provides transportation and nutritional meals

School districts benefit, too. In the short-term, K-4 programs can help districts boost enrollment and generate additional revenue that can be reinvested into school programming. In addition, over time, K-4 programs reduce the number of children who need remediation, as well as remediation costs. They have also been shown to reduce referrals to special education. Students who participate in K-4 programs tend to improve their academic performance through 12th grade, pursue advanced coursework and further their education with two- or four-year degrees.

The calculated return on the investment for operating a quality K-4 program ranges from \$7 to \$17 for each dollar spent. With an abundance of benefits to children, families and school districts, this is a solid investment for school communities and district taxpayers.

We will continue to keep you apprised of K-4 developments. In the meantime, thank you for your time and continued interest in Spring Cove School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert J. Vadella
Superintendent

Sports Highlights

Although the ground was still covered in white, the spring sports season got off to a great start in early March as baseball, softball and track teams worked to prepare for the first contests of the season. Their efforts follow the solid performance of our winter sports teams, who finished their seasons with the following records:

Boys Basketball: 17-9

Wrestling: 5-9

Jr. High Girls Basketball: 13-2

Girls Basketball: 11-9

Jr. High Boys Basketball: 15-3

Jr. High Wrestling: 13-4

A special congratulations to the Varsity boys basketball team, who finished the season as the District 6 AA runner-up. Way to go, boys!



Alex Lafferty makes a lay-up during the game against Williamsburg.

Students Benefit from Venture Grants

Each year, the Spring Cove Educational Foundation (SCEF) awards grants to teachers to enrich their classroom or curriculum with new programs, technologies or tools. This year, SCEF awarded \$15,071.26 in Venture Grants to:

Purchase graphing calculators to help CHS students meet PA Core Mathematics Practice Standards – Awarded to **Karen Biddle, Carla Brumbaugh, and Aaron Hileman, CHS**

Purchase a **new batting cage net** at the Bean Hill Facility for the baseball and softball teams; will also be used at clinics for younger students – Awarded to **A-J Hoenstine, SCMS**

Support the Double Dutch Club to promote physical fitness throughout SCSD and the community – Awarded to **Deanie Cafferty, CHS**

Support Kids of Steel Running Program, which encourages elementary students to run 25 miles at home and school within 18 weeks and adopt healthy eating habits – Awarded to **Traci Shoemaker and Christi Shover, MES**

Purchase Ignite your Spark program for grades 3-5 at SCE and MES to help students tap into their unique talents and interests - Awarded to **Kim Smith and Carol Louden, SCE, and Rachel Lemmon and Kendra Pritchett, MES**

Support after-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities at SCMS to enable students to explore STEM opportunities with STEM professionals and St. Francis University representatives – Awarded to **Nancy Gobert, SCMS**

Purchase an egg incubator to help CHS students understand the practical application of embryology, poultry science and reproduction – Awarded to **Tom Ritchey, CHS Agricultural Science instructor**



Collin Ulery, Ali Coppersmith and Andy Smith (l-r) check on the development of egg embryos during their Agriculture Science class. A Venture Grant enabled CHS to purchase an egg incubator to support the Ag Science curriculum.

Support Junior FIRST LEGO League participation at the elementary school level to help students tap into their imagination to strengthen their research and critical thinking skills - Awarded to **Daniel Garwood, MES**

Create a short story collection section at SCMS and CHS, and purchase additional **graphic novels** for the SCMS and CHS Library media center to help stimulate student interest in reading – Awarded to **Zachary Soohy, SCMS and CHS**

Help SCMS and CHS students 'Beat the Odds' by participating in the Quarterbacks of Life Success and Leadership Program throughout the year – Awarded to **Candace Claar, SCMS and Dr. David Crumrine, CHS**
Congratulations to this year's awardees!

Attention SCE Car Riders!

A new dismissal policy at SCE is strengthening the security and safety of SCE students.

As of April 1, parents/guardians of children riding in cars must now come to the outside of the building and sign out their children at dismissal. Details of the new policy have been outlined in recent issues of the SCE newsletter. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as this new policy takes effect. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact **Carol Louden**, SCE Principal, at clouden@scsd.k12.pa.us.

