

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on February 8, 2021. In order to comply with the Governor's executive orders, the Board conducted this meeting by video conference only. The public was invited to watch or listen to the board meeting via Zoom Webinar or Zoom Phone. Information for participating was shared with the public on the district website and news media outlets.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Zach Bessett called the Springfield Board of Education virtual meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members attending the Zoom webinar included Board Chair Zach Bessett, Board Vice Chair Naomi Raven, Lisa Barrager, Dr. Emilio Hernandez and Todd Mann.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Judy Bowden, Dustin Reese, Steve, Kenny, Laura, Whitney McKinley, Natasha Colson, Mindy LeRoux, Brian Megert, Brandi Starck, Jen McCulley, Colleen Hunter, Laura Weiss, David Brow, Jeff Michna, Tiffany Brown, KG, Jonathan Gault, Meredith Branch, Marion Malcolm, Douglas Chambers, Jennifer Gonzales, Brianna Arias, Mike Harshbarger, Kellie, Lacey Macdonald, Joan Bolls, TL, Chris Reiersgaard, Jeremy Hugo, Emily Keizer, Mike Schlosser, Jordyn Brown from the Register-Guard, Emma Routley from the Chronicle and Lydia Dysart, minutes recorder.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Zach Bessett called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Ms. Barrager moved, Vice Chair Raven seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Mr. Bessett asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to approve the agenda as presented: Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – aye, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – aye and Mr. Bessett – aye.

Motion passed, 5:0.

3. CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Superintendent Hamilton read the following proclamation in honor of Classified Employee Appreciation Week:

Classified Employee Appreciation Week Proclamation

March 1 – 5, 2021

WHEREAS, the education of youth is essential to the future of our community, state, country and world; and

WHEREAS, classified employees are the backbone of our public education system; and

WHEREAS, classified employees work directly with students, educators, parents, volunteers, business partners and community members; and

WHEREAS, classified employees support the smooth operation of offices, the safety and maintenance of buildings and property, and the safe transportation, healthy nutrition, and direct instruction of students; and

WHEREAS, our community depends upon and trusts classified employees to serve students; and

WHEREAS, classified employees, with their diverse talents and true dedication, nurture students throughout their school years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield Board of Education proclaims March 1 thru 5, 2021, to be Classified Employee Appreciation Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Springfield Board of Education strongly encourages all members of our community to join in this observance, recognizing the dedication and hard work of these individuals.

DATED this 8th day of February 2021.

Superintendent Hamilton added that the classified employees have been incredibly helpful in preparing meals for students during comprehensive distance learning and preparing the buildings for the return of students to in-person instruction. Board members also extended their thanks to our classified staff for all the hard work they have accomplished to help our district, our students and their families.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Submitted Electronically Only

Chair Bessett explained that members of the public were asked to electronically share their ideas and opinions with the Board by noon on the day of this Board meeting. As of the noon deadline, public comment was received from: Heather St. Louis, Jennifer Potter and Colleen Hunter.

It's not too late.

Heather St. Louis <saintlouis22@gmail.com>

Mon 1/25/2021 3:23 PM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>; Emilio Hernandez <emilio.hernandez@springfield.k12.or.us>; Lisa Barrager <lisa.barrager@springfield.k12.or.us>; Naomi Raven <naomi.raven@springfield.k12.or.us>; Todd Mann <todd.mann@springfield.k12.or.us>; Zachary Bessett <zachary.bessett@springfield.k12.or.us>;

Cc: Jonathan Gault (SEAPREZ) <seaprez@comcast.net>; Laura Scruggs <laurascruggs@mac.com>;

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.

Dear SPS board,

I am writing to you once again this school year to urge you to listen to the educators who are desperately seeking your help. Earlier this year you encouraged us to talk to our association with any concerns we had in regards to buildings reopening. We did. We have. We have also showed our recent survey data to our superintendent. We are also writing to you because simply put: we are not being heard.

