

MINUTES

8/ The Springfield Board of Education met in Executive Session (non-public) on November 9, 2015 pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) Property and ORS 192.660(2)(i) Superintendent Evaluation. Board Chair Jonathan Light called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in Room 215 of the District Administration Center.

Those in attendance included Chair Light, Laurie Adams, Erik Bishoff, Sandra Boyst, Tina DeHaven, Sue Rieke-Smith, Karen Lewis, Jenna McCulley, Darcy Wallace of the *Springfield Times*, and Alisha Roemeling of *The Register Guard*.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 6:41 pm.

BUSINESS MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the Lane County School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on November 9, 2015.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Light called the Springfield Board of Education meeting to order in the boardroom of the District Administration Center at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board Members present included Chair Jonathan Light, Laurie Adams, Erik Bishoff, Sandra Boyst, and Tina DeHaven.

District staff, students and community members identified included Superintendent Sue Rieke-Smith, Brett Yancey, Michael Henry, Jenna McCulley, Karen Lewis, Tom Lindly, Brian Megert, Suzy Price, Yvonne Atteberry, Anne Goff, Larry Sullivan, Mike Fisher, Ed Mendelssohn, Ronnel Curry, Ken Kohl, Paul Weill, Larry Sullivan, Vanessa Truett, José da Silva, Jeff Fuller, EJ Rotherham, Shanna Rotherham, Whitney McKinley, Jim Crist, Jim Ralph, Ginevra Ralph, Nancy Golden, Chad Towe, Marilyn Williams, Ronnel Curry, Darcy Wallace of the *Springfield Times*, and Alisha Roemeling of *The Register Guard*.

Student Board Representatives present included Blake McKay/Thurston High School (THS); Kyra Hanson and/or Sabrina Grass/Academy of Arts and Academics (A3); Sydney Guthrie-Baker/ Springfield High School (SHS); Stevie Poole/Gateways High School (GHS).

Willamette Leadership Academy (WLA) students were not present.

2. RECOGNITION: AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Chair Light read the following proclamation in recognition of American Education Week, and thanked everyone involved in education throughout the state.

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees, be they teachers, administrators, or other education professionals, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools encourage community, bringing together adults and children, parents, mentors, community leaders, local businesses, and elected officials in a common enterprise to foster a love of learning in our students, spark creativity, instill a positive work ethic, and give our children the tools needed to realize their full potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Springfield Board of Education, do hereby proclaim November 16–20, 2015 as American Education Week.

DATED this 9th Day of November 2015.

3. SCHOOL PRESENTATION – AGNES STEWART MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal Jeff Fuller and Assistant Principal EJ Rotherham addressed the Board and audience. Mr. Fuller reviewed the Agnes Stewart Middle School Mission Statement: *Provide a safe, challenging and supportive environment where students are prepared with the fundamentals for success in high school and beyond.* He emphasized the importance of building a positive foundation and learning environment. He highlighted the addition of a Social Worker to bridge access to benefits and professional networking in that area of expertise. Although no new certified staff had been hired in many years due to low turnover, some retirements were anticipated this summer. He highlighted the following new activities to increase inclusion of students, families and the community: a barbeque and pancake feed in lieu of traditional open houses, and use of the “Agnes Day” motto and “Wolf Pack” t-shirts to recognize and reinforce positive student behavior. He noted that the number of referrals at Agnes Stewart had dropped from 7,000 in 2002-2003 to 500 in 2014-2015. A new college-career initiative included display of a “High School Graduates” banner, 6th grader visits to Lane Community College, 7th grader visits to University of Oregon, and 8th grader site visits to a variety of job locations arranged through the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Other activities included “Dream Catchers”, a student-run business that provided practice in daily employment reporting, job responsibilities, and an opportunity for job references in a variety of job assignments. An 8th grade project included the building of solar cars, working on construction of a walking path behind the school, and various Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and hands-on learning opportunities.

Mr. Fuller introduced Dana Demant, Shedd music coaches Jim Ralph and Ginevra Ralph, and ten members of the Agnes Stewart Middle School String Group. The Oregon Community Foundation has provided support for the program through a five-year \$280,000 grant used to purchase and maintain instruments, and provide weekly professional, instrument-specific coaching by members of the Shedd Institute. The students performed three operatic arrangements and received enthusiastic applause from all those present.

Chair Light asked parents of the students to stand and be recognized for their supportive contribution.

4. LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT (ESD)

Lane ESD Superintendent Larry Sullivan shared an overview of the development timelines and approval process for the 2014-2017 Local Service Plan (LSP). Distributed was a summary outline entitled “2014-17 Local Service Plan, Year Three, Development Process and Component Board Meetings”, and “Lane ESD LSP document for Year Two.” The Superintendents’ Council and the Lane ESD Board review the LSP, survey data, strategic plan and state level initiatives, and approval was scheduled in January, followed by approval by component district boards in February of each year. He referenced yellow highlighted areas of the LSP, which discussed changes in the 2015-16 LSP. The Superintendents’ Council has agreed to a more flexible, responsive three-year LSP framework aligned with Oregon’s biennium funding structure, as well as continued use of Innovation Funds for mathematics instruction support, a Restorative Justice pilot, Life Skills Cost Pool, and Connected Lane County. He noted that 2015-16 Core and Flex Fund dollars, which allowed

districts to receive up to 50 percent of their funding in cash, also included \$875,000 in Technology Services and \$535,000 in General Education for staff improvement. He commended all Superintendents and specifically SPS Superintendent Rieke-Smith for her strong support and leadership role on the Council. He noted that the Lane ESD Services Survey results were very positive and provided important feedback for service planning for next year. In December 2015, Lane ESD planned to provide steps, goals and expected outcomes for 2015-17 as part of the planning process. He commended SPS, 4-J and Bethel school districts for continued collaboration with all districts, and for continued support for Lane ESD. Since January 2015, over 400 teachers and 40 administrators from the local consortium had participated in Skillful Teacher training and Research for Better Teaching.

Vanessa Truett spoke as the Springfield representative on the Lane ESD Board and a parent with two children in SPS schools who received Special Education and Talented and Gifted program services. She emphasized the role of Lane ESD Board members in community engagement. She attended SPS, Marcola and McKenzie school board meetings to increase Lane ESD Board understanding of issues in other districts. She invited SPS Board members to attend Lane ESD Board meetings. In addition, Lane ESD Board members attend different programs within the district. The Lane ESD Board Community Advisory position was focused on traditionally marginalized student populations and Emilio Hernandez was currently in that advisory position. The Lane ESD Board member on the Superintendents' council was Todd Hamilton from the Creswell School District. Twinkle Morton from Fern Ridge Schools and Derek Parnell from Blatchley Schools represented small districts.

Chair Jonathan Light expressed appreciation to Mr. Sullivan for Lane ESD's flexibility in listening to and involving all school districts.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Light reviewed public comment guidelines.

Ronnel Curry, Executive Director for the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF), spoke about the TAG program. She presented SPS a \$15,000 check to support the SPS TAG program, and indicated the total donation was expected to be near \$19,000. Currently SPS allocated \$25,000 for TAG so the donation nearly doubled the resources available to this program. She commended the TAG Program Coordinator, Stephanie Lovdokken, who developed the proposed budget and program enhancements that would be supported with the donation, in addition to being a full-time teacher.

Chair Light thanked the SEF and congratulated them on a successful Night of 11,000 Stars event. He noted that many SPS activities would not be possible without SEF's support.

6. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Chair Light read a letter addressed from the SPS Board to Acting Superintendent Sue Rieke-Smith as follows:

Dear Dr. Rieke-Smith,

Each year the Board of Directors for Springfield Public Schools (SPS) has the privilege and responsibility to evaluate the job performance of our District's Superintendent on behalf of the community we serve.

Dr. Rieke-Smith, the Board understands that you have only been in your current position as Interim Superintendent for a little over four months. It would therefore have been difficult to conduct a full and extensive review based on such a limited tenure. Instead the Board chose to direct the Oregon School Boards Association to conduct a survey of people who have had the opportunity to work closely with you during this time. The survey group consisted of our leadership team, district administrators, and

representatives from our employee associations. The 12-question survey was divided into four categories: Vision, Communication, Personnel, and Other. Though limited in scope the overall responses from this survey were very positive and reflected support and satisfaction from the respondents. The Board looks forward to a broader district-wide climate survey during this next year in order to involve other stakeholders in the future direction of Springfield Public Schools.

The Board has been fortunate to get to know and work with you in your former position as Springfield's Assistant Superintendent. In the wake of Dr. Martin's resignation you graciously accepted the Board's invitation to step in as Interim Superintendent and have provided leadership and guidance to our District since. We recognize that your runway as our Interim Superintendent was nearly non-existent but you have admirably stepped into some challenging situations and managed to move this organization forward. In addition you have hired talented, outstanding individuals to fill key positions on our leadership team. Like you, they understand the vision and needs of our district.

