#### **BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on March 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 7:02 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, Whitney McKinley, Mindy LeRoux, Brian Megert, Chris Reiersgaard, Kari Isham, Jen McCulley, Joan Blls, Nicole Nakayama, Charles Jett, Jeff Michna, Jonathan Gault, Mike Harshbarger, Dustin Reese, Jeremy Hugo, Brandi Starck, Marilyn Williams, Sherry Moore, Savanah Efseaff, Jaelyn Dunlap, Carrie Schindele-Cupples, Steven Schmunk, Teresa Page, Marion Malcolm, Bruce Webber, Colleen Hunter, Ginny Osteen, Kellie and Emma Routley from *The Chronicle*. There were also community members who attended using Zoom Phone, so their names were not available

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Superintendent Hamilton shared that the Executive Session scheduled at the conclusion of the Board meeting was no longer needed and could be removed from the agenda.

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

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

Motion passed, 5:0

#### 3. PRESENTATION

#### A. Student Communication

Chris Reiersgaard, Thurston High School Principal, introduced Jaelyn Dunlap, freshman class president and Savannah Efseaff, freshman class vice president at Thurston High School. Ms. Dunlap and Ms. Efseaff expressed their appreciation for inviting them to speak and for the board's efforts during this difficult and challenging time of distance learning. They shared a report that highlighted students' struggles and successes during this school year.

Superintendent Hamilton and the Board expressed their appreciation for Ms. Dunlap and Ms. Efseaff attending the meeting and sharing their thoughts.

#### 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.

He shared that public comments were provided to Board members prior to the Board meeting and copies would be included with the minutes. Based on feedback from our community, he said that the public comment was posted on the District website prior to the Board meeting. This timely posting would help others see the same comments that the Board read and considered.

While the Board does not respond to individual public comments, Chair Bessett thanked the community members who provided comments and assured them that the Board had read their messages and appreciated the feedback.

As of the noon deadline, public comment was received from: Mikell Harshbarger, Brian Josephson and Colleen Hunter. The public comment was also posted online by 4:00pm on the day of the Board meeting to enable the community to read the thoughts that had been shared with the Board prior to this meeting.

Please see the text of the minutes below.

# Applying what we learned from CDL

Mikell Harshbarger <thegreath@comcast.net>

Mon 3/8/2021 11:26 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.

Good day and hello,

It is exciting to see that teachers and students will be back together in classrooms soon. Moving forward, I hope that you will be soliciting feedback from teachers and other staff about the knowledge and wisdom we gained from doing distance learning over the past year. CDL forced teachers to be innovative with their use of technology, and we would all benefit by finding out what worked well.

Something on the minds of many teachers like myself is the hope that we will use this return to classrooms as an opportunity to evolve and to improve on how things are done, rather than as a chance to "go back to normal." In particular, many of us have found new ways to utilize educational technology as a way to reach our students and to improve their educational experiences. Not only have teachers expanded their repertoires when it comes to using technology, but our students have gained new knowledge and developed new skills that will serve them well in the future.

Before we had to leave our classrooms due to COVID, there was an insufficient number of devices like Chromebooks available to students. Teachers were limited in the activities and the amount of time they could make use of this technology, since in many classrooms, there was only one device for every two students. In the past, many of us found that if we borrowed devices from other teachers, our students performed much better than if only half of the students were using computers at a time. For example, I found that my students were much more engaged and successful in math on iReady or Kahoot! or when doing writing activities on Google Docs or when creating research projects using Google Slides when all of my students were on computers at the same time. However, it was not always possible to find computers to borrow, especially if multiple teachers were teaching the same subject or doing the same activity at the same time. This lack of access to sufficient technology was especially pronounced when we reached Testing Season (April and May) as test prep and then testing itself made Chromebooks harder to come by.

I hope that as we return to classrooms the district will be budgeting and planning for continuing the 1:1 student to device ratio, especially in the elementary schools. I want to be able to build on the successes from CDL, but this will prove difficult if the district "goes back to normal", only providing one device for every two students. Please do what you can to ensure that we don't return to the situation where there were not enough computers available in the classrooms.

Thanks so much for all your hard work and your dedication to making our schools the best that they can be. Take care and stay safe.