According to our January survey provided by SEA, the majority of teachers do not feel safe to go back into buildings until they have received vaccinations. Even after seeing this, SPS administration has still decided to rush to reopen buildings despite the feelings and thoughts of their educators. I cannot begin to tell you how defeating it is to have the leaders of my district disregard teachers again and again and again this year. Despite this, the educators in SPS have still given everything they have to make CDL work this year...everything except maybe their health or very lives.

SPS is asking too much. Educators WANT to be back with students, but we also NEED to be taken care of first- and that means waiting until we are vaccinated. I cannot believe this is something that we need to beg and plead for. Some people have compared teachers with soldiers, and say that it's our duty to march back into schools and teach- and if that means we might die, then so be it because that's what we signed up for.

Problematic metaphor aside, would you send a soldier into battle without armor? Or weapons? Or first aid? Or training? Of course not. At the very least we need two doses of a vaccine to feel safer and more prepared to continue the fight for education during a global pandemic.

Please delay the opening of buildings until teachers and staff are inoculated. We are asking for time while everyone is still safe learning and teaching from home. Other districts have changed plans after hearing how their educators feel, and we can too! Please. It's not too late, but if someone dies because of catching Covid-19 at school, it will be.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and having the courage to do the right thing for your staff and students in Springfield Public Schools.

Best,

Heather St. Louis
Kindergarten Teacher
(541) 726-3232 Ex 72230

Public Comment - Board Meeting - February 8, 2021

Jennifer Potter <jpotter583@gmail.com>

Mon 2/8/2021 7:18 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.

Dear School Board Members,

I am writing again to ask what the statistics are on distance learning for students of color and lower-income students, including attendance and the amount of support they have received. I realize that you are now back in person, but we still need to know the effects of the past year on our most vulnerable students.

I appreciate the difficult situation you are in with returning to in person learning, but I want to state my concerns about sending teachers back to the classroom before they have been fully vaccinated. The other major school districts in our area have chosen to wait, and I am very concerned about Springfield's decision to rush ahead.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Potter
Ward 3 resident

Public comment for 2/8/21 business meeting

COLLEEN HUNTER <ckhunter13@aol.com>

Mon 2/8/2021 10:00 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.

Board Members and Superintendent Hamilton:

The realities of the Covid-19 pandemic have changed so many facets of everyone's lives: loss of income for many people, food insecurity, business closures, health and safety issues: including massive loss of lives, statewide and nationally, and closure of public schools for a very long time, among other things. The students formerly served in our schools have been homebound for most of the last 11 months, with a few days exception for Kindergarten and 1st grade students. They have been doing schoolwork within their own homes, cars, or other locations, virtually, on devices with or without parental help or supervision, to the extent that they have been able, under extremely difficult conditions. These greatly varied experiences have exacerbated inequities in the outcomes and benefits for many students, as well as their mental health and wellness.

Teachers and other school staff have worked extremely hard to make the situation the best they can for their students and we owe them a great deal of gratitude. As a retired Springfield teacher, I have the utmost respect and appreciation for SPS employees working tirelessly, to make the best possible connections and learning experiences for our students during this difficult time. Students, families and staff are all living through trauma in so many ways. The security and feeling of community in students' classroom environments have been lost to them as well interactions and personal relationships between them, their peers and school staff. I feel that this is a much greater loss to them than any academic progress.

In efforts to acquire an update on the statewide assessment and accountability waiver request by the Oregon Department of Education to the United States Department of Education, I was able to access the document filed on January 22, 2021. It is interesting and informative to read. ODE has asked that the use of summative standardized assessments mandated by the federal government be waived for the current school year. If granted, this would be the second year that these assessments would not be administered to students in grades 3-8 and 11, due to the pandemic and its effect on service delivery for public school students.

I read with interest the conclusion on page 19 of the document, signed by Director of the Oregon Department of Education, Colt Gill. I was extremely pleased to see the following statements within this part of the application: "This is the time for care, connection, and support...This is not the time for summative assessment and high-stakes accountability."