You have made it a priority to use your visibility in the community, and internally with staff, to listen to input, comments and suggestions. You have also used these opportunities to communicate your vision on what it means for Springfield students "to be prepared for a bright and successful future." Your connections with key educational leaders and legislators in our state are impressive and will help us move this vision forward. You have demonstrated a depth of knowledge and understanding of issues unique to Oregon that would be difficult for a national, or many in-state, candidates to have. We believe this to be an important attribute for Springfield's superintendent.

Dr. Rieke-Smith, the Board gives you high marks for your work thus far in our District. Despite your short tenure you have demonstrated the qualities and characteristics of a strong and visionary leader and are well positioned to move our district forward as we jointly work to create an educational system that serves all students. You have embraced the Springfield School District and the community in a very positive and heartfelt way and it is clear that you care deeply about Springfield and our children.

Dr. Rieke-Smith, the Springfield Board of Education thanks you for your vision and leadership. We look forward to working together with you as we face the challenges and opportunities in education and our district.

All five board members signed the 2015-2016 evaluation letter of Superintendent Sue Rieke-Smith, dated November 9, 2015.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. September 28, 2015 Board Work Session Minutes

B. October 5, 2015 Board Work Session Minutes

C. October 12, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

D. October 26, 2015 Special Board Minutes and Fall Planning Minutes

E. Financial Statement

F. Technology Bond Update

G. Board Policies, First Reading

Jenna McCulley recommended that the Board of Directors review the following board policies and administrative regulation, as a first reading:

- IB Freedom of Expression
- IBDG Student Publications
- IBDG-AR Student Publications

H. Open Enrollment and Inter-District Transfer Update

I. Out of State Trips Overview

J. Out of State Trip. SHS Girls' Basketball, Resolution #15-16.010

Kevin Ricker recommended that the Board approve Springfield High School's Girls' Basketball Team's request to travel to Phoenix, Arizona to participate in the Nike basketball tournament. Date of the trip will be December 17 – 23, 2015. There is no cost to the district for the trip.

K. Out of State Trip, THS Baseball, Resolution #15-16.011

Kevin Riker recommended that the Board approve Thurston High School's Baseball Team's request to travel to Phoenix, Arizona to participate in a baseball tournament. Dates of the trip will be March 17 – 26, 2016. Approval is contingent upon the team fundraising all monies needed to cover the cost of the trip, including substitute teacher costs. There is no cost to the district for the trip.

L. Board Policies Approval, Resolution #15-16.012

Jenna McCulley recommended that the Board of Directors approve the following board policies:

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| • GBDA | Mother-Friendly Workplace |
| • GBK/ JECG/ KGC | Prohibited Use, Possession, Distribution or Sale of Tobacco Products and Inhalant Delivery Systems |
| • GBM | Staff Complaints |
| • JFCG/ KGC/ GBK | Prohibited Use, Possession, Distribution or Sale of Tobacco Products and Inhalant Delivery Systems |
| • KGC/ GBK/ JFCG | Prohibited Use, Possession, Distribution or Sale of Tobacco Products and Inhalant Delivery Systems |

M. Personnel Report, Resolution #15-16.013

Michael Henry recommended that the Board of Directors approve the personnel action for licensed employees as reflected below:

New Hires

Cynthia Burger	Caroline McCornack	Robert Monroe
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Retirements

Cynthia Burger	Caroline McCornack	Eileen Orsini
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Motion: Ms. Adams moved, seconded by Ms. DeHaven, to approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Budget Committee Appointment, Resolution #15-16.014

Brett Yancey recommended that the Board of Directors appoint one (1) individual to serve as a member of the Springfield Budget Committee, Position 1, effective November 9, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

Board Chair Jonathan Light indicated he was impressed with Mr. Arch when he was interviewed for a position on the SPS Board, and that the Budget Committee position would provide an opportunity for him to gain greater knowledge related to educational finances.

Mr. Adams said she supported appointment of Mr. Zach Bessett who has expressed continued interest in a Board committee position. He has served on the Bond Oversight Committee, has applied several times for other positions, attended district events and was employed with Willamalane Park and Recreation District.

