**SPRINGPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BOARD MINUTES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

The September 16, 2019 regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President David Lightner.

Members present: Eliott Cook, David Lightner, Jeff Caudill, Julie Baglien, Granville Hayworth, Chris Talbot and Pamela Parish

Administrative members present: Tanya Newland, Tammy Kuntz, Bob Cassiday, Shelly Mead and Jenny Dysert

Visitors: Jessica Reid, Sara Marie Holderbaum, Courtney Schmidt, Darin Emelander and Kathy Pennell

Motion by Trustee Baglien, support by Secretary Cook to approve the agenda.

**Motion Carried, all ayes.**

Motion by Secretary Cook, support by Vice President Caudill to approve the consent agenda as presented.

* Regular Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 19, 2019
* Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 19, 2019
* General Fund Bills of $ 475,350.80
* Hot Lunch Bills of $ 13,279.29

**Motion Carried, all ayes.**

Middle school teacher, Courtney Schmidt, addressed the board members and audience. She had been asked to write a blog on the Reaching Higher program and gave her overview. This is her 4th year with the program. Her favorite part is the enrichment time -- this is a lot of extra time spent with subjects not able to be addressed during the normal school hours. The program here at Springport is definitely a relationship builder between the students in the program and the teachers.

Superintendent Cassiday spoke for Elementary teacher Matt Overweg on the prospect of starting a fishing club. There are many opportunities for board approved clubs. The students would be independent competitors with no school funding involved. Matt Overweg is still working out the details.

Tanya Newland introduced high school teacher Becky Schwartz to the assembly. Becky reported on the PACT program of Jackson County. This was piloted in Jackson County last year in the Northwest School District. Its main objective is to develop "soft" skills (employable skills) in high school students. JAMA is a part of this program along with Michigan Works. As of this year in Springport, PACT scores will now be on report cards. At the end of the program, seniors will receive a certificate if they have met the criteria. They will be considered PACT Certified -- a very powerful tool to help them enter the workforce.

Tammy Kuntz, Elementary principal announced that the numbers for the elementary are holding fairly steady since the beginning of school -- we are up (40) students from last spring to (475) total. The new arrival and dismissal process is getting better. There are more positive than negative comments regarding the changes.

Business Manager Melissa Butler gave the finance report. Her handout to the board members showed nothing new that she was not expecting. The final audit will be presented at the Finance Committee meeting next Monday.

Superintendent Cassiday had included the 2019-20 MHSAA Membership Resolution in the board members' packets. Motion by Trustee Talbot, Support by Vice President Cook, to adopt the 2019-20 MHSAA Membership Resolution.

**Motion Carried, All ayes.**

Motion by Vice President Caudill, Support by Secretary Cook, to approve the Bus Installment Purchase Order Agreement Resolution. Discussion followed briefly as details of the loan interest rate were given by Melissa Butler.

**Motion Carried, All Ayes.**

Superintendent Cassiday had provided the members with a copy of Veronica Cockroft's retirement letter. Motion by Vice President Caudill, Support by Trustee Baglien, to approve the retirement of Veronica Cockroft as of August 22, 2019 with appreciation for her 34 years of service to Springport School District. There was discussion with regards to if anyone was lined up to take her place. Food Service will not be filling her position at this time.

**Motion Carried, All Ayes.**

Superintendent had included a recommendation from Dean of Students Chris Kregel to hire Darin Emelander as the Agriscience Parapro. Motion by Secretary Cook, Support by Trustee Baglien, to hire Darin Emelander as the Agriscience Department Teaching Assistant/Parapro and part-time Maintenance employee in accordance with all local and sate statues for this position and the SESPA agreement. Discussion followed as Ag Teachers Megan Merrill and Sara Marie Holderbaum addressed the audience and explained how his position will benefit the students as well as the Agriscience Programs of Springport.

**Motion Carried, All Ayes.**

Motion by Trustee Talbot, Support by Secretary Cook to certify Eliott Cook as the 2019 MASB Delegate with no alternate.

**Motion Carried, All Ayes.**

Superintendent Cassiday referred board members to their packets and the (3) FFA fundraisers. They were looked at by the board members.

Superintendent Cassiday gave the strategic planning process update stating that Mark Dobias had met with Springport administrators, employees and people of the district this past week. Mark will be giving feedback on what he has been hearing along with data from his on-line survey. He is pleasantly pleased with the quality of the conversations by our community.

Superintendent Cassiday referred to the hand out prepared by Facilities Director Branden Hand on the Lockout update letting them know where we are at. We are not on line with the responders as of yet.

Elementary Principle Tammy Kuntz let the board members know she has (2) U of M Dearborn students joining the Kindergarten team. With these two individuals as support, she will be able to take 6 to 8 students from each Kindergarten class to create a new one. This will allow us to lower all Kindergarten class sizes and give more opportunities to the students.

High School Principle Tanya Newland explained that there are very few applicants in the state of Michigan right now for the Middle School Special Education Teacher opening. Springport is currently using a long-term substitute teacher. As far as the Middle School Social Worker, we are just waiting on our applicant's credentials to come through as licensed in Michigan.

The 2019 Homecoming events were discussed for October 11th. Some of the events are a benefit tailgate dinner, FFA bonfire, a dance at the Middle school, a 50th class reunion. Superintendent Cassiday would like to have the board members walk with or ride on the newest bus purchased handing out candy along the way for the parade.

The now vacant 2019-20 Legislative Network Representative position was discussed and will be filled by Trustee Parish.

Superintendent Cassiday discussed his visions with the board members -- what changes he would like to investigate for the future. Some of these changes deal with busses moving to drop and pick up students from the back of the schools to other safety issues. He also mentioned how he foresaw the possibility for a separate, stand alone structure for the pre-k/child care programs and what Mr. Emelander's final role at Springport could turn out to be.

Superintendent Cassiday referred the board members to his hand out in their packets on the update of his goals.

Secretary Cook motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm, support by Vice President Caudill.

**Motion Carried, all ayes.**