Graduation Information

Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2014 are tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 13 at 7:00 pm at the athletic field. Graduates are asked to arrive by 6:00 pm. In the event of inclement weather, ceremonies will be moved to the CHS Auditorium. Tickets are not required for the outdoor ceremony but will be limited to four per graduate if the ceremony is moved indoors. Please check <http://scsd.schoolwires.net> for regular updates.

SCSD Honors 2014 Kensinger Award Winner

The administration, faculty and Board of Directors of SCSD is humbled to honor **Wendell Gahagan** as the 2014 Leon Kensinger Award winner.

Mr. Gahagan passed away in August, 2013 after a courageous battle with cancer. A 1961 graduate of Central High School, Mr. Gahagan received his bachelor's degree in secondary education from Shippensburg University. He retired as a world cultures teacher from Central High School in 2006 after 39 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Gaylene, son Brian, daughter Lisa and their families.

Mr. Gahagan will be honored at a ceremony on Sunday, May 4 at 4:00 p.m. at SCMS. His name will be placed on the Leon Kensinger Award plaque at SCMS.



Students in Mrs. Reed's kindergarten class at MES show off their enthusiasm for learning.

Kindergarten Registration Underway

Registration for incoming Kindergarten students at SCE and MES will take place this month. Children must be five on or before September 1, 2014 to enroll in Kindergarten. Registrations will be held:

SCE: April 8, 9 and 10

MES: April 15 and 16

As part of the registration process, parents are asked to bring:

- The child's birth certificate issued by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Vital Statistics
- Proof of immunization against Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chicken Pox), DTP, Polio, and MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Proof of residency

Children who did not attend Kindergarten and will be six years of age on or before September 1, 2014, may also register for first grade at this time.

If your child is eligible for registration and you have not yet received information, please contact SCE at 224-2311 or MES at 793-2014.

District Welcomes New Business Manager

The Board of Directors, administration, faculty and staff of SCSD are pleased to welcome **Ryan Kirsch**, CPA as the district's Business Manager. Mr. Kirsch joined the district in early 2014. He brings nearly a decade of experience to the position, most recently as an accountant at Katz Ferraro McMurtry in Pittsburgh. He is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a B.S. and M.S. in Safety Science and a M.B.A. in Accounting. He can be reached at 814-224-5124 or rkirsch@scsd.k12.pa.us.

College Fair Set for April 24 Sophomores and Juniors Invited to Attend

Central High School will host its 2014 College and Career Fair on April 24 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Central High School Gymnasium. Representatives from nearly 25 Pennsylvania colleges and organizations will be on hand to talk about majors, career options, financial aid and related information. Plan to stop by!

"This is a great way to introduce sophomores and juniors to the college process," explained **Dr. David Crumrine**, Principal, CHS.

For more information, contact **Gary Carlson**, CHS Guidance Counselor, at 793-5320 or gcarlson@scsd.k12.pa.us.

Tech Upgrades Streamline Classroom Activities, Operations

This school year has been a busy one when it comes to technology. Here is a quick look at the year's achievements and the opportunities for the 2014-15 school year.

Successful Roll-out of Google Apps/Chromebooks

After months of planning, more than 1,000 Chromebooks were configured and deployed for all students in grades 6 - 12. Students and faculty were also trained to tap the many resources of Google Apps, and integrate this technology into the curriculum.

Microsoft Exchange Upgrade

The district's e-mail platform, Microsoft Exchange, was upgraded from version 2003 to version 2010 to take advantage of innovative features of Exchange 2010, and to integrate email with the district's new phone system.

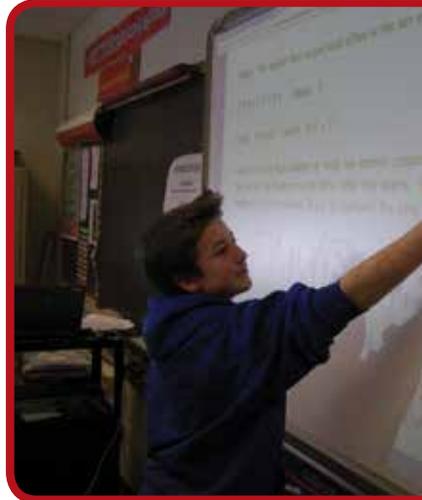
Virtualization

Approximately 75% of district servers are now virtualized. This allows for faster data recovery, reduced power consumption and better performance. Most of the remaining servers will be virtualized over the summer.