"This is not a time for deficit thinking and behaviors, discussions about "learning loss", or so-called achievement

gaps."

"This is a time to support families and educators to use their funds of knowledge and exercise their own assessment muscles, while receiving support from ODE in those efforts."

"As stewards of Oregon's resources, we cannot place our trust in summative assessments that promise indefinite benefit. We are hopeful that investing instead in practices that we know will make us better able to meet the needs of our students, this year and in the years to come, will be supported by the United States Department of Education."

I am hopeful that these comments and reminders will be acknowledged by district leadership so as to best serve and nurture students while navigating the effects and aftermath of the past 11 months and the time yet to come. The losses that students have suffered most are of the human kind: caring and connection is crucial for them, always, but especially now.

Sincerely,
Colleen Hunter
CAPE member
(Community Alliance for Public Education)

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

- 1. January 11, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Financial Statement**
- 3. Personnel Action, Resolution #20-21.023**

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

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Chair Bessett asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – aye, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – aye and Mr. Bessett – aye.

Motion passed, 5:0.

B. Approve 2021-2023 Lane ESD Local Service Plan Year One, Resolution #20-21.024

As required by ORS 334.175, Lane Education Service District has developed a Local Service Plan. The process in developing this plan included analysis of all resolution and core service offerings available to component school districts.

The 2021-2023 Local Service Plan – Year One was developed in collaboration with component district superintendents, Lane ESD administrators and staff, and reviewed and approved by the Lane ESD Board of Directors on January 5, 2021.

The Local Service Plan contains all services mandated by law. Local Service Plan services are intended to: improve student learning; enhance the quality of instruction provided to students; assure equitable access to resources; and maximize operational and fiscal efficiencies.

The Board of Directors of the Springfield School District No. 19 has completed their annual review of the Lane ESD 2021-2023 Local Service Plan – Year One which includes services for:

- Students with Special Needs
- Instruction, Equity and Partnerships (School Improvement)
- Technology
- Administrative and Support
- Custom Services

The Lane ESD 2021-2023 Local Service Plan provides a two-year framework which must be approved annually by Lane ESD and component district boards no later than March 1 (ORS 334-175 (5)(b)).

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Lane County Springfield School District No. 19 hereby authorizes the approval of the Lane ESD 2021-2023 Local Service Plan – Year One and requests the Lane ESD to provide the services described during the 2021-2022 (year one) fiscal year in accordance with ORS 334.175.

Superintendent Hamilton recommended that the Board of Directors approve the Lane ESD 2021-2023 Local Service Plan – Year One and requests the Lane ESD provide the services described during the 2021-2022 (year one) fiscal year in accordance with ORS 334.175.

MOTION: Dr. Hernandez moved, Ms. Barrager seconded the motion to approve the Lane ESD 2021-2023 Local Service Plan – Year One and requests the Lane ESD provide the services described during the 2021-2022 (year one) fiscal year in accordance with ORS 334.175.

Chair Bessett asked if there was any discussion.

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Chair Bessett asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to approve Lane ESD 2021-2023 Local Service Plan – Year One and requests the Lane ESD provide the services described during the 2021-2022 (Year One) fiscal year in accordance with ORS 334.175: Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – aye, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – aye and Mr. Bessett – aye.

Motion passed, 5:0.

C. Approve Resolution of Bus Lease Purchase, Resolution #20-21.025

This purchase reflects pricing associated with an existing Eugene 4J permissive cooperative agreement for school buses. Pursuant to ORS Chapter 279A.215, government agencies may utilize an existing permissive cooperative agreement of another public agency if all of the statutory requirements covered under this section have been met. Springfield purchasing staff reviewed the original solicitation document and cooperative agreement to assure alignment with statutory requirements.

