

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4

Monday, December 20, 2021

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

6:00 P.M. ELEMENTARY WORKROOM

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Springfield School District was called to order by Larry Duncan, board president, at 6:00 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, Leslie Stewart, Ginger Walker, Van Walker, Blake Gale, Renee Loflin and Carey George.
 4. GUESTS PRESENT: Pamela Crane, Mike Cooper, Heather Bray, Quinten George, Jody Stolebarger, Dan McVey, Glenice Wade, Michael Rau and Tennille Rau.
- II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Clinton Arbuthnot made a motion to add the following item to Executive Session: Personnel matter in regard to District Superintendent and to move into executive session prior to the beginning of the regular board meeting. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The board members met in executive session at 6:02 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:15 p.m.

- III. APPROVE THE AGENDA: Clinton Arbuthnot made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition to EXECUTIVE SESSION: Item d. Personnel matter in regards to District Superintendent. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. ROUTINE ITEMS:
- A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE November 22, 2021 Regular Meeting, the December 13, 2021 Special Meeting and the December 16, 2021 Special Meeting: Kay Maes made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2021 regular meeting, the December 13, 2021 special meeting and the December 16, 2021 special meeting as presented. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. FINANCIAL REPORTS: The board reviewed the financial reports provided in their board packets. Mr. Hargrove reported that there are still a few items that will need adjusted before the final budget approval in January and also that the ESSER fund balances will be adjusted once approval is received for the requests submitted for use of funds..
- C. CLAIMS PAYABLE – December 20, 2021: The board reviewed the Claims Payable report. Tyler Gibson made a motion to approve the December 20, 2021 Claims Payable.
- 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.

Several guests addressed the board during Public Comment. Numerous issues, concerns and questions were voiced, including but not limited to: employee background checks, staff evaluations, district new hire policies, administrative action, discipline, school pride and level of excellence, parental trust, student supervision, parent involvement, open conversations with students and parents, better communication, attitude of complacency, mentoring of new teachers and short-term/long-term directions of the school district.

Board members acknowledged that they are listening to all the concerns and will be taking them into consideration moving forward.

A. CORRESPONDENCE: Tyler Gibson, Board VP, read several thank you notes from staff members: Van and Ginger Walker expressed their respect and admiration for all that the board and administration do for the community and school and their thankfulness for the Thanksgiving turkeys and the holiday cash gift.

Renee Loflin stated her appreciation for the Christmas bonus and for their support.

Spencer and Leslie Stewart acknowledged their appreciation for the privilege to work at Springfield Schools and thanked the board for the Thanksgiving turkeys, reusable straw and Christmas bonus.

Emily Sharpe thanked the board for their consistent support and the Christmas bonus.

Debbie Sharpe expressed her gratefulness for the boards service and commitment to the district and for the generous cash gift and Christmas dinner.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. 2021 – 2022 BUDGET REVIEW: Mr. Hargrove suggested that a budget meeting might need to be held prior to approving the final budget at the January regular meeting. He shared that he is trying to get approval to use ESSER funds to purchase HVAC equipment that could be used in place of BEST funds for the new construction. He reported that ESSER funds have been used to expand summer school, implement Friday school at the elementary school, improve curriculum by updating the 4-5 literacy curriculum, purchasing 6-12 math curriculum, updated 6, 7, 8 science curriculum, replacing chrome books, professional development and supplies for Breakfast in the Classroom.
- B. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: There has been a lot of activity as they work to gain back some lost time caused by the delay in demolishing Room 3. Excavation has begun.
- C. APPROVE CASB SPECIAL POLICIES UPDATE: Superintendent Hargrove reviewed several policy updates. He explained that 17 of the updates are required by law. Several policies primarily address wording in regard to gender identity expression antidiscrimination and others refer to the reporting of educator sexual contact to CDE. The law allows for different timelines for reporting if the student is under 18 or over 18. He recommended that the school board set the optional reporting time for over 18 to be the same as reporting time for under 18, which is within 10 days. In addition to approving the 10 day reporting time, Mr. Hargrove recommended the approval of CASB Special Policies: AC, AC-E-1, DJE, GBA, GBEB, GCE/GCF, GCE/GCF-R, GCQF, GCQF-R, GDE/GDF, GDE/GDE-R, BDQB, GDQD, IKF, IKF-E, JB, JF, JFBA, JFBA-R, JFBB, JFBB-R, JICDD, JICDE, JII, LBD. Kay Maes made a motion to approve CASB Special Policies Graduation Requirements IKF and IKF-E ; Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity AC and AC-E-1; Open Hiring/Equal Employment GBA; Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring GCE/GCF; Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring GDE/GDF; Equal Educational Opportunities JB; Admission and Denial of Admission JF, Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment JFBA, JFBA-R, JFBB and JFBB-R; Violent and Aggressive Behavior JICDD; Bullying Prevention and Education JICDE; Student Concerns, Complaints and Grievances JII; Relations with District Charter Schools LBD; Bidding Procedures DJE; Staff Conduct (and Responsibilities) GBEB; Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring-Regulation GCE/GCF-R; Resignation of Instructional Staff/Administrative Staff GCQC/GCQD and GCQC/GCQD-R; Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional GCQF and GCQF-R; Support Staff Recruiting Hiring GDE/GDF-R and Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff GDQD. Motion also includes setting mandatory reporting time to as soon as possible but no later than 10 days to the Colorado Department of Education if an employee is dismissed as a result of unlawful behavior involving a child for both a child under 18 or over 18. Tyler Gibson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1 (Yes-Duncan, Esch, Gibson, Maes, No-Arbuthnot)

