

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on March 14, 2022.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Board Chair Naomi Raven called the Springfield Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board Members attending the meeting included Board Chair Naomi Raven, Jonathan Light, Todd Mann and Kelly Mason; Vice-Chair Emilio Hernandez was excused due to illness.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Judy Bowden, Brett Yancey, Jeff Michna, Wayne Reposo, Cliff Schutte, Ame Beard, Lesa Haley, Kari Thiele, Jeremiah Perkins, Daniel Hunt, Wyatt Tiller, Becky Willis, Jonathan Gault, Chemen Clearwaters, Kassandra McLennan, Tonya Reichenberger, Andy Price, Nick Olsanh, José da Silva, Jen McCulley, Mindy LeRoux, Brian Megert, Dustin Reese, Whitney McKinley, Chirs Reiersgaard, Taylor Madden and Marlene Hockema, minutes recorder.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Mann moved, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the March 14, 2022 agenda as presented.

Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the March 14, 2022 agenda as presented: Mr. Light – yes, Mr. Mann – yes, Ms. Mason – yes, and Ms. Raven – yes.

Motion passed, 4:0

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. School Presentation: Riverbend Elementary School

Riverbend Elementary Principal Ryan Beck and Assistant Principal Laurie Melendy shared a slide presentation updating the Board on activities at their facility noting over 400 students returned for in-person learning in the fall.

Mr. Beck stated the school had begun greeting each student by name every morning. Ms. Melendy added that time is spent each morning reading The Morning Meeting Book to create positive interaction for students. Monday positive phone calls would be made to parents and morning announcements would be in both English and Spanish.

Riverbend Elementary continues to provide breakfast and lunch as well as sending home over 70 snack packs on weekends.

In addition, The Child Center would be offering counseling two days a week and Roots of Empathy would be sharing their program with second grade students.

Mr. Beck and Ms. Melendy informed the Board that they were happy to have hired a Family Resource Coordinator who would be active with soliciting donations, building trust with families, supporting the school community and other needs as they became necessary.

Also, the school was able to provide holiday supplies and gifts for over 100 families including clothes, diapers, donations and snack packs.

Furthermore, the school is happy to have a physical education instructor, an orchestra program and the Oregon Battle of the Books program back on the schedule.

Mr. Beck reported that having an assistant principal for the first time was beneficial to everyone and allowed him more time for meeting with teachers, students and families.

B. Student Board Representative Communication

Thurston High School's Board Representative Wyatt Tiller shared that the school had a new Family Resource Coordinator who would oversee dispensing of hygiene items and clothing. He noted that winter sports had ended and spring sports would be starting soon; more school events would be available this year including prom, an all school dance and student leadership activities.

Springfield High School's Board Representative Kassandra McLennan reported that it had been a good year for sports adding that she had broken the 100 year record in the backstroke and the girls' basketball team had qualified at the state level. She added that students had put posters on the school walls to honor classified employees, put on a musical arts concert, would be having a talent show this week and student body elections following the spring break vacation.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Raven read the following statement concerning public comment:

This is the portion of our agenda for public comment. The board provides three ways for community members to share public comment: written public comment, in person oral public comment and virtual public comment. Written public comment is received via email. Public comments received via email for this evening have been reviewed by the Board and have also been posted on the District's website. The deadline for submitting a request for oral public comment was today at noon. Those who requested an opportunity to speak this evening were notified by the board secretary about their request.

We encourage groups with a common purpose to designate a spokesperson. If your comments will be covered by a group spokesperson, please indicate so when your name is called. I want to remind those members of the public who have indicated a desire to make comments that our policy provides for a limitation of three (3) minutes per person.

The Board will not hear comments regarding any school personnel. We ask those speaking to refrain from using names and titles of school personnel. Any complaints regarding a particular employee must be processed through the Superintendent. This procedure must be followed before there is any Board involvement with such issues. A compliment involving a staff member should be sent to the Superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, their supervisor and the Board.

Speakers are reminded that their public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.

There were no public comments. Written comments for the evening are below\

March 14, 2022

Attached are copies of the written public comment submitted to the school board prior to the March 14, 2022 business meeting.

One submission is not included as it does not comply with [School Board Policy: BDDH Public Comment at Board Meetings](#).

Comments that violate school board public comment policy are shared with the school board but not included in public posting.

Best,

Judy Bowden
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board Secretary

Written Public Comment

Mikell Harshbarger <thegreath@comcast.net>

Sun 3/13/2022 4:34 PM

To:public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

This message is from a non-SPS email address. Please use caution and only click links and attachments if you are sure they are safe.

