

## WORK SESSION MINUTES

A Work Session of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on January 14, 2023.

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Board Chair Naomi Raven called the Springfield Board of Education Work Session to order at 1:05 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice-Chair Todd Mann read a Land Acknowledgement.

#### **Attendance**

Board Members attending the meeting in-person included Board Chair Naomi Raven, Vice-Chair Todd Mann, Kelly Mason, and Jonathan Light. Emilio Hernandez attended the meeting remotely.

District staff included Todd Hamilton, Dustin Reese, Martie Steigleder, and Jeff Michna.

Kristen Miles from the Oregon School Boards Association was present to facilitate the training.

### **2. Training**

Kristen Miles from the Oregon School Boards Association facilitated the Work Session and proposed the following agenda topics: Finalizing the board's goal, The board's role in strategic planning, Balanced and collaborative governance, Presentations to the board, and Next steps.

Ms. Miles began with an opening activity, inviting board members to share what they thought about during the past week. Board members Raven, Mason, Mann, and Light shared their thoughts, including references to, time to come together and work together; personal responsibilities; gratitude; and learnings from the prior meeting.

Ms. Miles shared a proposed goal and a set of actions for board members to consider.

*The board sets a goal to better understand the individual roles and responsibilities of its members with a focus on positively impacting students. The board will take the following actions to accomplish that goal:*

- 1. The board will work with the superintendent to create a common system for information to flow through staff to the board in order to improve communication with the administrative team and the board and ensure that each board member has the same information at the same time.*
- 2. Each board member will commit to supporting the will of the board. Once a decision is made at the board table, each board member will work to support the direction of the decision, even if they disagree with the decision during the vote.*
- 3. The board will ensure that its conversations at the board table are direct and transparent, yet respectful. Discussions will have a focus on the work of the*

*board, data, and the 'why' behind the data, and not on individuals. The board will model a culture of collaboration and healthy debate for the district.*

- 4. Each board member will ensure their understanding of the individual roles as board members, as well as the collective role of the board. This may involve continued professional development, review of board policies, and/or review of board operating agreements.*

Ms. Miles provided board members with an opportunity to respond to the proposed goal statement and welcomed feedback and recommendations for revising the goal. After discussion among board members, Ms. Miles asked if there was buy in for the following revised goal statement:

*The board sets a goal to create an environment on the board of trust and respect with a focus on positively impacting students.*

Each board member individually indicated that they support the goal statement.

Ms. Miles continued the discussion, focusing on the first action to accomplish the goal. Board members shared their feedback, reflections, perspectives, and recommendations for revising the action item. Ms. Miles asked if the below revised action statement reflected the conversation:

- 1. The board will work with the superintendent to commit to a shared system for information to flow through the district administrative team to the board and to ensure that each board member has information to make informed decisions.*

Each board member individually indicated that they support the first action statement.

The board took a break at 2:37 pm.

The board resumed the meeting at 2:46 pm.

Ms. Miles resumed the discussion, focusing on the second action to accomplish the goal.

- 2. Each board member will commit to supporting the will of the board. Once a decision is made at the board table, each board member will work to support the direction of the decision, even if they disagree with the decision during the vote.*

Board members shared their feedback, reflections, and perspectives. Ms. Miles summarized that based on the board members' comments, there is not universal commitment to support the will of the board.

Ms. Miles asked board members what they would like to do next, as a board. Board members shared their perspectives, desire to move forward, and challenges moving forward without a commitment to support the will of the board.

Ms. Miles asked board members to look at the third action item, and acknowledged that there is more work to be done as a board.

### 3. Adjournment

Chair Raven adjourned the Work Session at 4:10 pm.