

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4  
**Monday, December 21, 2020**  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
6:00 P.M. ELEMENTARY WORKROOM  
SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS WILL BE OBSERVED

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Springfield School District was called to order by board President, Larry Duncan at 6:04 p.m.
- A. ROLL CALL:
1. MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Duncan, Tyler Gibson, Kay Maes
  2. MEMBERS ABSENT: Clinton Arbuthnot, Jennifer Swanson
  3. SCHOOL PERSONNEL PRESENT: Richard Hargrove, Kyle Lasley, Pam Hartley
  4. GUESTS PRESENT: None
- II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Superintendent Hargrove requested an addition to NEW BUSINESS: Item C: APPROVE SCHOOL CLOSURE and LATE TAKE-UP
- III. APPROVE THE AGENDA: Kay Maes made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition to NEW BUSINESS: Item C: APPROVE SCHOOL CLOSURE and LATE TAKE-UP. Tyler Gibson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. ROUTINE ITEMS:
- A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE November 23, 2020 Regular Meeting, the December 9, 2020 Special Meeting. Tyler Gibson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2020 regular meeting and the minutes of the December 9, 2020 special meeting as presented. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- B. FINANCIAL REPORTS: The board reviewed the financial reports. Mr. Hargrove explained that most of the budget balances showing to be overspent will be corrected when he and Mrs. Corn complete some pending adjustments and transfers that are needed before presenting the budget for final approval.
- C. CLAIMS PAYABLE – December 21, 2020: Tyler Gibson made a motion to approve the December 21, 2020 Claims Payable. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**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.*

- A. CORRESPONDENCE: Board President, Larry Duncan read two thank you cards received from employees. The preschool staff stated their appreciation for the turkey bonus at Thanksgiving. Mr. and Mrs. Van Walker thanked the board for their hard-work and support and expressed their gratitude for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday bonuses.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. 2020 – 2021 BUDGET REVIEW: Superintendent reminded the board that the final approval of the 2020-21 budget will have to be done in January. He explained that he doesn't foresee any big changes to the budget. Some items that they are working on involve income not originally included in budget that has come about due to COVID. Some minor changes will need made to adjust for actual energy cost. Income will have some adjustments due to equalization being down a little, but additional At-Risk money has been useful. Mr. Hargrove mentioned that he is going to try to put some stipends in the budget using some of the CARES Funds, and an annual fee for Fire-Alarm inspection will have to be included in the final budget. He told the board that a certified firm will have to handle the invoices and payments for the BEST grant project. The fees for this service will also have to be added to the budget.

- B. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: The Safety & Security project is nearly completed. There is some minor electrical things they are working to finish up.

The DAG committee met with Traenorhl and discussed various aspects of the building project design. A change in the original conception of the project is being considered with the existing JH/HS building getting extensive renovations to become the “new” elementary and the new construction to house the Jr. /Sr. High School. Preliminary discussions with BEST about this new direction were not met with any opposition. The next DAG meeting will be January 7 and Traenorhl will try to have some new conceptual drawings for the committee to look at. It has also been discussed that it might be beneficial to bring the general contractor on board right away to help keep cost projections in line.

- C. COVID REVIEW: The 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the 20-21 school year has been completed. Mr. Hargrove and Mr. Lasley expressed that, all things considered, we survived. It is their intentions for all students to return on January 4 for in-person learning. Mr. Hargrove reported that there is hope that the governor will revise some restrictions that will help with some situations that are still limited under current restrictions. He mentioned that it may be possible that educators could be on the vaccination distribution list for late in January.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RENEW AND APPROVE BOCES LEASE AGREEMENT : The board reviewed a copy of the annual lease that the district has with the Southeastern Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for the school property at 265 Cedar. The BOCES currently pays \$250.00 per month and all utilities. Mr. Hargrove recommended that the lease be renewed through December 31, 2021 with no rent increase. Kay Maes made a motion to approve the 1 year lease agreement for \$250.00 plus utilities with BOCES for the property at 265 Cedar through December 31, 2021. Tyler Gibson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- B. DISCUSS AND APPROVE HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER: The district currently offers employees Anthem BlueCross BlueShield medical insurance. The new plan year begins January 1, 2021. Mr. Hargrove told the board that he had contacted 3 companies for premium quotes. CEBT was 20% higher, one company wouldn't submit a quote and Benefit Health Advisors, our current carrier, requested quotes from 3 groups they work with. Of those 3 groups, 2 were approximately 15% higher and Anthem quoted a 7.9% increase. He recommended that the district stay with Anthem BlueCross Blue Shield for the 2021 policy year. Tyler Gibson made a motion to approve Anthem BlueCross Blue Shield through Benefit Health Advisor for the 2021 policy year. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. APPROVE SCHOOL CLOSURE AND LATE TAKE-UP: Superintendent Hargrove ask for board approval for COVID school closure on November 23 and November 24, 2020 prior to Thanksgiving Break, school closure on December 15, 2020 due to bad weather and road conditions and late take-up on December 2, 2020 due to road conditions. Kay Maes made a motion to approve school closures on November 23, November 24 and December 15, 2020 and late take-up on December 2, 2020. Tyler Gibson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f)(h): None

IX. ACT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. REPORTS

A. JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL – KYLE LASLEY: Mr. Lasley reviewed his December 2020 Board Report with the board. Items he highlighted included the annual Ogallala Commons event with sophomores to promote entrepreneurship in rural communities, the junior high completed science fair projects but there will not be a traditional science fair, winter sports have been pushed back to begin late in January, Mr. Walker and Springfield hosted the first ever virtual knowledge bowl, our students attended a virtual assembly on the dangers of vape products and he expressed the staffs' appreciation for the employee Christmas bonuses.

B. SUPERINTENDENT/ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORT – RICHARD HARGROVE: Superintendent Hargrove had a few additional items on his BOE update that he shared with the board. He mentioned that the 1<sup>st</sup> semester seemed somewhat of a whirlwind, but he is proud of the way students, staff and parents handled the stress and helped to make things as educationally sound as they could. He shared with the board that while many missed being able to have the annual STA Christmas party, they were all very appreciative of the additional bonus.

- XI. OTHER ITEMS TO DISCUSS: None
- XII. BOARD MEETING DATES:  
1. REGULAR BOARD MEETING – January 18, 2021 6:00 p.m.
- XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Merry Christmas to all.
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by consensus of the board at 6:40 p.m.

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Larry Duncan, President

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Kay Maes, Secretary

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Clinton Arbuthnot, Vice-President

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Tyler Gibson, Treasurer

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Jennifer Swanson, Director