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RENEW AND APPROVE BOCES LEASE AGREEMENT : Discussion was held concerning the continued use of the school residence on Cedar Street as a south office for BOCES. The question was posed if it would be more beneficial as a housing option when recruiting new employees. The consensus was to give BOCES a heads-up that the district might consider a change in the future. Clinton Arbuthnot 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, 2022. Tyler Gibson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1 (Yes – Arbuthnot, Duncan, Gibson, Maes; No – Esch)
- B. WIND DAMAGE UPDATE – The school sustained minimal damages from the recent high winds on 12/15/21; however the bus pole barn was heavily damaged and a few buses sustained scratches and broken windows. The insurance adjustor has been down and based on his report, it will be determined how to proceed with repairs and replacements.

- C. APPROVE ADDITION TO SUBSTITUTE LIST: Superintendent Hargrove reported that Lyndell Bryan has applied to be a substitute teacher. He has completed his background check and applied for and received his substitute certification from the CDE. It is his recommendation to approve Lyndell Bryan as a substitute teacher for the Springfield School District. Tyler Gibson made a motion to approve Lyndell Bryan as a substitute teacher for the 21-22 school year. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- D. APPROVE SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR DEC. 15, 2021: Kay Maes made a motion to approve the closure of Springfield School District on December 15, 2021 due to unsafe conditions resulting from high winds and blowing dirt. Clinton Arbuthnot seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. DISCUSS AND APPROVE JR. SR. HIGH REMEDIATION PILOT PLAN: High School principal, Kyle Lasley distributed a copy of the proposed Jr. Sr. High Remediation Pilot Plan. Board Members expressed several concerns and offered alternate suggestions. The board requested that Mr. Lasley and the high school staff revisit the plan and agreed to table the issue to allow time for the plan to be revised.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f) (h):

The board entered executive session at 7:40 p.m. and returned to regular session at 9:58 p.m.

- a. Maintenance Position
- b. JH Girls BB Assistant
- c. 5th Grade Teaching Position

IX. ACT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hargrove recommended Laura Rosengrants for Jr High Girls Basketball Assistant. Tyler Gibson made a motion to approve the hiring of Laura Rosengrants as a Jr. High Girls Basketball Assistant. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion carried Yes – 3, 2- Abstained (Arbuthnot, Maes)

Mr. Hargrove recommended Emily Sharpe as a Long-Term substitute for the 5th Grade. Clinton Arbuthnot made a motion to approve Emily Sharpe as a Long-Term Substitute for the 5th Grade. Kay Maes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

X. REPORTS

A. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL – LEAH CRANE: Mrs. Crane distributed a printed copy of her December Elementary Principal's Report and reviewed the items listed with the board. Items included: Recent observation of classroom teachers by School Cubed through the Early Literacy Grant, the initiation of grief group counseling starting in January, an update on the attendance at Friday School and a summary of discipline actions.

B. JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL – KYLE LASLEY: Mr. Lasley distributed his December board report and discussed the items listed. The local science fair was held on Dec. 13. The high school boys and girls basketball team competed in the Lamar Holiday Tournament with the boys finishing as consolation Champs and the girls were runners-up. He shared the JH/HS staff's appreciation for the Christmas Bonus and reported that the JH/HS is holding regular staff meetings to address issues and concerns. He also reported that the recent petition to change the JH mascot did not receive majority student vote so will remain the Shorthorns..

C. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – RICHARD HARGROVE: Superintendent Hargrove acknowledged the high stress level experienced during the whirlwind of the first semester and stated how proud he is with how hard everyone worked to bring things back that we have missed over the last year and a half. He reported that a Ground Breaking ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. on January 18, 2022 to kick-off the start of the BEST Grant new and remodeled school construction project.

XI. OTHER ITEMS TO DISCUSS: None

XII. BOARD MEETING DATES:

- 1. REGULAR BOARD MEETING – January 24, 2022 6:00 p.m.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by consensus of the board at 10:04 p.m.

Larry Duncan, President

Tyler Gibson, Vice President

Clinton Arbuthnot, Secretary

Jennifer Esch, Treasurer

Kay Maes, Director