Motion: Ms. Adams moved, seconded by Mr. Bishoff, to nominate Zach Bessett, to serve as a member of the Springfield Public Schools Budget Committee, effective November 9, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

Chair Light recognized the efforts of outgoing Budget Committee member Jim Balumas for his insights and participation.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

B. Authorization Resolution Administration Building, Resolution #15-16.015

Brett Yancey recommended that the Board of Directors pass Resolution #15-16.015 that authorized the issuance and negotiated sale of a full faith and credit obligation in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$4,000,000; designating an authorized representative, placement agent and special counsel; authorizing selection of a purchaser; authorizing execution and delivery of a financing agreement; and related matters, for the purchase of the administrative building at 640 “A” Street, Springfield, Oregon.

Motion: Ms. Adams moved, seconded by Ms. DeHaven, to pass Resolution #15-16.015.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Superintendent Hiring Decision for the 2016-2017 School Year, Resolution #15-16.016

Chair Jonathan Light read the following resolution:

2016-2017 SUPERINTENDENT HIRING DECISION

RELEVANT DATA:

On April 16, 2015 the Springfield Board of Education appointed Susan Rieke-Smith as the Acting Superintendent for the balance of the 2014-2015 School year. This was a result of Superintendent Hertica Y. Martin’s resignation, effective June 30, 2015.

On June 8, 2015 the Springfield Board of Education appointed Dr. Susan Rieke-Smith as Interim Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools for the 2015-2016 school year, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

In a work session on September 28, 2015, Board members discussed goals and evaluation of Dr. Rieke-Smith for the time period of July 1, 2015 through October 2015, with a goal for the Board to make a decision by November 2015 about whether to begin recruitment for a new superintendent for the 2016-2017 school year.

A Special Work Session was held on October 5, 2015, at which time Board members discussed criteria it would use for the Superintendent Evaluation. Board members received recommendations from Spencer Lewis, Oregon School Boards Association, on criteria and draft questions for the evaluation that would be distributed to the Cabinet, administrators and others who worked closely with Dr. Rieke-Smith during the time she had served as interim superintendent (July 1 – October 2015). During the Work Session Board Members also discussed the need to conduct a broader climate survey of the District so staff and community were given the opportunity to provide input.

At the direction of the Board, Oregon School Boards Association conducted a survey of administrators, confidentials, supervisors, managers, and union representatives from Oregon School Employees Association and Springfield Education Association. The survey was conducted from October 19 to October 27, 2015. The 12 questions, approved by the Board, were divided into four categories: Vision, Communication, Personnel and Other. The survey was sent to 63 individuals and had a 58.73% response rate. Overall, the results of the survey were positive. In the area of Vision, the overall score was 85.29% positive responses; overall Communication was 80.77% of responses being positive; overall Personnel was 72.41% positive. In the category of Other, the superintendent received highest marks for being seen at district events and following district policy. Generally scores were high, reflecting support and satisfaction from respondents.

As a result of the evaluation and discussions held by the Board of Education over the past four months, the Board will consider the recommendation below.

RECOMMENDATION:

Chair Light recommended that the Board of Directors *not* move forward with a search for a permanent superintendent for the 2016-2017 school year.

It is also recommended that the Board hire Dr. Susan Rieke-Smith as Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools effective immediately. Dr. Rieke-Smith's current contract and compensation package will remain in effect for the balance of the 2015-2016 school year.

Be it further recommended that the Board authorize the Board Chair to negotiate a contract and compensation agreement for the 2016-2017 school year, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Motion: Mr. Adams moved, seconded by Mr. Bishoff, to pass Resolution #15-16.016 as recommended.

Ms. Adams said the survey of staff and community had not been done, and suggested a wording change to read "...would be given the opportunity to provide input." She asked if the contract would be a rolling three-year contract, as has been the District's previous practice.

Chair Light and Mr. Yancey confirmed the wording should be revised to read "...negotiate a contract through June 30, 2019".

Mr. Bishoff, as second, agreed to the above changes to the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Superintendent Rieke-Smith thanked the Board for the strength of both the evaluation and the Resolution, and indicated she was honored to serve a very capable SPS cabinet, administration and staff. She thanked Nancy Golden for her mentorship.

Chair Light thanked Superintendent Rieke-Smith for great leadership, and said the Board looked forward to working with her in the future.

9. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Student Communication

Thurston High School (THS):

Ms. McKay reported that THS' canned food drive began November 10 with a first period class contest. The school production of *Alice in Wonderland* was November 11-14, and the THS Homecoming campaign had raised \$9,000 for the senior class. The Tree of Joy holiday event, which raised funds for the purchase and delivery of presents to children, was beginning soon. THS Cabaret qualified for the championship competition and received first place. The THS blood drive would begin on November 23. The Mr. and Miss THS Pageant process was beginning. Ms. McKay thanked SEF for continued support.

