

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on December 13, 2021.

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. Board Vice Chair Emilio Hernandez was excused from the meeting due to illness.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Judy Bowden, Lacey Macdonald, Heather Murray, Skyleigh McKibben, Jonathan Gault, Jessica Lemley, Jeff Fuller, Mica Contreras, Rachel Allen, Karri Thiele, Mikell Harshbarger, Becky Willis, Kassandra McLennan, Meredith Branch, Peter Raven, Yasmin Staunder, Wyatt Tiller, Katie Dawson, Charlie Jett, Kirsten LaShot, Ame Beard, Colleen Hunter, Donna Riddle, AJ VanHoff, Andy Price, Kenny Allen, Jennifer Potter, José da Silva, Shelley Nurre, Gary Cartier, Carla Smith, Johanis Tadeo, Sammy Alcantar, Jorge Peralta, Rosalba Rodriguez, Lesa Haley, Lucas Paugh, Desmond Scott, Joy Marshall, Craig Miller.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Raven asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Mann moved, seconded by Mr. Light, to approve the December 13, 2021 agenda as presented.

Mr. Light said that he had two motions he would like to propose in regards to additions to the agenda. The first motion was to receive a preliminary report at tonight's meeting on the current conditions in our buildings as learned from listening sessions with our staff and an administrative team. Director Mason seconded this motion.

The Board shared their thoughts about adding this item to the agenda and asked Superintendent Hamilton if he was prepared to share this report. He responded that due to the timing of the request at this meeting, he was not prepared to share a preliminary report as the listening session were ongoing.

Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of adding a preliminary report to the agenda on current conditions in our buildings as learned from listening sessions with our staff and administrative team: Mr. Light – yes, Mr. Mann – no, Ms. Mason – yes, and Ms. Raven – no.

The motion failed due to a lack of majority of votes, 2:2.

Mr. Light moved that the Board have a discussion regarding ideas about how to mitigate situations that are occurring in our buildings and discussing ideas about how we as a board can support staff. Mr. Mann seconded the motion.

Mr. Light shared that he wanted to be proactive as a board to discuss ideas and solutions for these situations. Chair Raven felt that it was better to wait to have this conversation after the Board receives a report for District administration regarding the staff listening sessions.

Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor having a discussion regarding ideas about how to mitigate situations that are occurring in our buildings and discussing ideas about how the board could support staff: Mr. Light – yes, Mr. Mann – no, Ms. Mason – no, and Ms. Raven – no.

Motion failed: 3:1

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 December 13, 2021 agenda as presented: Mr. Light – no, Mr. Mann – yes, Ms. Mason – yes, and Ms. Raven – yes.

Motion passed, 3:1

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and 2019-2020 Audit

Kenny Allen from Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC and Joan Bolls, Springfield Public Schools internal auditor shared a presentation on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2021. Ms. Bolls acknowledged the team that helped put together the report, which the district is required by state statute to file each year. The team members included Brett Yancey, Brenda Holt, Laura Pavlat, Melissa Stalder, Heather Murray, Susan Bernatzki, Doug Darling, who facilitated the printing of the document and Jenna McCulley for creating the cover for the document. She said that Board members were provided a copy of the document prior to the Board meeting and that the document was also published on the district's website.

B. School Presentation : Page Elementary School

Principal Lacey Macdonald shared that this year has not been without challenges, but the Student Investment Account funds had helped with additional staff which in turn had helped to meet students and families where they are. Additional staffing included a PE teacher who was teaching kids to preserve when situations are hard, an Instructional Coach who has helped staff tackle new problems, two Behavior Interventionalists who have worked with student trauma and their mental health needs and a Family Resource Coordinator who helps kids when they are in quarantine.

Director Light commended Principal Macdonald and her staff for the wonderful job they were doing under the additional demands of the pandemic.

Director Raven enjoying hearing how the SIA funds had a direct and positive impact on their students and families. She also appreciated their willingness to meet kids where they are.