Server Upgrades at MES, CHS and The Center

Martinsburg Elementary received a new virtual server, CHS upgraded its server to make it virtualization capable, and the Center's former PowerSchool server was repurposed as a virtual

Jacob Eberlin uses the SmartBoard to work out a problem in Mrs. Hoenstine's 6th grade math class at SCMS.



Mrs. Nogle, a 4th and 5th grade writing teacher at MES, uses online resources to help Olesya Lebedeva complete an assignment.

server to handle an array of district functions.

Cisco ASA Firewall Upgrade

A state-of-the-art Cisco ASA router was installed to manage additional network traffic generated from ongoing Chromebook use.

Looking ahead, the technology team will focus on improvements to technology uses since it has nearly completed all of the major and necessary infrastructure upgrades. Planned efforts include:

E-Mail Domain Change (@scsd.k12.pa.us to @springcovesd.org)

The district acquired @springcovesd.org to simplify users' e-mail addresses. Efforts are underway to seamlessly transition from @scsd.k12.pa.us addresses to the new @springcovesd.org addresses. After the switch, users will still be able to use @scsd.k12.pa.us for a period of time to ensure that no e-mails are missed.

'Guest' Wireless Network

'Guest' access will be implemented in certain designated areas so that district visitors can connect to the Internet.

Monitoring and Filtering Improvements

Content filtering is always a challenge, as ways to bypass the filters are created nearly daily. To help keep the web content filtering as functional as possible, HTTPS filtering will be enabled in the very near future.

Web-based Apps and eBooks for Chromebooks

To make the best possible

use of the Chromebooks and other web-connected devices, faculty members are encouraged to find web apps and eBooks that are suitable replacements for current software.

The technology staff will be working closely with SCSD administrators and faculty to provide students with the most current technology initiatives for the 2014-15 school year and beyond.

Wireless technology at SCSD schools enable students like Scott Leydig to conduct research and complete assignments in the classroom, library or other district sites.



Battle of the Books

Coming April 15

Many 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students and teachers from SCE and MES are busy preparing for the annual SCSD Elementary **Battle of the Books** to be held **Tuesday, April 15** at SCE at 6:00 p.m.

Teams of up to 10 students each have been busy reading and talking about characters and plot lines from a list of 15 books. Teams from both schools will go head-to-head with each other at the event, competing for the right answers to questions about each book.

“Students really enjoy this competition,” said **Carol Louden**, Principal, SCE. “It’s a lot of hard work but it’s really fun for everyone. The best part is seeing a gym full of students who, together, have read thousands of pages. It’s very inspiring and a great way to promote a life-long love of reading.”

This year, students will also have the chance to win a Nook e-reader. Several 3rd grade students in the Gifted and Talented program are also participating for the first time.

“This is my first Battle of the Books,” said **Kendra Pritchett**, Principal, MES. “I’m really looking forward to being a part of this SCSD tradition.”

Parents are encouraged to attend and stay for the awards assembly. Good luck to all!



Teams from SCE and MES, including these students, are preparing for the annual Battle of Books competition.



Students at SCE celebrated Dr. Seuss and his gift for storytelling during recent Read Across America activities. Throughout March, students at SCE and MES participated in a wide range of programs designed to ignite a love of reading.

The Joy of Reading

Students at SCE and MES celebrated the joy of reading with a wide array of interactive activities during **Read Across America Week** in early March. The week coincided with the birthday of the beloved children’s author, Dr. Seuss.

Students tried to guess the identity of daily ‘mystery readers’ who read passages of Dr. Seuss books over the P.A. systems. They enjoyed a Dr. Seuss birthday cake, wore ‘crazy hats’ to celebrate ‘Cat in the Hat’ day and fishing hats to get into the One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish spirit, and came to school

in pajamas to curl up with a good book. They even converted the number of pages they read that week into miles. By the end of the week, students had traveled from Pennsylvania to Hawaii!

