

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4

Monday, January 24, 2022

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

6:00 P.M. – ELEM. WORKROOM

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The regular school board meeting of the Springfield School District was called to order by Larry Duncan, board president, at 6:05 p.m.
- A. ROLL CALL:
 1. MEMBERS PRESENT: Clinton Arbuthnot, Larry Duncan, Jennifer Esch, Tyler Gibson and Kay Maes.
 2. MEMBERS ABSENT: None
 3. SCHOOL PERSONNEL PRESENT: Richard Hargrove, Kyle Lasley, Leah Crane, Pam Hartley, Carey George, Leslie Stewart, Spencer Stewart, Renee Loflin, Megan England, Cortney Rosengrants, Van Walker, Ginger Walker, Blake Gale and Tanisha Hinds.
 4. GUESTS PRESENT: Tennille Rau, Quinten George, Bonnie Jaco, Michael Jaco, Cindy Birdsong, Rick Birdsong, Michael Rau, Kathy Self, Jody Stolebarger, Paige Williams, Sharla Lasley, Mike Cooper, Pamela Crane, Greg Borden, Jason Crane, Shawn Crane, Darrell Mackey, Susie Mackey, Troy Crane, Mark Rosengrants, Brian Shaw, Jerri Shaw, Pam Masterson, Chantel Hall, Mark Hall and Ryan Bray.
- II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Kae Maes requested an addition to NEW BUSINESS, Item C: Discuss and approve bus transportation for District FBLA Judge.
- III. APPROVE THE AGENDA: Clinton Arbuthnot made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item C to NEW BUSINESS: Discuss and Approve Bus Transportation for FBLA Judge. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. ROUTINE ITEMS:
 - A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE Dec. 20, 2021, Regular Meeting: Clinton Arbuthnot made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 regular board meeting as presented. Tyler Gibson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. FINANCIAL REPORTS: to include Quarterly Reports: The board reviewed the December 2021 financial and quarterly reports.
 - C. CLAIMS PAYABLE – January 20, 2022: The board reviewed the January 20, 2022 Claims Payable Report. Tyler Gibson made a motion to approve the January 20, 2022 Claims Payable. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

IF YOU ARE HERE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

Welcome to the open forum portion of our meeting. We appreciate your interest in participating in this conversation time with the Springfield School District RE-4 Board of Education. A sign-up sheet was provided at the entrance to the Board meeting for all persons wishing to address the Board. It is requested that comments be limited to five minutes per speaker. Patrons are invited to share comments with the Board in an orderly manner that is consistent with the respect and dignity that should be part of a Board of Education public meeting. The Board will require that speakers and audience members adhere to basic standards of civility and, with limited time available, as the Board President, I may need to limit or terminate discussion to maintain decorum or to give as many people as possible the opportunity to speak. The Board will not take any action during this time. It is the preference of the Board that comments concerning District personnel be addressed in executive session. Discussion of individual students must occur in executive session. Please inform the Board if you intend to make comments concerning District personnel or students so those comments may be heard in executive session.

Mrs. Kathy Self presented each board member and Mr. Hargrove with a copy of the book “Cowboy Ethics” What It Takes to Win at Life”, in recognition and appreciation of the important role they play as the cornerstone of the Springfield School District and their vision and unwavering support of students, staff and community. Mrs. Self also presented Megan England with a “relic” rescued from the current Home Ec Cottage, a rotary dial phone. As we look forward to the construction of the new and remodeled Springfield School, she encouraged Ms. England to use the phone as a reminder to reflect on where we have been and where we are now.

Mrs. Pam Masterson read a letter of support for Superintendent Richard Hargrove. As a former teacher for Springfield and spouse of a previous administrator, Mrs. Masterson shared her insights and experiences to commend Mr. Hargrove's professionalism and contributions to the school district.

There were community members who showed up to express their support of the administration and secondary staff as well as others who expressed dissatisfaction of the board and their handling of the administration and staff issues. A heated discussion evolved.

Current and former staff and school board members spoke in support of Mr. Hargrove. All spoke of his outstanding dedication, positive leadership and multiple contributions to the school district.

Individual community members commented on school related concerns and questions. These included, but were not limited to the following areas:

Answers to concerns & questions presented at November board meeting

School of Excellence / Unified Improvement

Junior high curriculum

Staff and administrative evaluations

Policies and procedures

Staff mentoring

Event scheduling

Community division

Accountability

Communication

School pride

Board members acknowledged that they recognize the validity of some of the concerns presented and shared some of the steps they are taking to address these concerns. An Accountability Committee will be created and start meeting regularly, a review of policies and procedures will be ongoing, board work days will be scheduled and CASB has been contacted as a resource for suggestions and training.

A. CORRESPONDENCE: None

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. FINALIZE AND APPROVE 2021 – 22 BUDGET: Superintendent Hargrove reviewed budget expense items that changed since preliminary budget approval: ESSER money was able to be budgeted for HVAC units, the literacy program, updated math curriculum, a teacher salary and 1 ½ teacher aid salaries and technology. Because of ESSER funds we were able to move original budget money out of tech and into instructional expense and the small rural tech funds can be used to pay for some of the tech expense that had to be cut from the BEST construction. Expenses that were increased included audit expense, software maintenance, transportation repair and lunchroom equipment.. He shared that the lunch fund needs to spend \$40,000. to bring fund balance in compliance and bus driver salaries historically have to be adjusted as each sport season concludes. Some revenue budget adjustments were the Preschool allotment based on actual pupil count, interest income, beginning balances after completion of audit and increased transportation revenue from previous year. Mr. Hargrove stated that the ESSER adjustments were not yet reflected in the final budget and there were still some transfers that needed made to Fund 43-Capital Reserve. He recommended approval of the final budget with ESSER and Fund 43 changes to be added. Kay Maes made a motion to approve the final 2020-21 Budget to include the ESSER and Fund 43 changes. Tyler Gibson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. CONSTRUCTION REVIEW: Noticeable construction has started. Cement has been poured for foundation pressure points and more foundation work will continue. Underground plumbing and electrical is being installed. Furniture and Fixture consultations are scheduled with various staff groups before the end of the month.

C. SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT REVIEW: The BEST grant committee has taken notice of the unprecedented increase in the cost of supplies and the lack of supplies over the last couple of months and have changed their thinking in concern to the need for supplemental grant money. Applications for supplemental grant funds will be accepted. DCS, GTC and Treanor are all working with the district to come up with reasons why and how the economic hit affected our BEST project. In addition to applying for the supplemental funds, we are also dealing with the 38% match we would still be required to provide. The district does not have these funds so a match waiver request is being prepared. If waiver is approved, the district could be required to provide a much lower match.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. APPROVAL OF 22-23 SCHOOL PICTURES VENDOR: Two vendors were contacted for proposals for the 22-23 school pictures. Mr. Hargrove shared that Lifetouch prices have been increasing regularly and product and customer service issues have been a problem. A local vendor, Images by Kelly Rose, submitted a proposal. Her proposal differed in that her prices are a little less expensive and as a single photographer she will need to schedule more than one day to take individual pictures. Group and sports pictures will be taken seasonally as in the past. Mr. Hargrove recommended that we try the local vendor, Images by Kelly for the 22-23 school year. Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve hiring Images by Kelly as school photographer for the 22-23 school year. Clinton Arbuthnot seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. REVIEW 2020 – 2021 AUDIT PERFORMED BY DIXON AND WALLER: Copies of the completed 2020-2021 School Audit were distributed to each board member. Mr. Hargrove ask the members to read through the audit and to address any questions they might have either to Missy Corn or himself.
- C. DISCUSS AND APPROVE BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR FBLA JUDGE: Kay Maes, Board Director, reported that she has volunteered to serve as a judge for the District FBLA competition in LaJunta. She is asking permission to ride on the school bus with the FBLA members and sponsor when traveling to LaJunta to attend District FBLA. It was the consensus of Superintendent Hargrove and board members that Mrs. Maes could be transported to the District FBLA with the school group and sponsor.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f): Clinton Arbuthnot made a motion to move into executive session. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The board members entered executive session at 8:35 p.m. The board returned to regular session at 9:12 p.m.

A. Personnel

IX. ACT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel:

Mr. Hargrove reported that Emily Sharpe has received her Emergency Licensure Certificate. He recommended that Emily Sharpe be hired as the permanent 5th grade classroom teacher for the remainder of the 21-22 school year, effective February 1, 2022. Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the hiring of Emily Sharpe for the 5th grade classroom teacher for the 2021-2022 school year effective 2-1-22. Clinton Arbuthnot seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Accept letter of resignation: Tyler Gibson read a Letter of Resignation from Mr. Richard Hargrove, Superintendent. Mr. Hargrove has worked for Springfield School District for 21 years and will resign effective June 30, 2022. Clinton Arbuthnot made a motion to approve the resignation of Mr. Hargrove effective June 30, 2022. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 -2 (Yes-Arbuthnot, Esch, Gibson, No-Duncan, Maes)

X. REPORTS

- A. ELEMENTARY REPORT – LEAH CRANE: Mrs. Crane read her Elementary Principal's Report which included information on the Early Literacy Grant and reported that the next physical observations will be on January 31, 2022. Grief Group Counseling has begun with counseling for 6 weeks, once per week, starting January 26, 2022. We have 8 students attending. Friday school is having good attendance and has been a good way to do NWEA testing for students who were absent during testing. Ella Swanson is the student volunteer for 2nd semester. Eight truancy letters were sent out in January. There has been one ISS and 5 Lunch Detentions since last report. NWEA testing has been completed. Mrs. Crane also presented two topics for future discussion that she has been asked about: 6th grade inclusion in junior high and resurrection of an accountability committee.
- A. JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL – KYLE LASLEY: Mr. Lasley reported that since the Jr. /Sr. high school has started enforcing tardy detentions, they are averaging 3 detentions per day. There has been 4 office referral detentions and 1 suspension total. He feels that the remediation policy is having a positive impact on the ineligible list with only 10 junior and 9 high school students with D's or F's in the last reporting period. Springfield will host a home knowledge bowl meet the last Saturday in January.

B. SUPERINTENDENT -- RICHARD HARGROVE: Superintendent Hargrove publically thanked everyone who was able to take the time to attend the BEST project groundbreaking ceremony. He stated that it was exciting to officially get the project kicked off. He also reported that he will be starting on the creation of the 2022-2023 school calendar. It should be ready for approval by the end of the school year.

XI. OTHER ITEMS TO DISCUSS: None

XII. BOARD MEETING DATES:

1. REGULAR BOARD MEETING – February 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Board members requested that steps be taken to get Accountability meetings started soon.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by consensus of the board at 9:15 p.m.

Larry Duncan, President

Tyler Gibson, Vice President

Clinton Arbuthnot, Secretary

Jennifer Esch, Treasurer

Kay Maes, Director