Mikell Harshbarger 5th Grade Teacher Elizabeth Page Elementary School

# Protecting the Brattain School

Brian Josephson <a href="mailto:spiritaria">brian.a.josephson@gmail.com></a>

Mon 3/8/2021 11:35 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 on behalf of the City of Springfield Historic Commission. The Historic Commission is dedicated to preserving history for future generations of Springfielders. We also offer assistance in technical planning for historic preservation. Specifically, we are writing in regards to the Brattain School building. This beautiful building constructed in 1925 helped educate generations of young residents. It is an incredibly unique building and the only one of its kind in the greater Lane County area.

Historic Preservation is important because it creates a shared sense of identity in the area. Springfield is a growing city with a rich history and we can teach this history through our historic buildings. This makes preserving this building of the utmost importance. This value is recognized both in state and federal planning rules. As we continue to grow we are at risk of losing this value. With the Admin Building gone, and the recent renovation of the Brattain House we are rapidly losing buildings of great historic character. The Brattain school is the last of these three beautiful buildings owned by the school district and we do not want to lose it as well.

We understand that in the face of a global pandemic and school re-openings this is not the most pressing issue, but as we move forward we are trying to build a productive and proactive relationship for the benefit of all of Springfield's residents. Please consider us a partner moving forward and include us in future conversations about the building. Additionally, if you have any existing plans to change the building we would like to hear what is being considered. Finally, we respectfully request that the Springfield School District list this building locally or nationally so we can maximize financial assistance in future renovations.

Best,
Brian Josephson
City of Springfield Historic Commission

# Public Comment: Board Meeting-March 8, 2021

### COLLEEN HUNTER < ckhunter13@aol.com>

Mon 3/8/2021 11:59 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.

Superintendent Hamilton and Members of the Board,

I would like to reference my public comment from the previous business meeting which included statements made by Colt Gill in his application for a waiver of standardized testing this year to the United States Department of Education. He emphasized that support for students and families through care and concern, and not deficit thinking about academic loss was critically important at this time in our schools and communities. The feelings of security, safety, wellness and mental health are extremely important for everyone right now, most especially our most vulnerable: all students, especially those who have had limited access to Comprehensive Distance Learning due to homelessness, lack of resources and other variables.

In light of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the "normal" of our everyday lives has drastically changed, to say the least. The entirety of our existences has been forever effected. We have all lived through trauma: students, parents, teachers and everyone in our communities. What was once the "norm" in every aspect of daily lives is forever changed. Because of this year in the lives of us all, the educational experience has been effected so as to make the status quo of teaching and learning questionable and clearly ineffective. Now is the time to reflect on the things that have been valuable in the practices which educators have been using this past year. The innovative and effective strategies and practices of these educational professionals should be harnessed and shared to inform others and allow for different and more humane educational relationships by leaving the previous standardized approach to curriculum and service delivery to students changed for the better. There is very possibly a "silver lining" to consider in the events this past year. It would not be prudent to allow the waste of valuable resources which have proven practical and successful by the extremely difficult and committed efforts of the teaching staff of this school district.

Respectfully,

Colleen Hunter retired SPS teacher Member of CAPE (Community Alliance for Public Education)

#### 5. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Consent Agenda
  - 1. January 25, 2021 Board Work Session Minutes
  - 2. February 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
  - 3. February 22, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
  - 4. Financial Statement
  - 5. Personnel Action, Resolution #20-21.026
  - 6. Contract Extension: Chief Operations Officer and Assistant Superintendent, Resolution #20-21.027

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

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven – yes, Ms. Barrager – yes, Dr. Hernandez – yes, Mr. Mann – yes and Mr. Bessett – yes.

Motion passed, 5:0

### B. Approve OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship, Resolution #20-21.028

Full member schools, located in the same geographic area, may apply for cooperative sponsorship for an OSAA activity when a school has difficulty sponsoring the activity by itself.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the following program is applying for cooperative sponsorship:

• Girls Soccer – Thurston High School and Lowell High School

Support for this application will make activities available for students that would not be available in their resident school because of a lack of numbers if joint sponsorship did not occur.

David Collins recommended that the Board of Directors support the OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship Application for Girls Soccer between Thurston High School and Lowell High School.

**MOTION**: Ms. Barrager moved, Vice Chair Raven seconded the motion to approve the support of the OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship Application for Girls Soccer between Thurston High School and Lowell High School.

Chair Bessett asked if there was any discussion.

