

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on December 14, 2020. 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 Vice Chair Naomi Raven called the Springfield Board of Education virtual meeting to order at 7:01 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, Rachel Allen, Holle Schaper, Whitney McKinley, Amber Mitchell, Kevin Wright, Brian Megert, Steve Irvin, Sheryl Cramer, Teresa Page, Emma Routley, Heather Huerta, Mindy LeRoux, Marilyn Williams, Dustin Reese, Colleen Hunter, Becky Willis, Chris Reiersgaard, Sherry Moore, Mikell Harshbarger, John Svoboda, Megan Burrows, Jonathan Gault, Jen McCulley, Ginny Osteen, Jennifer Potter, Jeff Michna, Keina Wolf, Randall Martin, Kenny Allen, Joan Bolts and Lydia Dysart, minutes recorder.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION: Chair Bessett moved, Mr. Mann seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Ms. Raven 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. APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice Chair Raven reported the Board interviewed Megan Burrows, Steve Irvin, John Svoboda and Keina Wolf for Positions 1, 4 and 5 on the Budget Committee in a work session that took place earlier that evening. These three terms would expire on December 31, 2020. She called for a motion to appoint the new Budget Committee Member for Position 1.

MOTION: Chair Bessett moved, seconded by Mr. Mann to appoint Steven Irvin to serve on the Budget Committee in Position 1 beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023.

Vice Chair Raven called for Chair Bessett to support his nomination of Mr. Irvin.

Chair Bessett noted that Mr. Irvin had done a great job for the District and thought he would continue to do so.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. She asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to appoint Steve Irvin for Position 1 on the Budget Committee beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023. Ms. Raven - aye, Mr. Mann - aye, Dr. Hernandez - aye, Ms. Barrager - aye and Mr. Bessett - aye.

The motion passed, 5:0 to appoint Steve Irvin to Position 1 on the Budget Committee beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023.

Vice Chair Raven called for a motion to appoint the new Budget Committee Member for Position 4.

MOTION: Ms. Barrager moved, seconded by Dr. Hernandez to appoint John Svoboda to serve on the Budget Committee in Position 4 beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023.

Vice Chair Raven called for Ms. Barrager to support her nomination of Mr. Svoboda.

Ms. Barrager mentioned that Mr. Svoboda was currently their most experienced Budget Committee member. She liked that he considered points of view that were different from his and tried to learn.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. She asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to appoint John Svoboda for Position 4 on the Budget Committee beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023. Ms. Raven - aye, Mr. Mann - aye, Dr. Hernandez - aye, Ms. Barrager - aye and Mr. Bessett - aye.

The motion passed, 5:0 to appoint John Svoboda to Position 4 on the Budget Committee beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023.

Vice Chair Raven called for a motion to appoint the new Budget Committee Member for Position 5 beginning January 1, 2020 through the term ending December 31, 2023.

MOTION: Ms. Barrager moved, seconded by Dr. Hernandez to nominate Keina Wolf to serve on the Budget Committee in Position 5 beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023.

Vice Chair Raven called for Ms. Barrager to support her nomination of Ms. Wolf.

Ms. Barrager mentioned Ms. Wolf's experience and how important it was during this crisis. Hearing her talk about her passions and commitment to the Budget Committee convinced Ms. Barrager that she should stay on.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. She asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to appoint Keina Wolf for Position 5 on the Budget Committee beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023. Ms. Raven - aye, Mr. Mann - aye, Dr. Hernandez - aye, Ms. Barrager - aye and Mr. Bessett - aye.

The motion passed, 5:0 to appoint Keina Wolf to Position 5 on the Budget Committee beginning January 1, 2021 through the term ending December 31, 2023.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Consolidated Annual Financial Report and 2019-2020 Audit

December 14, 2020

2 of 7

Kenny Allen from Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC and Joan Bolls, Springfield Public Schools internal auditor shared a presentation on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2020. Ms. Bolls acknowledged the team that helped put together the CAFR, 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 and Aaron Bolkan, 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.

