

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on March 9, 2020.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Zach Bessett called the Springfield Board of Education meeting to order in the Board Room of the District Administration Center at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board Members present 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, Jenna McCulley, Judy Bowden, Whitney McKinley, Suzanne Price, Brian Megert, Jeff Michna, Brett Yancey, Dustin Reese, Jeff Fuller, Brandi Starck, Andy Price, Katie Dawson, Charlie Clark, Joni Wareham, Colleen Hunter, Maria Sayre-Heiss, Jonah Shoemaker, Owen Diouf, Jolene Bracken, Raven Bishop, Amy Paschall, Chad Towe, José da Silva, Mindy LeRoux and Lydia Dysart minutes recorder.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda

MOTION: Vice Chair Raven moved, seconded by Dr. Hernandez to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed: 5:0

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. School Presentation: Thurston Middle School

Principal Brandi Starck, Andy Price, and Katie Dawson approached the board.

Ms. Starck stated that their school goals were to: promote growth and success for every student, support families so that every student is ready to learn, and to provide personalized learning opportunities for every student.

Ms. Starck presented a breakdown of their Core program curriculum. They worked hard that year to make sure they were able to provide everything that a student could need or want. She shared that they started to send out Thursday emails to parents so parents could request information. It was a good addition and helped support parent and student relationships.

Ms. Starck explained that they had started having staff collaboration meetings every day of the week. Monday and Thursday were content days, where they focused on aligning their instruction to their school standards. Tuesday was kid talk where they tried to problem-solve and share information about students experiencing academic and behavioral challenges. Wednesday was their professional learning day and Friday was their team business day. She said that teachers needed more time throughout the week to talk about these issues with each other. Staff success equaled student success. Dr. Hernandez asked how much time this added on to staff schedules. Ms. Starck told him that staff did not have to come in earlier or stay later. She said that each grade level met at a different time during the day dependent on their schedules.

Ms. Starck added that they had data that they used to create their rules and timelines. Flex periods for teachers were made to leverage class time and provide students with what they needed.

Mr. Price went over their behavioral data. He explained that they aimed to have their school in the 80% to 90% range for behavior referrals. They had 496 students with zero major referrals so far this year. Thurston Middle School was 92.55% in the green, 4.68% in the yellow, and 2.77% in the red. Mr. Price stated that they tried to be proactive instead of reactive when dealing with a situation. Dr. Hernandez asked if the numbers were inclusive of special education and low-income students. Mr. Price replied that all students were included in the number. Dr. Hernandez asked if there was a specific group that needed more help. Ms. Starck said there was no big need, but low-income boys from single parent households usually struggled the most.

Ms. Starck said that they had just hired Michelle Molony, their first full time licensed clinical worker. She would be available to help students and families and could help them find other resources if necessary. Ms. Starck mentioned that Cindy Bonar had also just become their Dean of Students and would still help out with student support when needed.

B. Student Communication

Cora Hall, representing Springfield High School shared that they would have their school board elections later in the month. They started earlier this year so those elected had more time to get comfortable understanding their new position before the new school year started. Ms. Hall informed them that there was a lot of focus on their school constitution and potentially adding amendments. She shared that Spring sports had started and the Spring Formal would be on April 2, 2020.

Corbin Weathers, representing Gateways High School shared that they had been doing “Coffee with the Community” events at their school. They had guests come in from organizations like Northwest Youth Corps, CAHOOTS and more. Mr. Weathers shared that it had given students perspective and detail on their many options and services in life following high school. He shared that at Gateways High School their government and economic classes had been combined into one class. Mr. Weathers noted that it was a hard transition at first, but he has found it to be a good change.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bessett read that following statement concerning public comment:

This is the portion of our agenda for public comment. 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 and speakers will be called upon in the order in which they are received. 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 personal complaints concerning school personnel or against any person connected with the school system. Any complaints regarding a particular employee must be processed through the procedure set forth in policy, 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.

Speakers are reminded that their public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.

Joni Wareham, 869 River Hills Drive, had found out a few weeks earlier that the district was choosing a new science curriculum. This curriculum would not allow students to skip lower level classes and move to more challenging classes. Ms. Wareham said that this change would mean high achievers would miss out. She said that even though the new curriculum worked at Beaverton and Ashland, that did not mean it would work for Springfield. Those schools both had multiple options and even acknowledged that it only met 60% of their needs.

Colleen Hunter, 4921 Glacier Drive, shared that the Alpha Delta Kappa pizza fundraiser was next month and that flyers would be available at the back of the room.

Maria Sayre-Heiss, 1360 Aspen Street, was speaking as a parent and teacher. She taught advanced math classes and stated that science classes directly influenced math fluency. Ms. Sayre-Heiss said that the changes to the curriculum would make it so science and math levels would not be aligned. This would create more confusion and work for teachers. She shared that her kids were currently bored in their middle school math and science classes and were looking forward to the challenges of high school classes. With the suggested changes, they would not have that opportunity. Ms. Sayre-Heiss was disappointed with how the new curriculum was chosen and thought it should be decided by teachers with administration oversight. She felt that the School Board was not always aware of the concerns of teachers and families.