The Board asked for clarification that this application was just between Thurston High School and Lowell High School and that if other schools wanted to submit an application there would be another separate resolution for the board to consider. Mr. Collins said that was correct. This was only for these two high schools.

They also wanted to know what the next steps were. Superintendent Hamilton shared that the application was submitted to OSAA by both superintendents and they just needed approval from our Board. The Lowell Board of Directors had already approved a resolution in support of the application.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven – yes, Ms. Barrager – yes, Dr. Hernandez – yes, Mr. Mann – yes and Mr. Bessett – yes.

Motion passed, 5:0

#### C. Accept Superintendent Evaluation

Vice Chair Naomi Raven read the following performance evaluation for Superintendent Todd Hamilton:

Dear Superintendent Hamilton,

The board of directors of Springfield Public Schools has completed your annual evaluation for 2020-2021. All five board members have served on the board for at least one full year and have been able to observe and be a part of the successes achieved this year.

The evaluation focused on 1) eight professional standards and 2) superintendent goals. Regarding the eight professional standards, we determined that your performance was accomplished in the areas of ethical leadership, building an inclusive culture, resource management, and policy and governance. In the areas of visionary leadership, instructional leadership, community relations, and organizational management, the board felt your performance was effective.

The board determined that you have done an outstanding job partnering with the board to learn and lead together. With the assistance of OSBA, you are helping to develop a collaborative governance model and establishing healthy practices that focus our work on functional systems. We also appreciate your efforts to develop and expand resources, programs, and services to provide safe and inclusive learning and working spaces. We look forward to seeing how efforts in our district will influence and improve graduation rates in coming years.

We will be working with you over the next several months to develop goals that are aligned with our board and district goals and look forward to working together to continue the success of our district.

Sincerely,

Zach Bessett Board Chair

Chair Bessett called for a motion to accept the Superintendent Evaluation.

**MOTION**: Ms. Barrager moved, Dr. Hernandez seconded the motion to accept the performance evaluation for Superintendent Todd Hamilton as presented.

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven – yes, Ms. Barrager – yes, Dr. Hernandez – yes, Mr. Mann – yes and Mr. Bessett – yes.

Motion passed, 5:0

Superintendent Hamilton thanked the Board for their evaluation and for the opportunity to move forward together and continue developing their working relationship.

Dr. Hernandez commended Superintendent Hamilton and his staff on their work during the last year under very difficult circumstances.

#### D. Approve 2021-22 Inter-District Student Transfers, Resolution #20-21.029

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 of students that reside outside district boundaries.

Identifying student transfers assists the District in determining staffing for the 2021-22 school year.

Students entering grades Kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> 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 the approval of both the resident and receiving districts. Students 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 that 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 that the Board of Directors release all students wishing to leave the District.

**MOTION**: Dr. Hernandez moved, Ms. Raven seconded the motion to approve new transfer requests that do not exceed desired building capacity or projected grade level ratios for the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, it was recommended the Board of Directors release all students wishing to leave the District

Chair Bessett asked if there was any discussion.

The Board asked if the transfer recommendations were created using input from parents. Mr. Collins said that input from families over the last two years was considered when creating the requirements for interdistrict transfers. It was also shared that we want our families to want to stay in Springfield, so we try to create programs that make our District a place where families want to be and have their children attend our schools.

Mr. Collins added that he felt the care and connection with families was an important component to keeping them happy in our District. He continued by saying that he was hoping that in the next couple of years he would have better data about why families stay and why they leave. Unfortunately, the pandemic had inhibited the District's ability to gather accurate data at this time.

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven – yes, Ms. Barrager – yes, Dr. Hernandez – yes, Mr. Mann – yes and Mr. Bessett – yes.

Motion passed, 5:0.

#### 6. Discussion

#### A. 2021-2022 Academic Calendar

Mr. Collins shared that these three draft calendars reflected those from pre-pandemic days. Each year the calendars are developed with considerations from union bargaining agreements, state required minimum

instructional hours and the District's current fiscal environment. There were three calendars for semester and three for trimester. These calendars represent our best thinking for the fall until we receive different information from the state.