As part of the Transportation Fleet Management Plan, we identified the need to establish a regular replacement cycle for district owned school buses. While the length of the replacement cycle was not set in stone, it was recommended that the district establish a replacement cycle somewhere between 12-15 years.

Since the time of the original fleet plan, there continue to be improvements in the school bus industry that have increased the number of propane powered buses. Propane power reduces emissions and the buses are less expensive to purchase and operate than the currently available diesel powered buses. Over the past five years, the district purchases 32 propane powered buses and they have worked well. This year we are proposing adding three (3) additional propane powered, 48 passenger, special education buses equipped with wheelchair lifts to the fleet, along with three (3) propane powered, 77 passenger, regular route buses. School buses of this type should provide Springfield School District with a life cycle of 12+ years or 200,000 miles.

Funding for this purchase will be provided through the District equipment replacement fund. This expenditure is 70% reimbursable from the State at a rate of 7% annually for the first 10 years of ownership.

Again, this year the district will be making arrangements to fund this bus acquisition through a lease purchase at a market driven interest rate associated with a municipal lease, which has already been secured. It is important to note that, similar to the purchase cost of the bus, the interest associated with a bus lease is 70% reimbursable by the state.

Board Member Naomi Raven reviewed the procurement file.

Brett Yancey recommended that the Board of Directors approve the Lease Purchase of Propane School buses as presented in Resolution #20-21.025 from Western Bus Sales, Inc. for a total of \$844,134.00.

Qty	Description	Unit \$	Total \$
3 Each	Type C Propane Blue Bird Vision 77-passenger front engine school buses	\$137,916.00	\$413,748.00

3 Each	Type C Propane Blue Bird Vision 48-passenger Special Education Wheelchair Lift front engine school buses	\$143,462.00	\$430,386.00
		Grand Total	\$844,134.00

MOTION: Dr. Hernandez moved, Vice Chair Raven seconded the motion to approve the Lease Purchase of Propane School buses as presented in Resolution #20-21.025 from Western Bus Sales, Inc. for a total of \$844,134.00.

Chair Bessett asked if there was any discussion.

The Board asked if:

- The special education buses were shorter.
 - Mr. Yancey replied that they were shorter, seated 48 passengers, and could load up to six wheelchairs.
 - Larger buses could hold 77 passengers.
- These buses would cover the whole Springfield School District.
 - Mr. Yancey replied that they would.
 - Wheelchair buses were door-to-door service.
- Buses would provide masks and air ventilation.
 - Mr. Yancey responded that masks would be given out to any student who got on the bus without a mask and students would be spread out.
 - Bus drivers were also sanitizing all areas of the bus between routes.
 - Ventilation on a bus meant keeping the windows down, which meant a colder ride in the winter. They were communicating this information with families so students were prepared.
- The buses were the same as their current buses, but with propane.
 - Mr. Yancey replied that they also had some better safety measures, but they were generally the same.
- About how they were able to save money long term by buying buses on a schedule and in larger quantities.
 - Mr. Yancey responded that these purchases are 70% reimbursable by ODE. The District had large grant funds coming in that were helping with the costs as well.
- They were concerned with the 20% increase in propane costs.
 - Mr. Yancey said that they were keeping their eye on that, but had budgeted that year for this change. It would be something to bring up to the Budget Committee about for next year's budget.
- Where they got their propane? Is the District concerned about the increase in propane costs?
 - Mr. Yancey responded that they got their propane through Ferrell Gas through a State contract. Currently, there were federal rebates on propane at \$.36 to \$.50 per gallon.
- There are no general fund dollars spent to purchase these buses.

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Chair Bessett asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to approve the Lease Purchase of Propane School buses as presented in Resolution #20-21.025 from Western Bus Sales, Inc. for a total of \$844,134.00: Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – aye, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – aye and Mr. Bessett – aye.

Motion passed, 5:0.

6. Discussion

A. 2021-2022 Inter-District Student Transfers

February 8, 2021

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With the sunset of Open Enrollment on July 1, 2019, ORS 339.133(5)(a)(A) indicates district school boards must make the determination whether to limit the number of students whom consent is given by an annual date established by the board.

