



**Spring Lake Park Schools**  
District Services Center  
1415 81st Avenue NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

## **MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

**School Board, Spring Lake Park Schools ISD 16**

**Spring Lake Park, MN**

**Tuesday, August 24, 2021**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Hennen called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. All School Board members were present including Amy Hennen, Tony Easter, Sarah Bowe, Amy Wheaton, Marilynn Forsberg, John Stroebel, and Michael Kreun, along with Superintendent Jeff Ronneberg.

### **B. AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Motion by Wheaton, seconded by Easter, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. (7-0)*

### **C. DISCUSSION, REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS**

Fall 2021: Update on Return to School – Dr. Jeff Ronneberg, Superintendent of Schools, thanked everyone for being at the meeting. He shared that staff new to Spring Lake Park Schools were welcomed to the district yesterday and are excited to be part of this learning community. Dr. Ronneberg gave an update on the learning for this coming school year, public health guidance, prototypes and options considered looking to balance health and safety and keeping kids in school all day every day, sharing the base learning model and the possible adaptations necessary during various levels of transmission in the county, community, classroom or school. Currently there is high transmission (of Covid-19) within Anoka County.

Dr. Ronneberg shared highlights of the Spring Lake Park Schools Covid-19 Face Mask and Decision-Making Guide and Quarantine Plan which provides definition of a base model – the recommendation that all students, staff and visitors wear face masks regardless of vaccination status consistent with CDC and MDH recommendations - and allows clarity when it is necessary to dial up or down from the base model. Currently with high transmission in Anoka County, beginning August 30 in Early Childhood programs through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, masks are required for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status, and for grades 7-12 students and staff masks are strongly recommended. Per federal guidance masks are required at all times on transportation for all students/staff.

Anoka County's 7-day Covid-19 case rate data informs district-wide decisions about mitigation strategies and MDH flu-like illness guidelines will be used to inform school and classroom based masking decisions.

Health and Safety requirements are available online at the Spring Lake Park Schools District Website. Board comments and questions followed and focused on students with mask exemptions.

### **D. ACTION ITEMS**

Fall 2021 School Health and Safety Measures

*Motion by Wheaton, seconded by Bowe, to adopt the following resolution:*

Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

*High expectations, high achievement for all. No excuses.*

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Independent School District 16 [hereinafter the “Superintendent”] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

**WHEREAS**, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently ongoing and may remain ongoing for an unknown time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the MDH has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 16 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the *Spring Lake Park Schools Face Mask Decision-Making Guide and Quarantine Plan*. This plan describes a face masks base plan that strongly recommends masks be worn by all students and staff regardless of vaccination status and adapts masking practices during times of high COVID-19 transmission.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following plan for face coverings to open the 2021-2022 school year: based on current levels of high transmission in Anoka County all staff, students, and visitors in preK-6 programs are required to wear face covering when they are in a school building, unless or until this plan is modified pursuant to *Spring Lake Park Schools Face Mask Decision-Making Guide and Quarantine Plan*.

Section 3: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District’s efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

Chairperson Hennen ask for any discussion prior to the vote. Board members took the opportunity to share their viewpoints on masking, keeping students in school, working in partnership and trying to find balance among all viewpoints, and thanked parents and community members for their input.

Roll Call: Ayes: Stroebel, Forsberg, Bowe, Wheaton, Easter, Hennen; Nays: Kreun.

Resolution was adopted. (6-1)

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Forsberg, seconded by Wheaton, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. (7-0) Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.*

Communication to the Board and Administration

Seventeen people – parents, students, community members – addressed the board regarding masking options for the start of the 2021-2022 school year and the resolution to be voted upon during the School Board regular meeting. Chairperson Hennen thanked each person for attending and sharing their thoughts and feelings regarding their viewpoints on student and staff masking requirements.

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Date

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Amy Wheaton, Clerk  
Spring Lake Park Schools  
Independent School District 16