C. Student Board Representative Communication

Thurston High School's Board Rep Wyatt Tiller shared some of the activities and events that had taken place at THS including the Tree of Joy fundraiser for 31 elementary students in the District, the football team placed 2nd in state, a successful fall theater production of Treasure Island, a new mural sponsored by the Environmental club and the unwavering support from their teachers who were always striving to make connections with the students.

Springfield High School's Board Rep Kassandra McLennan shared some of the activities and events that had taken place at SHS including that the Miller Integrated Nature Experience won their 4th national

award for Best Specialized Magazine for Back Country Review, the Tree of Joy benefitting elementary students in the District, a food drive for SHS families and that it was great to see students supporting and attending sporting events and school productions.

A3's School Board Rep Skyleigh Mckibben shared that Keith Louis had donated 180 turkey dinners to the A3 community. They also had the exciting premier of the play "State of Emergency" which documented the 2020 Oregon Wildfires. The play raised \$2000 that was donated to the local families recovering from the forest fires. They also celebrated 28 students with their Something to Crow About award as well as 67 students who received an award for their overall attendance over 95%.

Chair Raven invited the students to stay for the remainder of the meeting if they did not have other things that needed their attention, such as homework.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Raven read the following statement concerning public comment:

This is the portion of our agenda for public comment. The board continues to accept public comment via email. Public comment received via email for this evening has been reviewed by the Board and has also been posted on the District's website. 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. Those wishing to make public comments must complete a "request to speak" form. Audience members who wish to make public comments must state their name and address for the record.

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.

The Board will not hear comments regarding any school personnel. Any complaints regarding a particular employee must be processed through the procedure set forth in Board policy KL, which requires that complaints be submitted in writing to 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.

Craig Miller, 964 McKenzie Crest, Springfield. Mr. Miller wanted to know why School Board members were not allowed to go into the schools. He also wanted to know why the School Board was not on the District Organizational Chart. He encouraged the District to have a policy for a community-wide review of Administration leadership.

Samantha Alcantar. Ms. Alcantar began her statement with a land acknowledgement. Ms. Alcantar wanted to know if the District had passed an ODE resolution that called on Newberg School Board to encourage district staff to celebrate and stand in solidarity with students through the use of signs, flags, placards and symbols, and affirm in words, policy and action that every student belongs and is welcome, appreciated and ensured an equitable access to a high quality education in Newberg Public Schools. She also wanted to be sure that there would be public comment at all Board meetings. If not, that would limit the community voice.

Johanis Tadeo, Springfield. Mr. Tadeo started his comments with a land acknowledgement. He wanted to make the point that not all people feel safe coming to a Board meeting. He said that the community does not feel heard. He also asked the board to not pass the new public comment policy.

Rosalba Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez would like to have Board meeting information translated into Spanish. She said that there needs to be another way for Spanish speaking families to know what is going on and how they can participate. Please do not limit access for public comment.

Jorge Peralta. Mr. Peralta started his comments with a land acknowledgement. He asked the Board to not pass the policy on public comment. He also said the District needs to have a translator at all Board meetings so families can better understand what is going on.

Meredith Branch, Springfield. Ms. Branch is affiliated with Stand for Children. She wanted to express her support for the equity committee. She would like to see the District go above and beyond the state requirements for the committee.

Kari Thiele, 463 72nd Place, Springfield. Ms. Thiele wanted to speak about the current staff shortages and unfilled positions. She said that there were 100 employees on unpaid leave. Then she read as many of the job postings on the District website as she could until her 3 minutes concluded.

Colleen Hunter, 4921 Glacier Dr. Springfield. Ms. Hunter wanted to address making the Board meetings more equitable by having the District make a translator available for all Board meetings. She also said that the District should be required to supply headsets for people to hear the translators message. She was happy with the District moving forward with live streaming the meetings. She wanted to know how the public would learn about the process for sharing public comment beginning in January.

Donna Riddle, 1934 I Street, Springfield. Ms. Riddle wanted to be sure that the public would be able to make in person public comment. Not everyone could navigate the virtual public comment. She wanted there to be a way to include all people with language barriers to have the opportunity to address the Board.

The following is written public comment submitted to the Board for their review prior to the meeting.

