

## **BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on November 9, 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 Chair Zach Bessett 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, José da Silva, Teresa Page, K. Niles, Jen McCulley, Joan Bolts, Mindy LeRoux, Amanda Crosswhite, Ginny Osteen, Pat Walsh, Amber Mitchell, Marion Malcolm, Jeff Michna, Rob D., Carla Smith, Jonathan Gault, Brian Megert, Chris Reiersgaard, Lacey Macdonald, Mikell Harshbarger, Marilyn Williams, Kari Isham, Whitney McKinley, Bailee Foster, Michele Reiersgaard, Colleen Hunter, Aliya Hall from *The Chronicle*, Jordyn Brown from *The Register-Guard* and Lydia Dysart, minutes recorder.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Barrager moved, Dr. Hernandez seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Motion passed, 5:0

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 thanked the community members who provided comments and assured them that the Board read the email messages. He added that the Board appreciated their feedback. As of the noon deadline, public comment was received from: Aloha Heart, Donna Riddle, Carole Sylliaasen, Jennifer Potter, Stan Paine, Virginia Osteen Canavan and Mikell Harshbarger.

## Class Size and Teacher Load, Middle School Dual Immersion Program, DEI Coodinator

Aloha Heart

Sun 11/8/2020 4:18 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 am a retired teacher and the grandmother of elementary and middle school age Children. I am greatly troubled by the size of the class load that online teachers are expected to handle. According to the minutes of the last meeting, teachers were urgently calling for relief from oversized online classes and asking for class load to be lightened. I am interested in knowing if that situation has been addressed. Also, I am a firm believer in the relevance and benefit of the dual immersion program, and want to know what is being offered for middle school students. Finally has a DEI coordinator been hired or has the job description been posted? I realize these are challenging moments and it is imperative that every sincere effort be made to support the Springfield teachers and students. Thank you reading these concerns and for hopefully acting to address them. Sincerely, Carol Heart Springfield Resident.

## Public Comment: Board Meeting

Donna Riddle

Sun 11/8/2020 6:04 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'm feeling frustrated because I keep going in circles trying to get the agenda and materials for tomorrow night's board meeting. When I get to the "drop down menu" I get this message:

To review school board agendas or meeting materials, select from the dropdown options below.

Year	Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Agendas	Minutes	Packets	Other
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There are no records to display.

I am concerned about teachers having too many primary aged students to attempt to educate via distance learning. I'm wondering how any teacher can possibly support 35 students? And how are students from families who don't speak English or have little parental involvement getting the support they need?

I really wish the School District was more user friendly.

Thanks for reading this if you do.

Donna Riddle

## Public Comment Business Meeting - November 9, 2020

Carole Sylliaasen

Sun 11/8/2020 6:43 PM

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

 2 attachments

Letter to School Board 11.9.2020.docx; ATT00001.txt;

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Please see attached letter.



To Springfield School Board:

I am a parent of two children of elementary school age, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I attended Thurston area schools for my entire childhood. I have constantly been impressed by the care and dedication the school board and the teachers have shown through many challenges.

I am writing this letter to voice my opinion about the starting and reopening of the schools in our district. I am grateful that SPS19 was able to start the school year but was highly disappointed in the way they handled the first shutdown. There were no cases linked to being in the school and instead of staying the course and finding the best way to keep our children safe and educated (as Pleasant Hill Schools did) we closed due to a rise in cases in a zip code not near our schools. Per the data (11/8/2020) Pleasant Hill zip code (97455) has 62.9 cases per 10,000, 97478 has 65.9 per 10,000 and 97477 has 60.5 per 10,000. Why couldn't we have stayed in school? Why didn't Springfield stand up for their students and notice that we were far within the standards to stay in school? In Eugene, 97401 is 121.6 per 10,000 and 97403 is 129 per 10,000. Why is Eugene defining Springfield Schools: why are the two zip codes that primarily encompass the University of Oregon and the off-campus housing dictating the education opportunities for my children??

It saddens me that because of a distinct age group within the county that is not in the same zip code or community my children are being punished. Why are the youngest in our community paying the price for adults who have choices to wear masks, go to parties, go to restaurants/bars, and live in dorms with their friends when my child can't be with their peers and learn basic skills? That's right; they have a choice because they are adults.

Although I understand that parents and children alike move and work within our two cities and multiple zip codes, Springfield zip codes have not seen the types of high spikes in case numbers or had any issues with COVID in the schools during or after the 2 weeks the schools were open.