Good day and hello members of the school board for Springfield Public Schools,

I am reaching out to you to ask you to begin to making visits to all school buildings to meet and visit with staff and to take a good look at the facilities in our district.

I am not suggesting that you participate in the usual sorts of "dog and pony shows" that occur when folks like yourselves visit buildings. I think you would be best served by visiting each school's staff room (perhaps armed with donuts or cookies) and hanging out there for a couple of hours, so you can have impromptu conversations with staff. While I realize that at some point you will be hearing the results of the "Stay Interviews" to learn more about the concerns of teachers, you might find it beneficial to hear things first-hand.

A few weeks ago, I was extremely fortunate to be able to have a "Stay Interview" with a friendly and considerate member of the district's leadership staff, and it really boosted my spirits. Having someone listen to me with empathy meant the world to me. I would bet that your presence and conversations might make all the difference to some staff.

I have heard that for some reason school board members are currently not allowed in the buildings. If this continues to be the case, then I would encourage you to take turns hanging out at a place like Roaring Rapids or Plank Town Brewery and inviting school staff to join you. (I'd be happy to buy you a beverage!) You could even do it as a fundraiser for SEF or some other deserving organization at a place like Papa's Pizza.

Finally, it is time for the school board to begin publicly discussing modernizing or replacing many of our aging facilities. Walking around these buildings might help you understand how so many of them have become insufficient or an obstacle for doing all of the things we need our schools to do. Talking with staff in those buildings would help you understand all of the issues some of them have and the challenges for kids and adults that these buildings create. We are proud to have such beautiful facilities like at Maple Elementary, Hamlin Middle School, A3, and the district office, but those are exceptions. Too many of our buildings fall short, and it's time for the board to be doing the hard work of getting them replaced.

Thanks so much for all of your efforts to help us do our best for the kids and our community,

Mikell Harshbarger
Fifth grade teacher, Elizabeth Page Elementary School

Written Public Comment

Nick Wing <nickwing33@gmail.com>

Mon 3/14/2022 11:54 AM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

This message is from a non-SPS email address. Please use caution and only click links and attachments if you are sure they are safe.

Elected School Board,

I understand that SPS has recently changed its position in regards to the state vaccine rule. As much as I appreciate the district making a way for unvaccinated community members with religious or medical exceptions a pathway back to serve students, I would ask that you consider less intrusive accommodations. I understand that the state rule puts the district in the position that you need to require extra precautions for those who have not received the covid vaccine. I would like to share my thoughts on this subject as I would like you to consider changing the current policy.

Please reconsider the masking requirement. There are other alternatives that the school district could use that are acceptable to the current vaccine rule. Testing alone for instance or a morning temperature check could technically fulfill the rule.

I am very opposed to this rule overall as it appears to have nothing to do with actual science or health but instead is meant to bully and shame those who have chosen not to take the covid vaccine. It is well established that though the vaccine did help prevent hospitalizations and deaths, (mainly under the delta surge when therapeutics were not readily available in Oregon) it did not stop the spread as we experienced with both delta and omicron. Therefore, the idea that an unvaccinated person is at greater risk of spreading covid is not scientifically supported. If the rule is therefore in place only to protect the individual who has chosen not to get vaccinated this is gross government overreach. Especially as mask mandates are being lifted for the rest of the state. Will the state begin to make rules that require all educators fall in a specific BMI range, and if not, they are banned from sugary snacks and drinks?

This rule continues to ignore natural immunity. The idea that natural immunity only lasts for 90 days is intellectually dishonest. If this was actually true then we should be preparing for another surge as the last Covid surge began about 90 days ago. Our leading health officials are moving back restrictions as they understand that the most recent studies show that natural immunity is many times more effective than the vaccine at preventing hospitalizations and deaths. The studies also show that natural immunity is effective for many months if not years.

Please reconsider the masking requirement as almost everywhere else in the state and country are now allowed to choose for themselves. Unvaccinated educators should not be treated differently. I am asking for you to reevaluate the current policy and make adjustments that are less intrusive. I am concerned that with the current staffing shortage, requiring masks for unvaccinated staff and volunteers will continue to negatively impact our students and staff.

Respectfully,
Nick Wing

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

- 1. February 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**
- 2. February 28, 2022 Special Board Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Financial Report**
- 4. Personnel Action, Resolution #21-22.030**

MOTION: Mr. Mann moved, Mr. Light seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the Consent Agenda: Mr. Light – yes, Mr. Mann – yes, Ms. Mason – yes, and Ms. Raven – yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

B. Approve School Bus Purchase Agreement, Resolution #21-22.031

At the June 14, 2021 school board meeting, the Board authorized the purchase of seven (7) new propane school buses to replace older fleet models. All seven of these buses are Type C Propane Blue Bird Vision 77 passenger models.