Currently, all draft versions were in the hands of staff who were sharing, by means of an anonymous survey, their calendar preference. The following is the timeline for moving the calendars forward to the Board for approval in April:

	41. 41.	
•	January 11 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Present drafts to Leadership
•	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	Present drafts to SEA President
•	March $1^{st} - 18^{th}$	Present drafts to all staff for input
•	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Collect input from all staff
•	March 29 <sup>th</sup> – April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Present drafts with input to Leadership
•	April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Present recommended calendars to Board for approval

Board members expressed the hope that we would use the positive takeaways from the last year and implement them in the fall to shape a school day that is more reflective of and beneficial for all students.

#### 7. Information/Reports

#### A. Achievement and Attendance

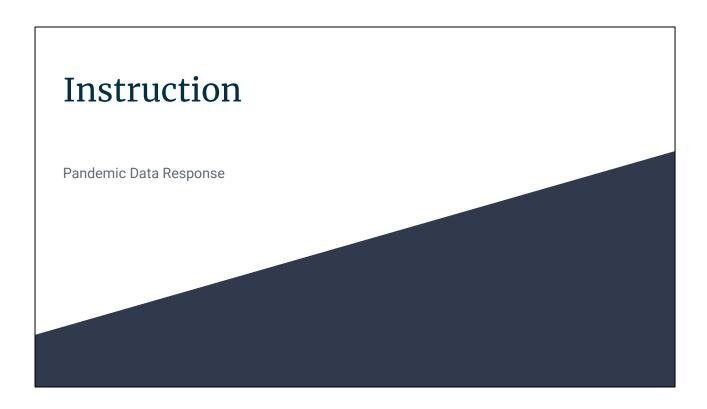
David Collins introduced Whitney McKinley, Middle School and Teaching and Learning Director, Mindy LeRoux, High School Director and Brian Megert, Special Programs Director who would be joining him for this presentation on student achievement and attendance.

The presenters provided updates on planning efforts this year, guiding principles for informing decisions, instructional models for supporting student success, intervention programs, attendance rates, credit attainment, and plans for future student support and evaluation efforts.

The next steps include:

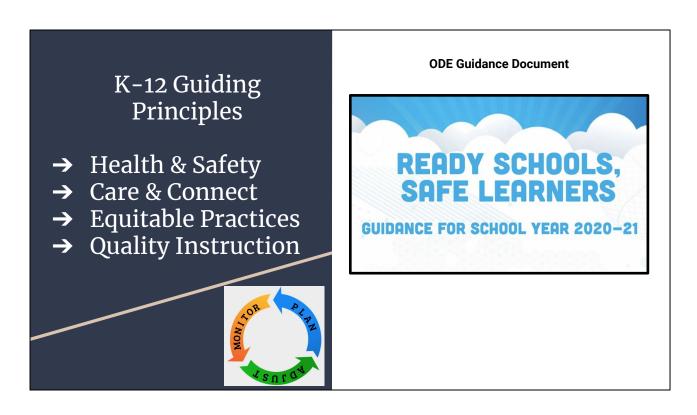
- 1. Spring Level Leadership teams with certified, classified and administrator representation who will explore types of data to collect for assessing learning gaps caused by the pandemic and plan for possible responses to gaps in preparation for returning to school in Fall 2021.
- 2. Instruction leadership teams who will synthesize and analyze feedback from level leadership, administer appropriate assessments and gather current data, and plan and execute programming and support needs based on data needs.
- 3. Summer building-based leadership teams who will review site specific data, resources and site-based response models for Fall of 2021.

Please see the slides from their presentation below.



Introduce - Whitney Mckinley (K12 Teaching & Learning/Middle School Director), Mindy LeRoux (High School Director), Brian Megert (Special Programs Director).

Brian/Whitney/David have been supporting as Interim Elementary Director, since the Fall when Suzy Price left for an Early Learning position.



Summer Planning across all Departments! Instruction, Operations, Human Resource, Technology, Communications

Over 20 sub groups provided input to the model design and selection. Adjustments were made as new guidance was provided between June 10th and Mid August. Multiple updates throughout this timeline that caused adjustment to planning based on updated information.