I am involved in my children's education, I am constantly on them to stay on their meetings, I help with their assignments and we are not in a position where we are "food insecure". However, there are many children whose parents, by no fault of their own, are unable to keep a full-time job and teach their children or are unable to because of their financial situation. Springfield Schools has the responsibility to teach the children in our area.

Why can private schools have in person learning? And why can public charter schools be in person learning as well? The divide is being made clear, the difference between the have and the have nots. Pre-schools and daycares (many operating like quasi-schools) are open and operating. Kids are playing sports that bring them close to other children. Families are eating at restaurants. If we have the right to choose those things, shouldn't we have the opportunity to choose if we want our children to be in school that I pay for with my taxes? If a teacher feels unsafe in a classroom then they have a choice to not go, if a parent feels unsafe sending their child they have that choice. I do not have a choice. My child does not have a choice.

I believe the Springfield School District has a sound and safe plan for in-person education that minimizes risk of disease spread and provides for a rapid and effective health rapid response if any cases of COVID occur related to the school. The reality is the source of the rapid rise in cases during the past 6 weeks in

Lane County have occurred within a population that did not take simple precautions and resisted public health interventions. There are a lot of unknowns about this disease. There are not a lot of unknowns about the impact of delayed education for thousands of young children.

Give us a choice. Give my child a choice and a chance at an education.

School needs to start before December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please explain why we must wait a month to reopen. The children should be able to go back as soon as we can. My children used to love school. They now dread every morning. Please let them go back sooner than December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Public Comment: Board Meeting – November 9, 2020

Jennifer Potter

Mon 11/9/2020 6:21 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 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? 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 is harming 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



Fwd: Input for tonight's School Board meeting: Springfield virtual kindness event, "Listening to Our Youth: Envisioning a Community of Kindness" talks by Springfield seniors from the 4 high schools—Also World Kindness Day & TRDR Kindness video

Stan Paine

Mon 11/9/2020 8:47 AM

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

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Choose Kindness

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Stan Paine  
**Date:** November 9, 2020 at 8:29 AM PST  
**To:** Public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us  
**Cc:** Todd Hamilton <todd.hamilton@springfield.k12.or.us>, Judy Bowden <judy.bowden@springfield.k12.or.us>, Doug Carnine <dcarnine@uoregon.edu>, Charlie Jett <charlie.jett@springfield.k12.or.us>  
**Subject:** Input for tonight's School Board meeting: Springfield virtual kindness event, "Listening to Our Youth: Envisioning a Community of Kindness" talks by Springfield seniors from the 4 high schools—Also World Kindness Day & TRDR Kindness video

Hi Judy & Todd:

Here are a couple of things you might want to include in your comments to the Springfield School Board at their meeting tonight:

1. The video for the virtual event, "Listening to Our Youth: Envisioning a Community of Kindness", originally scheduled as a live event at the Wildish Theater last spring, will be officially released this Friday, November 13, which is also World Kindness Day. See additional information about this virtual event below, including the links to view the videos. We highly encourage people to view the inspirational talks on kindness by these four recent SPS graduates and to follow their urging to continue seeking ways to spread kindness in our community.
2. In light of the Board's adoption of a "District of Kindness" resolution last spring, it might be fitting to announce that this Friday is World Kindness Day. It is also the first anniversary of the date on which the City of Springfield, by way of a Mayoral proclamation, announced World Kindness Day as a Day of Kindness in Springfield.
3. Charlie Jett, principal at Two Rivers/Dos Rios Elementary School, has created a video to promote mask-wearing among students, staff and families. It is titled "M.A.S.K.—Make A Showing of Kindness". In light of efforts everywhere to control the current



pandemic, it would be fitting to highlight this creative messaging in one of our schools.

If you have any questions about any of these announcement, you can reach me at 541-729-5710. Thank you for considering making these announcements to the School Board this evening!

Sincerely,  
Stan Paine, Springfield Liaison  
Spreading Kindness Campaign

Greetings,

I am writing regarding the community kindness event that we (The Spreading Kindness Campaign) had planned for April 16, 2020 at the Wildish Theater and was cancelled then due to the community shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The event is described in the 'IDEA FOR A MESSAGE' below. We converted the event into a virtual program, and we are now ready to release the link to that program to the broader community. The release date will be November 13, 2020, which is World Kindness Day. I am writing now to ask if you would be willing to send out the link for the program to your friends?