The buses have been ordered and delivery is estimated in mid-April. Upon delivery, the District will need to submit payment for these new buses using previously identified resources. Similar to the purchases made in the past, the District is recommending the utilization of a full faith and credit note payable over a ten (10) year timeframe, which aligns with the depreciation schedule reimbursed by the Oregon Department of Education. This lease purchase agreement is a ten-year agreement at a market driven interest rate associated with municipal notes. The estimated rate for this issue is 2.97% due to the current market. Payments for the agreement will be made solely from the Equipment Replacement Fund (Fund 297) on an annual basis. Additionally, the State reimburses our district for 70% of the cost of purchasing a new school bus (including interest on the lease program), and the District was successful in receiving a DEQ grant to cover the remaining 30%. This reimbursement comes to the district over a ten-year period and can only be used for the purchase of school buses and related equipment. The district places this money into Fund 297 and there are no additional General Fund resources being used for this purchase.

Brett Yancey recommended that the Board of Directors approve the resolution as presented, authorizing the issuance and negotiated sale of full faith and credit note in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$675,000, including the designation of authorized representatives and appointment of special counsel.

MOTION: Mr. Light moved, Mr. Mann seconded the motion to approve the resolution as presented, authorizing the issuance and negotiated sale of full faith and credit note in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$675,000, including the designation of authorized representatives and appointment of special counsel.

Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the resolution as presented, authorizing the issuance and negotiated sale of full faith and credit note in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$675,000, including the designation of authorized representatives and appointment of special counsel: Mr. Light – yes, Mr. Mann – yes, Ms. Mason – yes, and Ms. Raven – yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

6. DISCUSSION

A. United Front Update

Community Engagement Officer Jenna McCulley shared, via slide presentation, that United Front is a collaborative group made up of: Lane County Government, Lane Transit Department, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Willamalane Park and Recreation District and Springfield Public Schools, which was founded in 1986 and joined with Springfield Schools 12 years later following the Thurston High School shooting. Ms. McCulley informed the Board that they would be anxiously preparing for an annual trip to Washington DC where they would meet with individuals and groups to form partnerships to advocate for causes relevant to the community. Ms. McCulley closed her report with the quote, “Advocacy is a marathon not a sprint.”

Ms. Mason queried why Eugene 4J School District does not participate in the group and Ms. McCulley responded that they had been invited, but had never accepted.

7. INFORMATION/REPORTS

A. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Hamilton acknowledged awards that had been presented to Board members:

- Todd Mann, Emerging Leader awarded by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- Kelly Mason, Rising Alumni awarded by the Springfield Education Foundation
- Jonathan Light and Family, Family Legacy awarded by the Springfield Education Foundation

Superintendent Hamilton noted that it was two-years ago today that the COVID-19 shutdown took place and today marked the return to in-person meetings without masks. Additionally, he stated the CDC would be revising how they look at community health and metrics. Due to the low transmission rate countywide on March 10th, visitors and volunteers will be allowed back on school properties, but a consequence of a two-year break is the need for volunteers to go through another background check. However, the processing for background verifications has gone paperless which should reduce turn-around times.

B. Board Communication

Chair Raven shared she had attended another OSBA meeting for board chairs across the state of Oregon. She said that she continued to find them beneficial and asked the Board to inform her of any suggestions for future topics for discussion with this group. She added that she was looking forward to attending United Front in Washington DC.

Mr. Light shared he had attended the LCOG executive meeting noting that Brenda Wilson, Executive Director is up for election and LCOG had received a Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) grant for \$2.1 million which they would anticipate using for PPE expenses.

Mr. Mann shared that SEF would be working on Night of 11,000 Stars, a luau, a concert and a book drive.

Ms. Mason reported she had attended the last Wildish Board of Directors meeting and that she would be attending a non-profit meeting at the U of O on March 15th.

8. NEXT MEETING

The Board will meet on March 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. for a Board/Budget Work Session. There will be a Business Meeting on April 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and a Work Session on April 25, 2022. Time TBD.

Chair Raven thanked everyone for attending. She added that the business meeting would be adjourned following the conclusion of the Executive Session. The Board moved to Executive Session at 8:30p.m.

9. The Board moved into Executive Session (non-public) at 8:30 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on Labor negotiations.

The Board returned from the Executive Session at 9:12pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Raven adjourned the meeting at 9:12p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Marlene Hockema)