The district may determine the number of transfer spaces available, indicate any enrollment limits by school and / or grade level; and admission criteria or priorities that will be applied. Additionally, the District may also declare the number of Inter-District requests they will release to leave.

In order to maintain consistent guidelines surrounding student transfers, the District attempts to align Within-District Transfer guidelines with those for students that reside outside district boundaries.

Identifying student transfers assists the District in determining staffing for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students entering grades Kindergarten through 11th grades for the coming year are eligible to request transfers. Returning seniors may also apply.

Transfer students granted approval are allowed to continue through the highest grade of that level. However, students changing school levels, i.e., elementary to middle or middle to high school, must reapply for the coming year.

Inter-District Transfer student guidelines require that approval of both the resident and receiving districts. Student approved to finish a school year are notified to reapply through High Priority should they wish to request to attend a school outside their resident boundary school.

David Collins recommended the Board of Directors approve new transfer requests that do not exceed desired building capacity or projected grade level ratios for the 2021-2022 school year. It is also recommended the Board of Directors release all students wishing to leave the District.

The Board asked:

- What the status quo for the year meant?
 - Superintendent Hamilton said that they allowed any student who wanted to transfer into the District to do so if they had space, and at the same, a student who wanted to transfer to a different district was allowed to do so as long as that district was willing to enroll them.
- How do other District's feel about students leaving or entering new Districts?
 - Superintendent Hamilton was unsure, but would reach out to other superintendents and share that information at an upcoming board meeting.
 - The Board felt like all local districts had to agree to this decision or students would be left out.

7. Information/Reports

A. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Hamilton shared that:

- The District has hosted two vaccination clinics.
 - Offering vaccines to educators in our district and some of the smaller districts around us.
 - Every staff member who wanted to be vaccinated would have the opportunity to get a vaccination.
- Currently, we have 1,300 students learning in-person in our District.
 - Certified employees and administrators did a lot to prepare for this.

- Families are looking for after school care. We are looking forward to bringing back Willamalane's kids club opportunities in some of our schools.
- The District is discussing a return to in-person meetings and public comment again.
 - Staff had been researching the best way to include the public in their meetings.
 - Asked other Districts for information on how they did public comment at their virtual meetings.
 - They were talking to others about how to get the Board back in-person.
 - Make sure that it was safe and done correctly.
- He shared that he has some ideas about how to get better student participation.
 - If everything worked out, student in-person instruction would continue to roll out in March.

B. Board Communication

Board Chair Zach Bessett shared that he attended a few Wildish Theater meetings. Everyone was very passionate about the arts. They are always looking for creative ways to bring funds into the theater.

Vice Chair Naomi Raven shared that District staff had worked so hard over the last year and she was proud that the District had opened their doors to students for in-person instruction.

Emilio Hernandez wanted them to reach out and do more readings and even watch some movies on race and equity. They had to be open to ideas that made them feel uncomfortable. All the books the board is looking at have extensive bibliographies of other materials that could be helpful.

Lisa Barrager shared that the last two weeks had been hard. She had read through letters from concerned staff members about the re-opening schools. She has enjoyed watching students in her neighborhood joyfully walking to school. It has lifted her spirits.

Todd Mann shared that he went to the LCOG meeting the previous week. They went over yearly reports and data. He said that his daughter went back to school that week and she was very excited. Mr. Mann said that staff did a great job handling the return of the students at his daughter's school.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Bessett said that there was no other business.

9. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be a Special Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021. The start time, location and format will be determined at a later time. The next regular Business meeting will be held on Monday March 8, 2021 beginning at 7:00pm. The location and format will be determined at a later time.

10. The Board moved into Executive Session (non-public) pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m..

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Members returned from Executive Session at 8:49.

With no other business, Chair Bessett adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)

February 8, 2021

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