Ms. Bolls shared that this was an entirely virtual audit due to the pandemic. She said there were many challenges along the way, but the team put controls in place that she believes they will continue to use for future audits. This pushed the team to move forward with their thinking about using and accessing technology to view and share documents through the use of a secure server. She concluded by saying that the district felt the process went very well.

Mr. Allen said that he felt that the audit went smoothly and the district staff was very helpful in getting the auditor's team access to all the documents they requested. He said it was a very clean audit opinion. There were no disagreements or difficulties and complemented the staff on a great job.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Raven 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 Amanda Crosswhite, Virginia Osteen Canavan, Jennifer Potter and Neal Forrester. The text of these emails is included here:

Public Comment: Board Meeting – November 9, 2020

Amanda Crosswhite

Mon 11/9/2020 12:22 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.

I want to propose a mandatory class that all Freshman take this teaches the rights and responsibilities of the student towards law enforcement. Having a clear knowledge of their rights and responsibilities to Police will ensure the safest outcome for everyone. I am interested in how hate and disrespect of Police will be addressed in Springfield since ODE has come out supporting some groups that teach this as a core belief (BLM = ACAB). How will this concept be presented to children who's parents may be in law enforcement? In conclusion, many educators, parents and students do not agree with your choice in supporting this narrative which, is in fact, causing racism.

Amanda Crosswhite
Principal Broker/Owner
Twisted Tree Real Estate
541-554-8619

Real Estate: It's Personal to Me

twistedtreerealestate.com

Public Comment - Board Meeting December 14

Ginny Osteen

Sun 12/13/2020 7:09 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.

Hello, Members of the Springfield District School Board,

I wrote to you before the November 9 meeting expressing my concerns about three things:

1. Providing constituents the opportunity to give public oral testimony, rather than sending an email.
2. What records you have for attendance of low-income students attending distance learning classes and, within that group, what percentage are BIPOC students.
3. My concern about the large classroom sizes for the K-5 on-line students, resulting in such a huge and seemingly impossible workload for the teachers. Teachers want to be the best teachers and provide our students a meaningful education—but that's not possible in such large on-line classrooms.

As of last night, no one has replied to my letter – not even a form letter saying “Thank you, these are complicated issues – we’ll get back to you.” I think everyone who emails to express concerns over the education of their children deserve a response. One option is to have the Board respond to these emails at the start of the meeting. You will have had time to read them before the meeting. In other board and council meetings, after the public has comments (and the members have read any emails before the meeting). Depending on the amount and content of the comments, could spend 10-15 minutes giving an explanation of why these situations exist or what is being done to address them.

Finally, I look forward to your adoption of the All Students Belong Resolution #20-21.019. This is an important step in our community for our leaders to take a firm stand against hate and bigotry – in all of the ways it is exhibited. These symbols of hate intimidate the most vulnerable students, while at the same time embolden those who wear them, as well as attracting other students to this different way of thinking and behaving in this psychologically and emotionally vulnerable time of their lives.

Sincerely,

Virginia Osteen Canavan

Resident of Ward 2

Ginny

Being white in America

is not needing

to state your life matters

Public Comment - Board Meeting December 9, 2020

Jennifer Potter

Mon 12/14/2020 5:49 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 asked these questions ahead of your last meeting, and I did not hear a response. I am sending them again, in the hope of hearing a response this time.

I am a long-time resident of Springfield, living near Two Rivers-Dos Rios Elementary, and I am concerned about the well-being of our students and teachers during this pandemic.

What are the statistics about attendance for BIPOC and low-income students during distance learning? What are you doing to reach out to these students and their families? What are you doing to ensure that they have affordable and reliable internet access?

What are the statistics for class sizes? I am concerned about the work load for teachers. We all know that teachers are working much harder than usual to adapt curriculum to distance learning. Doing that with overly large class sizes could be harmful to our students and our teachers.