Public Comment Business Meeting

Aloha Heart <heartaloha@gmail.com>

Sun 12/12/2021 9:57 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.

To All Board Members. I am a community member and a former educator. It is imperative that students, teachers, parents and community members have equitable, safe and inclusive means to express their needs and concerns to the Board . To accomplish this, all future meetings must provide interpreters, be live streamed, and provide an option for remote public comment. Any policy short of these goals will not serve the best interests of the students, teachers and community.

Carol Heart, Springfield Resident.

Public Comment Business Meeting - December 13, 2021

Jennifer Potter <jpotter583@gmail.com>

Sun 12/12/2021 9:49 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.

Dear School Board Members,

I appreciate your decision to start offering live streams of the board meetings again, in addition to offering them in person. Also, I read your proposal about public comment. Thank you for the footnote about offering public comment for virtual attendees if public comment is being offered for in-person attendees. I strongly urge you to implement that proposal.

I'm much less enthusiastic about the idea that the board "may conduct a meeting without public comment." I urge you not to adopt that part of the proposal, or if you do, add a footnote that it needs to be followed immediately by a meeting that DOES allow public comment. For example, if the Springfield City Council has a work session without public comment at 6pm, they follow it with an open meeting with public comment at 7pm. That seems like a good model.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Potter
Springfield resident
Ward 3

Public Comment Business Meeting - December 13, 2021

Aleecia Hansen <aleecia_hansen@yahoo.com>

Mon 12/13/2021 8:26 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.

Would like to know when it's going to re-evaluated for the kids to stop wearing masks while outdoors since their is no longer and outdoor mask mandate. There have been many other school in Oregon who have announced in the last week they will no longer be requiring masks outdoors for the children.

Thanks.

Aleecia Hansen

Sent from my iPhone

Public Comment for Public Meeting -- December 13, 2021

Ginny Osteen <ginnyo1950@gmail.com>

Mon 12/13/2021 11:28 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.

Members of the Board of the Springfield School District:

My name is Virginia Canavan and my husband and I live in Ward 2 of Springfield.

I'm writing to express my concerns with certain parts of the proposed policy *BDDH – Public Comment at Board Meetings*. As part of a truly democratic process, elected Board members need to be open to comments from their constituents in an atmosphere of transparency and respect. I'm thankful that BDDH lays the groundwork for that.

These are my concerns with the proposed policy and because it fails to support transparency and respect.

1. The first paragraph states: *The Board invites the district's community members to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the district. The public has a right to attend public meetings held in open session, and may be invited to share comments, ideas and opinions with the Board during designated times on the agenda. The Board may conduct a meeting without public comment.*

Some of the phrasing dismisses the community's involvement in school board matters. We have a right to attend public meetings and we have a *right* to "...share comments, ideas and opinions..." In addition, the Board shouldn't arbitrarily "conduct a public meeting without public comment." What reasons would there be for not allowing public comment? This removes transparency from the process and shows lack of trust and respect for community members.

2. Although I understand the efficiency of giving preference to those who want to comment on a topic on the agenda, it disrespects those (hopefully few) **urgent** issues that might arise after the agenda is published. Urgency eclipses efficiency. It's efficient to finish all the items on the meeting agenda, but it's urgent to immediately cancel the meeting if the building is on fire.

I hope you consider these comments as you discuss and vote on Policy BDDH – Public Comment at Board Meetings.

Sincerely,
Virginia Canavan

Being white in America

12/13/2021

Public Comment for Public Meeting -- December 13, 2021 - public comment

*is not needing
to state your life matters*

--

Ginny

*Being white in America
is not needing
to state your life matters*

"Public Comment Business Meeting - December 13, 2021.

nickwing33@gmail.com

Mon 12/13/2021 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.

