

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>