Springfield High School (SHS):

Ms. Guthrie-Baker reported that the SHS Boys Soccer team had qualified for quarterfinals for the first time in school history, and the SHS Football team was advanced to the State playoffs. The SHS stage production of *Hanging by Your Fingernails* was scheduled for November 19-21, which was a series of hilarious student-led comedy sketches. The SHS canned food drive was November 9 through November 20 and involved a class competition with prizes from Voodoo Donuts; the overall goal was 3,000 cans. The Associated Student Body (ASB) was kicking-off an anti-harassment, anti-bullying campaign called "Not On Our Campus." SHS Tree of Joy efforts were underway and would be reported on in December.

In response to Chair Light's question, Ms. Guthrie-Baker said there was a similar campaign in 2012 during Peace Week and ASB wanted to repeat that effort in light of recent incidents. She indicated that ASB believed that the efforts were more effective when they were student-led and ended in an all-school assembly.

Chair Light expressed interest in the students' perspective on the level of District activities needed, and said it seemed there was an increased problem due to the increased use of devices by younger children.

Superintendent Rieke-Smith said a consortium with 4J and Bethel school districts was held to discuss sexting and cyber-bullying. On December 1, discussions would continue to identify ways to add curriculum and student-led activities focused on those issues.

Gateways High School (GHS):

Ms. Pool said today was the first day of the new quarter, which meant new schedules and the addition of 30 new students that were enthusiastic about attending GHS. She thanked Board members for their attendance and assistance at the Latino Cultural/Day of the Dead Celebration. GHS received two grants, one for science activities and one textile related. ABS leadership was conducting a questionnaire to see if GHS students were interested in having a prom for the first time. Weekly morning announcements began, which included current happenings, birthdays, the lunch menu, positive feedback and other fun information. The ABS leadership team consisted of 10 very enthusiastic students.

Academy of Arts and Academic (A3)

Several weeks ago, the first community-wide meeting was held at Wildish Theatre. Questions and topics discussed included student-teacher relationships and cyber-bullying. Last week student-led conferences with teachers and parents were held. Auditions for a student-written (currently untitled) stage production were scheduled for the week of November 16. Confluence performances were scheduled for November 9-10. The A3 Choir Concert was scheduled for November 17-18. *Artibration*, a celebration of art and reflection, was scheduled for December 11 and Winter break began on December 14. Events were scheduled at the Wildish Community Theatre and admission was free for students.

Board Chair Light recognized Nancy Golden, former SPS Superintendent and Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) Chief Education Officer, who was seated in the audience.

B. Academy of Arts and Academics (A3) Charter School Annual Report

Mike Fisher, School Director, introduced Ed Mendelsshon (Co-Director), Josh Metzger (Humanities and Student Support) and A3 Board members present: Nancy Golden, Paul Weill and Sabrina Gross. Mr. Fisher presented an overview of the *A3 Progress Report for 2014-2015, Where We Are, Have Been, Are Going, and Celebrating our 10th Year*, which included standardized reporting and additional information requested by the Board during last year's report. He directed the Board to pages 16-19.

Mr. Mendelsshon discussed Project Math, a new initiative that integrates mathematical thinking with real-world problem solving through six discrete math units that combine the use of algebra, geometry, probability and statistics. The curriculum model provided students the opportunity to practice and apply work samples, which are applicable to graduation requirements and testing preparation.

Mr. Fisher discussed future plans to develop an A3 Innovation Lab in collaboration with Hewlett-Packard, Fertilab and InHaus Fabrication. Hewlett-Packard supported Innovation labs in several communities, which provide opportunity for testing new equipment and providing professional instruction. Fertilab was a new Springfield business focused on collaboration, "thinkubate" and tech-oriented businesses. InHaus was working in cooperation with Lane Work Force to begin offering such courses as "Maker" and "Shop 2.0" to A3 students through its computer science and engineering curriculum. Other A3 partners included

Technology Association of Oregon, Autodesk, Shopbot and the University of Oregon. He expressed appreciation to the City of Springfield for its downtown redevelopment efforts.

In response to Ms. Boyst, Mr. Metzger said currently there were about eight students working in the coding, electronics and shop sections, which covered only basic skills and used traditional power tools and equipment. In the spring due to the new collaborative effort, the class offerings would increase dramatically and include the manufacture of parts using lasers and plasma cutters. Areas of Confluence, which overlaps disciplines, would be remarkably enhanced.