Elected SPS Board,

The poor decision to put unvaccinated staff (many with natural immunity) on unpaid leave (with approved exceptions) has continued to put an undue hardship on staff and students. I am asking the board to approve a policy that would allow unvaccinated staff to come back to work with weekly testing. This would be a real step towards healing the damage that has been done. Weekly testing is an approved accommodation by Oregon Health Authority and The Oregon Department of Education. Of course, many staff have already moved on and are currently working for other districts that provided accommodations that were offered by OHA. The longer the board refuses to step in and create a policy that would bring some staff back the worse off staff and students will be. Many of us pleaded with you in September and October to step in and save us from the disaster that almost all of us on the ground saw unfolding. We were not listened to and the result is this mess. This year already had great challenges with a full time return to the classroom but the district's decision to rid itself of over 100 good employees and the board's complicit inaction which allowed it has put great stress on our schools, children and families. It is time to make the necessary changes. I believe every person on the board is a person of goodwill. Therefore, I encourage you to regularly visit the public schools you lead. Could you make yourself available one lunch hour a week to sit with staff and listen? This would need to be done without district leadership supervision as you would want staff to speak to you freely without fear of retaliation. I wish you the best this holiday season and hope to be back serving kids in Springfield soon.

Best regards,

Nick Wing

Public Comment Business Meeting – December 13, 2021

Deborah O. Baker <deborahobaker1111@gmail.com>

Mon 12/13/2021 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.

Dear Springfield Public Schools Board of Directors:

Thank you for your service as a public representative for the Springfield education community. COVID has challenged our ability to make decisions using best practices and valid data. There are no experts in education who have lived through a worldwide pandemic and documented student success. It is time to unlock human potential to generate innovative solutions that will achieve our desired results.

As you continue your "work as a team to set the long-term direction of Springfield Public Schools with a clear vision, mission statement, measurable goals, and priorities." I would like to open a dialogue with the intention of generating solutions to help promote growth and success for every student and ensure all students "graduate prepared for a bright and successful future."

I am grateful that the Board and Superintendent Operating Agreement encourages members of the board to "foster a positive environment that encourages debate, different points of view, and listening, doing so with care and respect," because this is critical to sourcing sustainable solutions. The best answers are achieved after considering a variety of viewpoints.

As shared in the Strategic Plan, student success is the first of five goals. To assist with meeting this goal, the district objectives include employing highly effective staff and responsible deployment of resources. I am aware that the District has many highly effective staff members that are currently being underutilized, because I am one of them.

I am an experienced educator who has an extensive background as an education catalyst. In August 2021, I was hired by Springfield Public Schools. Just weeks after relocating to the area, I was placed on leave without pay for my sincerely held religious beliefs. The following offer to assist Springfield Public Schools has been inspired by God. As I yield to the scripture, "Forgive them, they know not what they've done," I offer my assistance to those with "eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to listen."

With the many challenges COVID has presented, we have been given the opportunity to revisit educational priorities that will best serve all students. We have been utilizing the best practices of the past for decades. We do not need data of the past to see that public education in the United States is not working—not for students and not for staff.

I am willing to help you consciously collaborate and begin to re-imagine education using scientifically proven strategies and future forward insight to help unlock potential and embrace life-long success for both staff and students. May you accept this gift to help you get started.

In January, I will be making an important decision in order to use my priceless gifts to continue to provide service aligned with my mission to help ensure every child's right to a quality education is a reality. Before I make my decision, I wanted to ensure that Springfield Public Schools no longer needs my gifts and talents to explore innovative solutions to the challenges we face in education.

Sincerely,

Deborah O. Baker

<https://www.teacherheartspa.com/administratorappreciation>

The Board took a five minute recess at 8:07pm and returned at 8:12pm

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

- 1. October 25, 2021 Board Work Session Minutes**
- 2. Financial Report**
- 3. Personnel Action, Resolution #21-22.019**
- 4. Board Policy Approval, Resolution #21-22.020**

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

Mr. Light shared that he would like to set aside A4, Board Policy Approval in order to get additional clarification. Ms. Mason asked to set aside just Policy BDDH, but adopt the remainder of the policies. Following a discussion regarding the various policies presented for adoption the following motion was presented.

Mr. Light moved, Ms. Mason seconded the motion to set aside A4, Board Policy Approval, Resolution #21-22.020 moving this item forward to a subsequent meeting for discussion and approval and to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda as presented.

Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion to set aside A4, Board Policy Approval, Resolution #21-22.020 moving this item forward to a subsequent meeting for discussion and approval and to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda as presented: Mr. Light – yes, Mr. Mann – yes, Ms. Mason – yes, and Ms. Raven – yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

B. Accept Annual Comprehensive Financial Report & 2019-2020 Audit, Resolution #21-22.021

Chair Raven asked Superintendent Hamilton to introduce this resolution.

Oregon State law requires an annual audit of all financial transactions of the School District for all operating funds, including grant funds and trust funds. The independent accounting firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC conducted the 2020-2021 fiscal year-end audit and a copy of this document was made available to the School Board prior to tonight's meeting. A copy of the report is published on the District website, as well as available tonight. In addition to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) is the management letters for the District addressed to the School Board. Joan Bolls and a representative from the auditing firm will be available for a presentation and any questions you may have.

Superintendent Hamilton recommended that the Board of Directors accept the audited financial reports for 2020-2021 as presented by the firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC.

MOTION: Ms. Mason moved, Mr. Light seconded the motion to accept the audited financial reports for 2020-2021 as presented by the firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC.

Chair Raven asked if there was any discussion.

There was no discussion.

Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven asked each Board member to indicate if they accepted the audited financial reports for 2020-2021 as presented by the firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC.: Mr. Light – yes, Mr. Mann – yes, Ms. Mason – yes, and Ms. Raven – yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

6. REPORTS

A. Student Investment Act

Assistant Superintendent David Collins shared his annual report with the Board on the Student Investment Account providing an overview of the process for determining how the investments funds were spent. Priorities centered around student's behavior, mental and safety needs and an increase in academic achievement for traditionally underserved students. Some of the investments included addition of PE teachers at the elementary level, additional Assistant Principals at four elementary schools, family resource coordinators, reduction in class size in K-1 and a 3-year teacher mentor program for the newest educators.

B. High School Success Act

Director of High School Education Mindy LeRoux shared the yearly report on the High School Success Act by providing a breakdown of current supports for our high schools. She highlighted work in dropout prevention by using graduation coaches, Care and Connection teams, expansion of CTE courses at the high schools and middle schools, and the introduction of AVID to Thurston and Springfield High Schools. She concluded her remarks by sharing that ODE had reported that the District had met all requirements.

C. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Hamilton thanked Mr. Collins and Ms. LeRoux for their updates and said that it was exciting to see the work moving forward even during the pandemic. He shared that the meeting this evening was being live streamed. This was the first step in fulfilling the requirements for HB 2560. In January the board would start accepting virtual public comment as well as written and in person public comment. The District is currently exploring best practices for accepting virtual public comment. Once the procedure for this new avenue for public comment has been finalized, it will be published on the District website. He concluded his remarks by sharing that there has been snow in the foothills that morning and the District would be activation the inclement weather team in the morning to determine the safety of buses on the roads in the morning. Procedures for inclement weather are posted on the District's website.

D. Board Communication

Chair Raven shared that she appreciated hearing the reports about the various committee meetings Board members had attended. She was also grateful for the perseverance of staff and students as we continue to work through the pandemic.

Mr. Light shared that he was excited to be able to attend an event at the Wildish Theater next Friday evening. He had been able to attend and very much enjoyed the recent theater productions of Treasure Island at Thurston High School and Hanging by your Fingernails at Springfield High School. He was disappointed he was not able to attend the A3 production of State of Emergency. He concluded his comments by acknowledging that Marion Malcomb of SAfER recently received a social justice award. He expressed his appreciation for her work in this area.

Mr. Mann shared that he would be attending the Springfield Education Foundation's Board meeting tomorrow evening. He reminded them that there was still time for year-end donations to the foundation.

Ms. Mason shared that the Wildish Community Theater was starting to be able to schedule some wonderful events. She added that it was exciting to see the theater coming back to life after the closure as a result of the pandemic.

7. NEXT MEETING

The Board will meet on January 6, 2022 beginning at 6:00pm for the first Budget Committee Work Session. The Board will hold a Business Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 beginning at 7:00pm.

Chair Raven thanked everyone for attending.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Raven adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Judy Bowden)