Please allow verbal comments during the board meetings again. You need to hear the voices of your constituents, especially during these extremely difficult times.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Potter

Comment for December 14 Board Meeting

Nealforr

Mon 12/14/2020 9:36 AM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

 1 attachment

121320 School Board letter.docx;

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.

December 13, 2020

Springfield School Board

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. First, thank you for your service for the Springfield community. I am pretty certain that none of you could even have imagined facing the kind of decisions you have faced this past 9 months when you decided to put yourself forward for the position you are serving in. Regardless of whether I agree with your opinions or decisions, I appreciate that there are people still willing to take on difficult (and sometimes thankless) community work.

First I am still hopeful that the schools can reopen to some level of in person instruction sometime in the near future, especially for the younger age children. However, I am resigned to the fact that Governor Brown has set the metrics to resume in person education at such a high bar that it is not likely to happen anytime soon. I don't why, since many national medical leaders (CDC, Dr. Fauci) even within the last month have noted that elementary schools should be the last places for governments to close, not the first. I have enclosed a graphic from the CDC website current as of Friday (12/11) with the rate of COVID cases per 100,000 for 5 states; Oregon, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and North Carolina. I chose the other 4 states because I have nieces that are teachers (one is a speech therapist) in elementary schools in those states. As of last Friday all were working, doing in person classroom instruction and have been since September. The schools are "suburban" schools similar to Springfield in size and population. I think the graphic is pretty clear; the past and current rate of COVID cases in those states is significantly higher than in Oregon. If elementary schools were an issue for COVID spread and outbreaks I am fairly certain they would not still be having in person instruction. Why our Governor has chosen a posture of almost "no risk" when it comes to schools is a mystery. My request is that the school board be an advocate for the children at the local and state level, not other an advocate for other interests or groups.

Secondly, I was wondering if and when the schools will be doing the standardized testing this year. I think it is important that these tests are done so the parents will have an objective measure of the impacts of the predominately remote learning for the past 6 school months (and however much longer it continues.) It seems that the district will need to be making plans for the 2021-2022 school year soon based on the results of those tests.

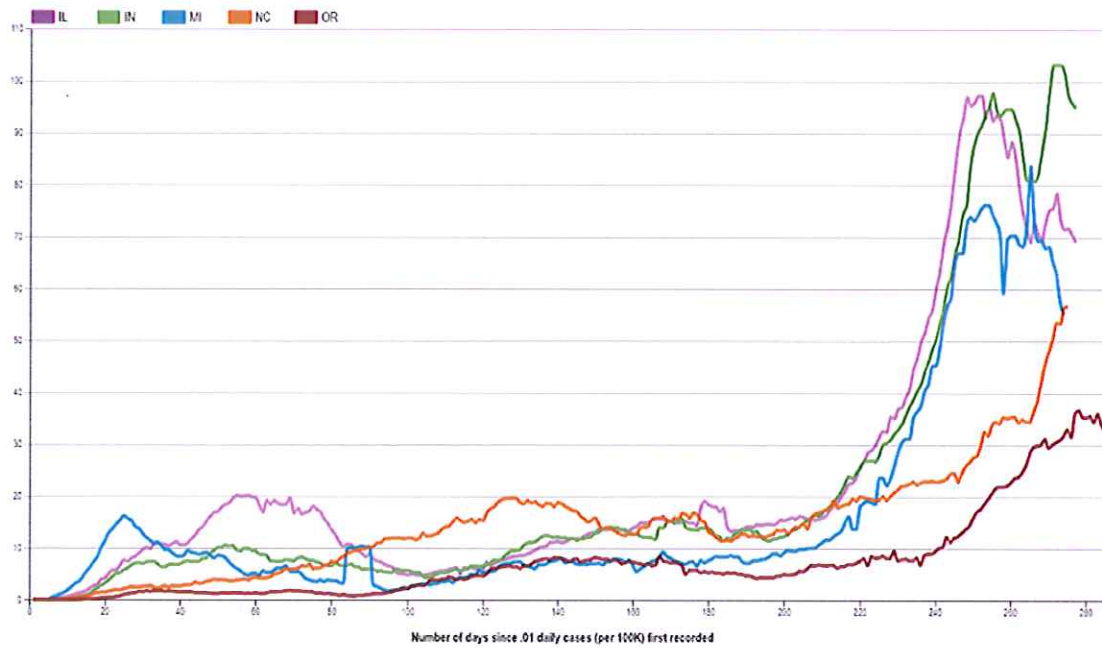
Thank you again.