Mr. Bishoff expressed support for the development of portfolios over time. Mr. Fisher confirmed that technology allowed the portfolio presentation and validation to be professionally packaged. He noted that the state of Oregon was behind in this level of technology, and that A3 will readily share its experience with other schools.

Mr. Fisher provided an overview of the A3 Learning Management System and On-line Portfolio system. He discussed the process and methods of formative assessment, proficiency-based learning and reflection, with more emphasis on credit validation and competency indicators that could be used in future job or college applications. Efforts to improve the on-line portfolio system for both students and teachers, and to secure applicable grant funding continued.

Board Chair Light commended Mr. Fisher and A3 staff on their commitment to finding ways to achieve the SPS educational principles. He appreciated the report format, the “whole child” approach to student involvement and accountability, and was impressed with the potential of individualized portfolios and A3 projects underway.

Superintendent Rieke-Smith commented that the on-line portfolio has taken on new significance. With Nancy Golden on the OEIB Board, exceptional leadership in the comprehensive high schools, and the desire and ability to connect with local industry, SPS was uniquely situated to take education to a whole new level.

C. Bond Oversight Committee Report

Brett Yancey introduced Bond Oversight Committee Chair Ken Kohl, who reported that two meetings had been held. The focus of the committee was to confirm that bond proceeds were being spent appropriately and prudently, and to ensure information was shared with the community. The committee continued to develop its operating structure. Meeting reports and updates were posted as Bond Information on the SPS website.

• Committee Membership

The Board will discuss this topic at the December 14, 2015 meeting.

D. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Rieke-Smith thanked the Board for its expressed confidence in her. She thanked employee association partners for extensive work on Collaborative Grant work, which would deepen opportunities for professional development, identify alternative career pathways and compensation options, and refine evaluation processes. She thanked administrators for invigorating leadership and effective communication. She envisioned an SPS educational system that would rival any 40,000-student school district, with a small-town feel that addresses the needs of the whole child. She was honored to distribute 16 Innovation Grant checks that represented the work of teachers in their first year, teachers with connections to the local textile industry, and teachers who continually looked for opportunities to connect students to content. Superintendent Rieke-Smith said she looked forward to continued work with SPS and the Springfield community.

E. Board Communications

• 2015-2016 Board Committee Assignments and Reports

Distributed was a document entitled *SPS School Board Representation 2015-2016*, which listed agencies, civic organizations, district committees and Board member assignments. Chair Light emphasized that the assignments were intended to extend the Board's knowledge and involvement in the community.

Mr. Bishoff volunteered to fulfill the Lane Council of Governments and two Lane ESD groups. Ms. DeHaven volunteered to attend Oregon Leadership Network and Mr. Light volunteered to attend Wellness Committee meetings. Attendance at the Ministerial Group would be determined as meetings were scheduled.

Mr. Bishoff invited Board members to attend Matt Coleman's presentation on Common Core, *Tell Me More*, and Superintendent Rieke-Smith would be available for questions. The program, sponsored by Stand for Children, was scheduled for November 18 at 6:00 p.m. at SHS.

Ms. Boyst reported that Night of 11,000 Stars was very successful and donations had increased to over \$140,000. Hamlin Middle School construction design work continued.

Chair Light said in preparation for this year's Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Conference, he wished to continue discussion about the value of Smarter Balance Testing in the context of the time needed for student learning. He suggested the discussion be scheduled for December 14.

Superintendent Rieke-Smith said with the Obama administration's recent statement regarding standardized testing guidance for states by January 2016, she expected information similar to that which precluded No Child Left Behind waivers. OSBA was an opportunity to find out more about the Oregon Department of Education's Parent Refusal Form as well. She emphasized the need to ensure all children were growing and the use of balanced assessments that inform instruction. She indicated that SPS might be a candidate for a pilot program.

Chair Light encouraged the SPS Board to provide input to the extent possible. He said he supported an approach that focused on an individual child's deficits and strengths. He appreciated A3's approach because it expanded the definition of metrics to include broad talents and the potential of every student.

Ms. Adams asked that student representatives and school leadership groups be involved so input from students may also be provided to the Board.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. NEXT MEETINGS

Chair Light said the next Business Meeting would be held on December 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Light adjourned the meeting at 9:09 pm.

(Minutes recorded by Janis McDonald)