Jonah Shoemaker, 750 Island Street, was an eighth grader in the district and emphasized the importance of a challenging science curriculum. He shared that he wanted to have a career in science and needed classes that supported this choice.

Owen Diouf, 152 W. Olympic, had recently been told about the changes to the curriculum. He was worried that middle school would not be able to teach classes since high school would just be repeating information. Mr. Diouf said that advanced students were being left behind.

Jolene Bracken, 680 Granite Place, was a parent of a high school student on the early graduation track. By taking science away, it would take college credit opportunities away. She said that students would have to attend a two year-college in order to get college ready. Ms. Bracken said that classes needed to be suitable for all students and allow for growth. She stated that the school district had waited too long to reach out to parents when something was wrong. Her son was autistic and she had to monitor everything that happened at his school in order to stay informed.

Raven Bishop, 2640 D Street, echoed those who had already talked about their curriculum concerns. This change would make other classes harder. By cutting out college credit classes it would mean more time in college for students.

Amy Paschall, 2727 Canterbury, was a teacher and parent in the district. She had worked with students who took advanced classes online at a young age and set the curve. Ms. Paschall stated that teachers needed to have a look at the curriculum and might be able to work something out together.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

- 1. February 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Financial Statement**
- 3. Personnel Action, Resolution #19-20.032**

4. 2020-2021 Board Meeting Schedule, First Read
5. Policy Section G, First Read

MOTION: Mr. Mann moved, Ms. Barrager seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Chair Bessett called for discussion; There was no discussion.

Chair Bessett called for the vote.

Motion passed, 5:0

B. Approve Letter of Support for Kindness Campaign, Resolution #19-20.033

The Spreading Kindness Campaign is for all citizens of Eugene-Springfield to benefit from greater kindness—at home, at work, and as part of our community. Campaign members are trying to create a culture of kindness by giving greater visibility to the many acts of kindness that are already taking place in Eugene-Springfield, encouraging more acts of kindness, engaging in more conversations about kindness, listening to what kindness means to all segments of our communities, recording a million acts of kindness and celebrating our kindness.

Springfield Public Schools believes that student success is our most important outcome. The success of our students depends on the collective community coming together to support *every student, every day*. We believed in fostering safe, healthy, and engaging environments and promoting an inclusive culture that draws on the assets of students, staff, and community – values and beliefs that are in alignment with the Spreading Kindness Campaign.

Many of our Springfield Public Schools are already participating with the Spreading Kindness Campaign, and are offering students opportunities to perform acts of kindness for fellow students, teachers, and family.

At the regular Board meeting in January, Chair Bessett requested that Superintendent Hamilton prepare a formal letter for the Board in support of the Spreading Kindness Campaign and declare Springfield Public Schools as a “District of Kindness”.

Superintendent Todd Hamilton recommended that the Board of Directors recognize Springfield Public Schools as a “District of Kindness” and send a letter of support to the Spreading Kindness Campaign.

MOTION: Ms. Barrager moved, Vice Chair Raven seconded the motion that the Board of Directors recognize Springfield Public Schools as a “District of Kindness” and send a letter of support to the Spreading Kindness Campaign.

Chair Bessett called for discussion; There was no discussion.

Chair Bessett called for the vote.

Motion passed, 5:0.

C. Authorize Purchase of Property, Resolution #19-20.034

After years of moving in and out of escrow, the 100-acre parcel of land on Marcola Road has been purchased by a Lake Oswego, Oregon based developer. The developer has submitted plans to the City of Springfield for the development of affordable housing and mixed use. The proposed development is a phased approach with the build-out proposal as follows:

Phase 1: 73 units
Phase 2: 69 Units (Cumulative 142 Units)
Phase 3: 87 Units (Cumulative 229 Units)
Phase 4: 79 Units (Cumulative 308 Units)
Phase 5: 87 Units (Cumulative 395 Units)
Phase 6: 88 Units (Cumulative 483 Units)

Phase 1 is scheduled to begin Spring 2020, without a published timeline for additional phases. Additionally, there is reserved property within the development for approximately 200 apartment units constructed on 9.42 acres, 5.83 acres of senior housing and 5.0 acres dedicated to commercial use. Based on historical trends, the School District would yield an estimated 320 students from this developing neighborhood. The property lies entirely within one existing elementary school's boundaries, one existing middle school's boundaries, and one existing high school's boundaries.

Currently the existing elementary school (Yolanda) may absorb (at most) approximately 20% of anticipated new students and the existing middle school may absorb (at most) approximately 40% of anticipated new students. The high school is anticipated to have the capacity to absorb any expected new students.

The Springfield School District is proposing to purchase a future school site within this 100-acre development. The school site (13.64 acres) would be proposed for development, at the necessary time, a new elementary (K-5) or K-8 school, based on capacity needs. The District does not currently own property that would be able to accommodate this level of need in this geographic area. The buildout of any new school facility would be dependent on a future General Obligation Issue.

The financing authorization will be presented at a future Board meeting. Brett Yancey is available for questions.