Neal Forrester
443 72nd Street
Springfield

Enclosure

New cases of Covid-19, reported to CDC, in IL, IN, MI, NC, and OR

Seven-day moving average of new cases (per 100K), by number of days since .01 average daily cases (per 100K) first recorded.



Source: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#compare-trends_newcasesper100k

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

- 1. October 26, 2020 Board Work Session Minutes**
- 2. November 9, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Financial Statement**
- 4. Personnel Action, Resolution #20-21.016**
- 5. 2021-22 Budget Calendar approval, Resolution #20-21.017**

MOTION: Dr. Hernandez moved, Ms. Barrager seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Vice Chair Raven 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. Adopt Revised Board Policy, Section C, Resolution #20-21.018

As the district continues to work with the Oregon School Boards Association to update district policies, the following section has completed the review process and is presented for board approval and district adoption.

The adoption of Section C completes the overarching review process of the district policies.

Jenna McCulley recommended that the Board of Directors adopt policy Section C.

MOTION: Chair Bessett moved, Mr. Mann seconded the motion to adopt policy Section C.

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

Motion passed, 5:0.

C. Adopt OSBA 2021-22 Legislative Priorities and Principles, Resolution #20-21.015

Prior to December 18, 2020, school boards across the state must take official action on Oregon School Boards Association Board and/or Legislative Policy Committee positions. School boards must submit their votes online, using the information provided to Board secretaries and superintendents.

Superintendent Hamilton recommended that the Springfield School District Board of Directors adopt the proposed 2021-22 Oregon School Boards Association's Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by the Legislative Policy Committee.

It is further recommended that the Board direct the Superintendent or designee to submit this vote online to OSBA no later than midnight on December 18, 2020.

Superintendent Hamilton noted that at their last meeting the Board decided to table their vote and would need to vote to talk about it again.

Vice Chair Raven asked for a motion to take from the table the Oregon School Boards Association's 2021-2021 Legislative priorities and Principles Resolution.

MOTION: Ms. Barrager moved, Vice Chair Raven seconded the motion to take from the table the proposed 2021-2022 Oregon School Boards Association's Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by the Legislative Policy Committee and to direct the Superintendent or designee to submit this vote online to OSBA no later than midnight on December 18, 2020.

Vice Chair Raven called for discussion.

Chair Bessett, Vice Chair Raven and Superintendent Hamilton were able to sit down with OSBA and talk about their issues. As a School Board they had to keep staff retirement in mind.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Vice Chair Raven asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to take from the table the proposed 2021-22 Oregon School Boards Association's Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by the Legislative Policy Committee and to direct the Superintendent or designee to submit this vote online to OSBA no later than midnight on December 18, 2020. Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – nay, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – nay and Mr. Bessett – nay.

The motion failed, 2:3.

D. Adopt All Students Belong, Resolution #20-21.019

On September 17, 2020, the Oregon State Board of Education adopted temporary Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2312 – All Students Belong. This rule took effect the following day and takes an unprecedented step to protect some of our schools' most marginalized students, as well as staff and others. As an OAR Chapter 581 Division 22 requirement, districts, ESDs and public charter schools will be required to verify that they were in compliance.

This rule requires that districts, ESDs, public charter schools and others receiving state funding for education adopt a policy prohibiting symbols of hate and addressing bias incidents by January 1, 2021.

This rule prohibits the "use or display" of symbols of hate, including the noose, swastika, and confederate flag.