But that’s not all. Teachers swapped classrooms, students delved into popular D.E.A.R. program (Drop Everything and Read), and students and their families had a great time at Bingo for Books. Many thanks to all of our mystery readers, guest readers, relatives, parents and students for making **Read Across America Week** a great success!

Calendar Highlights

April

- 8 – 10** SCE Kindergarten registration
- 15 – 16** MES Kindergarten registration
- 18** No school – Spring break
- 21** School Board meeting
- 23** MES Learning Walk
- 24** CHS College Fair

May

- 1** SCE Art Show
- 2** Early Dismissal
- 8** SCMS Learning Walk
- 12** School Board meeting
- 13** MES Bingo for Books & Art Show
SCMS Spring Band and Chorus
Concert & Art Show
- 19** School Board meeting
- 26** No school – Memorial Day

June

- 13** Last day of school (tentative)
- 13** Commencement (tentative)



Teachers at SCMS energized students for upcoming PSSA testing during last month's Rock the Test assembly.

SCMS 'Rocks the Test'

This year, students at SCMS enjoyed something a little extra as they prepared for the PSSA – a live concert from their teachers!

Inspired by the 1970s hit 'Y-M-C-A,' the teachers took to the stage to perform 'P-S-S-A' as part of a school-wide motivational assembly to launch the PSSA. Their performance received enthusiastic 'thumbs up' from the crowd.

"We wanted to begin the PSSA testing period on a positive note," explained **Candace Claar**, Principal. "It's very common for students to get test anxiety. We wanted them to know we believe in them and encourage them to do their best. It's all about working together and approaching challenges with a positive attitude. That can make all the difference in the world."

The 'Let's Rock the Test' assembly also included a variety of student performances, as well as individual teacher performances. Congratulations!

Keystone Exams to be Held in May

The Keystone exams will be given to eligible CHS students from May 12 – 23. The exams will cover Algebra I, Biology and Literature. Students are required to pass the state-mandated exams in several subject areas in order to graduate. More information will be provided to students as the date nears. Please encourage your children to get enough rest and eat a good breakfast during the exam period so that they can achieve their Keystone goals.

New Program Promotes Healthy Decisions

It can be tough to be an adolescent these days. But a new research-based program at SCMS is giving students the skills they need to avoid risky behaviors and make healthy decisions.

The LifeSkills Training (LST) program was introduced earlier this year and is taught by **Stephanie Thompson**, SCMS School Counselor. This three-year LST program achieves its objectives by focusing on three areas:

- Personal self-management skills, which provide students with skills for enhancing self-esteem, learning creative problem-solving, reducing stress and anxiety, and managing anger
- General social skills, which empower students with skills to meet personal challenges such as overcoming shyness, communicating clearly, building relationships, and avoiding violence
- Drug resistance skills, which enable and help students to resist pressures to use tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs

"This is a program with proven results," said **Candace Claar**, Principal, SCMS. "Each year the program builds on itself so that, by the end of 8th grade, students have developed the skills they need to make good decisions during their teenage years."

For more information, visit lifeskillstraining.com.



An interactive 'spider web' exercise during LifeSkills Training class shows SCMS students how poor decisions can lead to a tangle of problems.

Spring Cove School District

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District Administration

224-5124

Martinsburg Elementary School

793-2014

Spring Cove Elementary School

224-2311

877-695-4859 (toll-free)

Spring Cove Middle School

224-2106

Central High School

793-2111

Don't forget to visit

<http://scsd.schoolwires.net> for the latest news,
sports schedules and calendar information.

What's Happening



Megan Shingler was one of the many students who performed at the CHS winter concert.



These MES students take a break with the Scarlet Dragon during the recent Jump 4 Heart event. Students raised an impressive \$3,405 for the American Heart Association.



Lisa Dively and her children, Hope and Kyle, try their luck at SCE's Bingo for Books.

Seniors Carly Maurer and Brittany Garner made the most of the snowy winter as members of the CHS Ski Club.