Brett Yancy recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the purchase of the 13.64 acre parcel of "Marcola Meadows" property, and direct the Superintendent and/or Chief Operations Officer to finalize the purchase agreement and obtain the property for the selling price, not to exceed, \$1 million (one-million dollars), plus applicable closing costs.

MOTION: Vice Chair Raven moved, Dr. Hernandez seconded the motion to authorize the purchase of the 13.64 acre parcel of "Marcola Meadows" property, and direct the Superintendent and/or Chief Operations Officer to finalize the purchase agreement and obtain the property for the selling price, not to exceed, \$1 million (one-million dollars), plus applicable closing costs.

Chair Bessett called for discussion.

Mr. Mann had heard that it could take a long time to build these homes and asked how they would affect schools. Mr. Yancey replied that existing schools would be close to capacity, since around three hundred students would potentially be added at all levels. He added that the district did not have any property in that area. Also, the community had to see demand for more schools before a bond measure could be put forward. Mr. Yancey said that the additional students added to the schools would demand additional space at elementary and middle schools.

Chair Bessett called for the vote.

Motion passed, 5:0.

D. Approve Superintendent and Board Operating Agreement, Resolution #19-20.035

In an effort to ensure effective district operations and oversight, the Springfield School Board revisited their collective operating agreements articulating how the Board of Directors will interact together as a governing body, as well as with the superintendent and district administration.

On February 24, during a work session of the school board, consensus was reached on the agreements as presented. The proposed draft includes revision from previous meetings.

Superintendent Hamilton recommended that the Board of Directors approve the operating agreements as presented: *BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT OPERATING AGREEMENTS*.

MOTION: Ms. Barrager moved, Dr. Hernandez seconded the motion to approve the operating agreements as presented: *BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT OPERATING AGREEMENTS*.

Chair Bessett called for discussion; there was no discussion.
Chair Bessett called for the vote.

Motion passed, 5:0.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Student Success Act Update

Superintendent Hamilton and Assistant Superintendent David Collins shared that after months of talking about the Student Success Act (SSA) and Student Investment Account (SIA), they finally had a draft plan to present.

Superintendent Hamilton stated that their goal was to meet students' behavioral or mental health needs and increase academic achievement for all students and reduce academic disparities for: students of color, students with disabilities, emerging bilingual students, students navigating poverty, homelessness and foster care and other groups that have historically experienced academic disparities.

What they heard about from their community was that there needed to be an increase in the number of adults in their system and they needed to support the health and safety of all students.

They will receive \$8,170,000 and use it to add additional staff to their district. They would add 47.5 full time equivalent (FTE) certified staff, 43 FTE classified staff, and 7 administration staff.

Mr. Collins explained that \$5,120,000 would go towards supporting the health and safety of students. 27.5 FTE certified staff, 15 FTE classified staff, and 7 FTE administrative staff would be for this specific goal. He said that they hoped that by adding more staff they could increase the physical health of students through specialized instruction and increase training and access to mental and behavioral health services. Also, it would improve relationships with students and families and create a culture that supported students and families navigating crisis and mental health issues.

Mr. Collins explained that \$3,050,000 would go towards increasing the number of adults in the system. The target would be to reduce class sizes. 20 FTE certified staff and 16 FTE classified staff would be added to help this goal. He said that the outcome would be improving academic outcomes for every student.

Superintendent Hamilton said that they would come back to the board for approval in April before being submitting it to ODE for review and approval.

Dr. Hernandez asked if the presentation would be available in Spanish. Superintendent Hamilton replied that it would be, and that community feedback would also be available in both Spanish and English.

Vice Chair Raven inquired into what the long term investment of these changes would be. Superintendent Hamilton reminded her that he, Mr. Yancey and Mr. Collin had all worked to ensure that the projects would be sustainable for the district.

Vice Chair Raven was thrilled to see all the new hires and hoped specific trainings would be provided to teach them how to best help their students succeed. She thought that behavioral trainings should be available for all staff.

7. INFORMATION/REPORTS

A. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Hamilton thanked staff for all the work they had done. He shared that the district had been working with local health authorities concerning COVID-19 and their plans, if it should spread in to Lane County. Dr. Hernandez thanked Mr. Yancey for the news release he had shared on this subject.

Superintendent Hamilton shared that the Maple Field had been completed and would be used for the first time on March 10, 2020. He said that there would be a celebration sometime soon.

B. Board Communication

Chair Zach Bessett thanked the community for showing up at the meeting.

Vice Chair Raven went to the A3 art walk in February and really enjoyed it. She wanted to shine a light on their district for their focus on cleanliness in these times. Vice Chair Raven also thought that the work they had done with the community on SSA was good and hoped they could continue those practices in other projects.

Mr. Mann was inspired by the community attendance at the meeting. He understood the concerns that were voiced.

Ms. Barrager shared that she attended the play and pep rally at Springfield High School. She also attended the Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestra and was very impressed.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. NEXT MEETINGS:

April 13, 2020 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting

April 27, 2020 TBD Work Session

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Bessett adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)