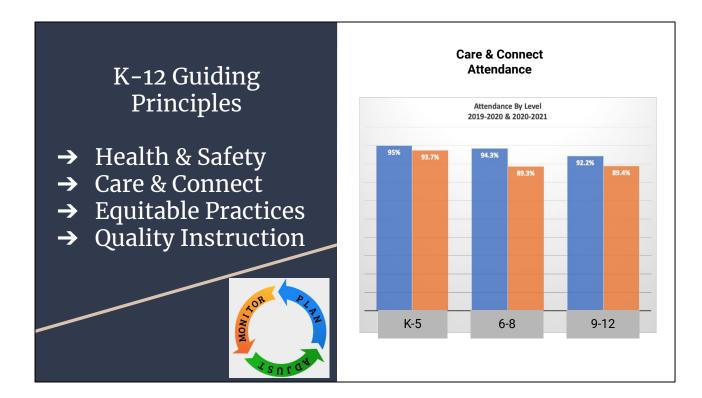
Extended In-Service week to support model changes.

Guiding Principles were KEY to informing decisions related to models. Health & Safety (Metrics) informed whether we were in CDL or Hybrid model and amazing staff endured the challenges of change to provide the best opportunities for our students while focusing on solutions for the problems we faced.

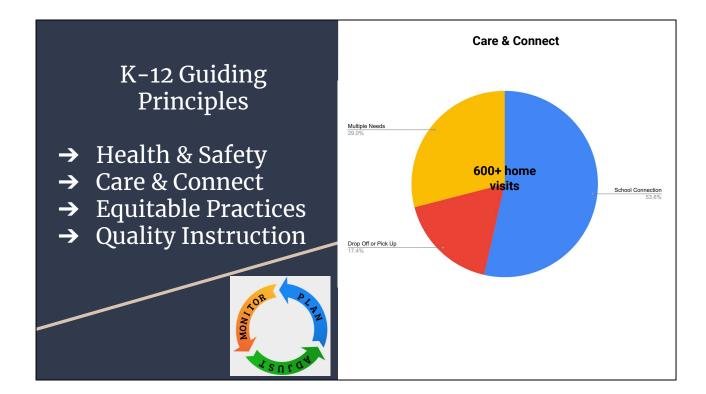
Monitored a variety of information at the building and district level and adjusted responses based on anecdotal and pandemic data sets. We met with building based teams and asked them to review the fall efforts and identify building based adjustments or practices to support our students access to the instructional models. Approximately 180 staff came together in January for three meetings to review, plan, and adjust.



- Plan Create instructional framework to reflect operational blueprint guidelines.
- Monitor Survey families related to the implementation of the framework. Gather health data. Meet with blueprint teams to review building needs.
- Adjust Collaborate with facilities to maximize instructional spaces. Adjust staffing assignments and support staff to safely support cohorts.



- **Plan**: Building and District based teams designed to monitor attendance, connectivity, and basic needs. Design time in all daily schedules to allow for social connections and office hours to reach out to families and students.
- Monitor: Teachers monitor student attendance and google classroom connections.
   They schedule appointments and make phone calls to students and families during office hours when a students is not connecting. When a student or family need additional support, teachers will refer them to the building level care and connect team for more intense support. (see next slide for information related to home visits.)
- Adjust: Care & Connect teams, building based home visit teams, LIPI, now moving to hybrid. Monitoring will continue.



- Plan Building and District based teams designed to monitor attendance, connectivity, and basic needs. Design time in all daily schedules to allow for social connections and office hours to reach out to families and students.
- Monitor Review data related to district level family referrals. Review student and family data from mid-year check in. Survey staff during K-12 level leadership for feedback and adjustments..
- Adjust- Feedback led us to implement protocols for creating building based home visit teams, LIPI, Hybrid Return

#### Notes about the graph:

600+ District Level Care & Connect Team Home Visits

K-5 = 250 visits = 40.7% of all visits

6-8 = 139 visits = 22.6% of all visits

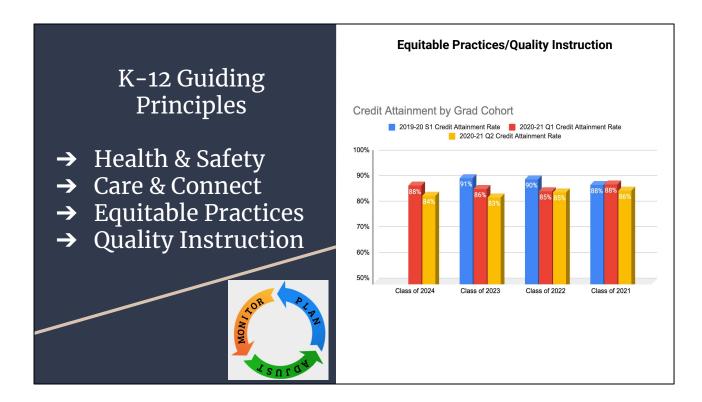
9-12 = 219 visits = 35.7% of all visits

#### **Purpose of visit:**

School connection=53.6% (register for lunch program, update contact information, connect with mental health supports)