#### IDEA FOR A MESSAGE YOU MIGHT SEND OUT

I want you to know about the virtual kindness event, "Listening to Our Youth: Envisioning a Community of Kindness" sponsored by the Springfield School District and the Spreading Kindness Campaign.

You can view a three-minute trailer of the event at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/UfQgVqYS6cM>

The release date for the full 29-minute program is November 13, 2020 and you can find it at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/Qxi4R1iVZME>

The event consists of student "Kindness Talks" by one student from each of the four high school programs in the Springfield Public Schools. Each student received a \$1,000 post-secondary scholarship for writing their essay and developing their talk about "Envisioning a Community of Kindness." The event and the students are introduced by Kendall Bartley, morning news anchor for KMTR television, a community partner of the Spreading Kindness Campaign, and closing comments are provided by Todd Hamilton, Springfield Schools Superintendent. We encourage you to view the program video. The student talks are highly inspiring and filled with hope for the future.

## Public Comment: Board Meeting – November 9, 2020.

Ginny Osteen

Mon 11/9/2020 11:48 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.

Hello, Members of the Springfield District School Board,

I'm writing to you today wondering about a couple issues affecting the students and teachers of our district. First, however, I would like to point out that I would prefer to give public comment, rather than send an email. Public comment seems to be an option at most meetings of elected bodies and I wonder why the Board doesn't provide this opportunity to those of us who elected you to make sure our children get the best education possible. Please consider including public comment in future meetings.

I'm wondering what records you have on distance learning attendance – especially for low-income students, many of whose parents are not at home during the pandemic because they are essential workers. Within that number, what is the percentage of BIPOC students. Are these students and families supported in any way?

Finally, at the last Board meeting there was a public comment letter from the on-line elementary students expressing the immediate need for help in providing quality education to the K-5 students. The size of these classes, ranging from 30 – 40 students, would be astonishing even in a regular school setting. How can our teachers provide any type of meaningful education to children this young, when one-on-one attention and care is essential. I would urge you to recognize the importance of this problem. Would you please update the public at your meeting this evening?

Sincerely,  
Virginia Osteen Canavan  
Resident of Ward 2

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

## Please give each board member a moment to react to the public comments

Mikell Harshbarger

Mon 11/9/2020 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.

Good day and hello,

I hope this email finds you and yours doing well.

I suggest that the school board take some time (perhaps just five minutes) to comment on whatever you have been receiving in the public comments. Each board member should find one thing (at least) to notice or comment on or to react to.

The public comments time at the school board meeting is an essential part of this democratic body. When you just gloss over the public comments or have one member say one thing and then leave it there, it makes you appear callous and unsympathetic to the people who have provided public comments.

As someone who has been watching the board meetings, I have seen that you are empathetic and caring people with good intentions. But I have only seen this by staying for the entirety of the meetings. Someone who is tuning in only to find you if you heard their pleas or concerns and then logs off would be left with the opinion that the school board doesn't really care about the thoughts of the people in our community.

It needs to be more than the board president saying "yes, we have read the public comments." Please take the time to make it clear that you deeply care and want to help - I am convinced that you do care, but you are giving the appearance of being uncaring by not saying much or anything.

Thanks so much,

Mikell Harshbarger  
5th grade teacher  
Elizabeth Page Elementary School



#### 4. ACTION ITEMS

##### A. Consent Agenda

###### 1. October 12, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

###### 2. Financial Statement

###### 3. Personnel Action, Resolution #20-21.013

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

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

Motion passed, 5:0.

##### B. Adopt Revised Board Policies, Resolution #20-21.014

Consistent with district practices for reviewing and updating policies, and with the assistance and guidance of the Oregon School Board Association staff, district staff respectfully submit the following for your review:

For policies,

- KG – Community Use of District Facilities
- KG-AR – Community Use of School facilities

The following revision is proposed for adoption.

The use of alcohol, tobacco, inhalant delivery systems, illicit drugs, marijuana, or narcotics is prohibited on school property. The use of alcohol is prohibited except when specifically authorized by the superintendent in writing (Contact the superintendent's office for procedures).

Brett Yancey recommended that the Board of Directors adopt board policies as presented.

**MOTION:** Ms. Barrager moved, Mr. Mann seconded the motion to adopt board policies as presented.

The Board asked:

- What were the instances they would authorize alcohol on school grounds?
- What would the approval process look like?
- Would the group need to have liability insurance?