Superintendent Hamilton recommended that the Board of directors adopt board policies as presented:

- ACB – All students belong
- ACB-AR – Bias Incident Complaint Procedure

MOTION: Dr. Hernandez moved, Chair Bessett seconded the motion to adopt board policies as presented:

- ACB – All Students Belong
- ACB-AR – Bias Incident Complaint Procedure

Vice Chair Raven called for discussion.

The Board asked:

- Why some groups were not included in the policy?

Superintendent Hamilton said that at the last meeting they were asked to investigate how incidents had been tracked in the past. The District had a student information system and discipline system that tracked these, but that it did not historically track hate symbols. Even though it has not been tracked, conversations between staff and students about the symbols had taken place.

He said that they also investigated adding other protected classes, like socio-economic class, to the list. The District talked to the attorneys from OSBA and they said to not change the list. The list was directly connected with the OAR and there was potential for it to change before being finalized. Superintendent Hamilton said that there was another District policy, AC, that prohibited discrimination based on economic status. Also, there was District policy JFCF which prohibited harassment, intimidation and bullying of students based on economic status. He said that there was a question about what would happen when an incident occurred on campus. If there was an outside group on their campus and there were incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying, they had a policy which protected them. There are also policies in place for groups that used District facilities.

The Board asked if they:

- Would oversee additional training for staff?
- Could the Board provide input?
- Were there plans to update District signage to include non-school sponsored events?

Superintendent Hamilton said that there were some sample trainings right now and they would look into it more once the policy was adopted by the Board. He would ask about the Board giving input. Mr. Yancey stated that they would talk with legal counsel and the Springfield Police Department about how to word the signs and what they could enforce. They would keep the Board updated as more information was available.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Vice Chair Raven asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to adopt board policies ACB – All Students Belong and ACB-AR – Bias Incident Complaint Procedure as presented. Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – aye, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – aye and Mr. Bessett – aye.

Motion passed, 5:0.

E. Accept Consolidated Annual Financial Report and 2019-2020 Audit, Res. #20-21.020

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 2019-2020 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 Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is the management letter for the District addressed to the School Board.

Brett Yancey recommended that the Board of Directors accept the audited financial reports for 2019-2020 as presented by the firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC.

MOTION: Chair Bessett moved, Mr. Mann seconded the motion to accept the audited financial reports for 2019-2020 as presented by the firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC.

Vice Chair Raven called for a roll call vote. Vice Chair Raven asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to accept the audited financial reports for 2019-2020 as presented by the firm of Pauly, Rogers and Co., PC. Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – aye, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – aye and Mr. Bessett – aye.

Motion passed, 5:0.

7. Reports and Information

A. Superintendent Communication

December 14, 2020

6 of 7

Superintendent Hamilton shared that the District continued to monitor the number of cases in Lane County to determine if and when we could bring small groups of students back into the classroom. All grade levels completed their first term. The district continues to support families by delivering meals, something that would continue over Winter Break. He added that district staff continued to look at data around distance learning and explored ways we could better support families and staff.

Superintendent Hamilton reminded the Board Members to turn in their book list requests to Judy Bowden.

B. Board Communication

Ms. Barrager shared that she attended OSBA's virtual convention in November. The workshops she went to were focused on equity, diversity and inclusion. She said that the topics and discussion were very useful and she was glad she had the opportunity to attend the event.

Vice Chair Naomi Raven shared that she also attended OSBA's convention and had been disappointed. She had hoped for more hands-on time. She wanted to make sure that as a Board they were always advocating for their students. She added that she had listened to all the Kindness Campaign videos and commended all students on their efforts.

Dr. Hernandez and Ms. Raven asked to have a report in January regarding attendance, the number of students who are failing classes and to include demographics in the report. Dr. Hernandez was also interested in hearing about what kind of services families were able to access.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2021 beginning at 7:00pm. The location and format will be determined at a later time.

9. The Board moved into Executive Session (non-public) pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee, or staff member who does not request an open hearing.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Vice Chair Raven adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)