Drop off/Pick up=17.4% (laptops, chargers, textbooks, music instruments)

Multiple needs=29% (connect families with community resources, child care options, mental health resources, assist with paperwork completion)



Plan: Universal Design for Learning, Priority Plans, Common Pacing Guides, Instructional Framework, multiple opportunities to complete and submit work

Monitor: Building based data to determine student needs and supports

Adjust: LIPI, Credit Opportunities, Night School

We have added CAP/Grad Coaches, night school, limited in person instruction, expanding summer school opportunities, internships, etc.

We know that the pandemic disrupted our system

NCES graduation data from last year, on target for similar outcomes this year



**Spring Level Leadership Teams -** (certified, classified, administrator representation)

- Explore types of data to collect for assessing learning gaps caused by the pandemic.
- Plan for possible responses to gaps in preparation for returning to school in Fall 2021

## **Instruction Leadership Teams**

- Synthesize/Analyze feedback from level leadership
- Administer appropriate assessments and gather current data
- Plan and execute programming and support needs based on data needs

## **Summer Building Based Leadership Teams**

 Review site specific data, resources, site based response models for Fall of 2021

#### В. **Superintendent Communication**

Superintendent Hamilton thanked Mr. Collins and his team for the report they shared and he hoped the Board found it to be informative. He added that later in the year, he would like to schedule a work session when data from the third and fourth quarters would be available to share with the Board.

Superintendent Hamilton shared that the work now is centered on returning kids to in-person instruction. Last week, Governor Brown continued with her emphasis on returning students to in-person instruction by directing all Oregon public schools to offer universal access to in-person instruction on or before the week of March 29 for K-5 students and April 19 for students in grades 6-12.

The day before the Governor's announcement, the District announced its plans to bring students back to buildings on the following timeline:

- April 1: 4<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade students
   April 8: 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade students

- April 15: 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
   April 19: 9<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

Fortunately, our timeline aligns with the Governor's announcement, with the exception of the return date for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The District is working with ODE for approval. The District made the decision to have a staggered return for students so that we could ensure that all systems that are in place are working properly and if there need to be adjustments, our staggered plan would allow us to make them.

Looking at the status of the state legislature, we see lots of conversation around funding. There are several bills that could impact our schools. We are waiting for word from the co-chairs on their budget. Also, with the relief package at the federal level, we could see additional funding for K-12 education.

With all these things to consider, our main focus remains on getting kids back in buildings.

#### C. Board Communication

Vice Chair Naomi Raven shared that she had spent time reading the entries for the MLK competition this year and was very impressed with the students' work. She appreciated the committee's work to continue with the event in an online format this year. She felt it was a great event for the students as well as a good opportunity for teachers to have difficult conversations with their classes. She concluded by saying that she was giving the district a standing ovation for getting students back to in-person learning in the coming weeks.

Lisa Barrager shared that she attended virtually the Springfield Education Foundation's (SEF) recent Honor Roll event honoring community leaders and donors. She also attended virtually the Springfield City Council's recent meeting where they unanimously appointed Damien Pitts to the Ward 1 position. She said that there were great conversations around diversity and equity which made her proud of the Springfield community. She also noted that she liked the way they included public comment into their meeting.

Emilio Hernandez shared that the Lane ESD Board recently appointed Sydney Kissenger to fill Position 1 on their board. He also added that Superintendent Scurto felt good about how things were progressing.

Todd Mann shared that he also attended virtually the SEF's Honor Roll event. He also recently attended virtually the LCOG Annual Awards event on March 5<sup>th</sup> and the Springfield Chambers Annual Awards

and Installation event on February  $25^{th}$ . He enjoyed hearing about various community organizations and businesses who had stepped up to serve the community during the pandemic.

#### 8. NEXT MEETINGS

The next regular Business Meeting will be held on Monday April 12, 2021 at 7:00pm. The location and format will be determined at a later time. The next Board Work Session will be held on April 26, 2021. The start time, location and format will be determined at a later time.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Bessett adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Judy Bowden)