Only the Superintendent would be able to authorize the request for alcohol to be available at a function held on district property. Superintendent Hamilton said there would be an application process that would indicate the details for the event and show prove that the group had insurance to match the district requirements. There were some other schools in the state that had to adopt similar policy and they would look to them for suggestions regarding the application process.

The Board was concerned that there would be issues no matter how much policy they implemented. Mr. Yancey said that the application process would cover all potential issues. They had not outlined the application yet because they did not want to get ahead of the Board.

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Chair Bessett asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to adopt the board policy KG and the administrative regulation, KG-AR as presented: Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – nay, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – nay and Mr. Bessett – aye.



Motion passed, 3:2.

**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.

**MOTION:** Ms. Barrager moved, Dr. Hernandez seconded the motion to adopt 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.

The Board was concerned with the following:

- The statement in the document which talks about cost drivers.
- The board asked if they could approve the document with the exception of this one issue and send a letter to OSBA explaining their concerns with that part of the document.
- Board members talked about individually writing letters explaining why they voted no.

Superintendent Hamilton said the Board could put this vote off and bring issues up with OSBA and ask for more clarity.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mann moved, Vice Chair Raven seconded the motion to postpone the vote to adopt the proposed 2021-22 Oregon School Boards Association's Legislative Priorities and Principles until their December meeting.

Chair Bessett called for a roll call vote. Chair Bessett asked each board member to indicate if they supported the motion to postpone the vote to adopt the proposed 2021-22 Oregon School Boards Association's Legislative Priorities and Principles until their December meeting: Ms. Raven – aye, Ms. Barrager – aye, Dr. Hernandez – aye, Mr. Mann – aye and Mr. Bessett – aye.

Motion passed, 5:0.

**D. All Students Belong, First Read**

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 are 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 review the following board policies as a first reading:

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Hernandez moved, Vice Chair Raven seconded the motion to review the policy as a first read that night before voting at their next meeting.

The Board asked:

- If an empty parking lot was public space.
- If any restriction on verbal comments made during a gathering on district property was included in the policy.
- If they could add socio-economic status to their list of protected groups.

Superintendent Hamilton replied that the policy covered all district grounds and events. If people were gathered in parking areas outside of school hours, would the policy be enforced? He added that verbal comments made during a gathering were not included in this policy and they would have to look at another policy which covered this type of situation.

Mr. Yancey added that they would need to change their signage in the parking lots because, if the rules were clear, the infractions could be acted upon without issue.

Superintendent said that policy ACB-AR was the procedure that the administration would go through when a complaint was filed under policy ACB. He mentioned that the complaint procedure was the same as others for the district. Superintendent Hamilton said that they would have to seek legal advice to inquire if socio-economic status could be added to the policy as a protected class.

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

Motion passed, 5:0.

## **5. Discussion**

### **A. Superintendent Evaluation Timeline**

Superintendent Hamilton shared that they would start their check-in meetings now and follow up at an Executive Session at the end of their Regular Board meeting on December 14, 2020. They would then start gathering information and report on that at an Executive Session on February 22, 2021. Finally, the evaluation results would be shared on March 8, 2021 at their Regular Board meeting.

## **6. Reports and Information**

### **A. Superintendent Communication**

Superintendent Hamilton shared that on October 30<sup>th</sup> ODE issued new guidance using county-level COVID-19 metrics that determine whether districts can open buildings part-time, full-time or not at all. The district reviews county data released each Monday and uses public health benchmarks to determine whether we are able to open for in-person instruction or if students remain in distance learning.

Superintendent Hamilton wanted to let the Board know that Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> was World Kindness Day. The Spreading Kindness Campaign had awarded four scholarships to four Springfield School District students based on their video submissions for spreading kindness in Springfield. The videos are available for viewing on YouTube.

He also shared that the Springfield Education Foundation raised \$117,000 at their virtual Night of 11,000 Stars.

#### **B. Board Communication**

Vice Chair Naomi Raven shared that at the Team Springfield meeting she reported on their response to COVID-19 and the Holiday Farm Fire, as well as their plan for social justice going forward. She read the report out loud.

Emilio Hernandez shared that at the Lane Education Service District Board meeting they reviewed the metrics and went over how rural communities would handle those numbers.

Todd Mann had heard stories from teachers about how they were adapting to the remote learning. He was impressed with the creativity that was being shown and wanted to thank everyone.

#### **7. NEXT MEETINGS**

The next Board meeting would be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 beginning at 7:00pm. The location and format will be determined at a later time.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, Chair Bessett adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

*(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)*