

WORK SESSION MINUTES

5/ Board members met in a work session on September 23, 2019 to interview applicants to fill Board Position 5, as a result of the resignation by Karen Hunter, effective July 1, 2019 following the May 21, 2019 election.

Chair Zach Bessett called the work session to order at 4:02 pm, in the Board Room of the District Administration Center, 640 A Street in Springfield.

Board members present included Board Chair Zach Bessett, Vice Chair Naomi Raven, Dr. Emilio Hernandez and Todd Mann.

Others in attendance included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Brian Megert, Jeff Michna, Suzanne Price, Jenna McCulley, Whitney McKinley, Mindy LeRoux, Dustin Reese, Sally Storm, Anne Goff, Devin Durfee, Lindsay Durfee, Robyn Sattler, Michelle Webber, Mike Eyster, Johanis Tadeo, Marion Malcom, Melanie Svenrou, Nicole DeGraff, Lisa Barrager (via phone), Lori Palermo, Judy Bowden, Lydia Dysart and Jordyn Brown from the *Register Guard*.

Chair Bessett reviewed the process that would be followed during the candidate interviews. Each candidate would have the opportunity to answer the same seven questions during the 20 minutes allotted for each interview.

Applicants interviewed for Position 5 included:

- Lisa Barrager
- Nicole DeGraff
- Kevin Durfee
- Robyn Sattler
- Melanie Svenrou

Following the interviews, the Board debriefed the interviews.

Dr. Hernandez thanked all the candidates who applied and thought they were all very qualified for the appointment and were a good reflection of the Springfield community. He encouraged those not chosen to stay involved by joining committees.

Chair Bessett was pleased with the research the candidates, specifically Mr. Durfee and Ms. Barrager, did into what a school board's duties are.

Dr. Hernandez thought that the parent view point that Ms. Svenrou and Ms. DeGraff brought to the table were very important and would bring a unique insight into the school system.

Ms. Raven agreed that everyone seemed to have a good understanding of what they do as a school board member. She specifically liked that Mr. Durfee talked about the differences between a school board and the administration. Ms. Barrager also did a good job of providing a thorough list of their tasks. In regards to question which addressed a board member being approached by someone in public to help them with an issue, Ms. Raven liked that everyone spoke about honoring the community member and not being rude to them. Ms.

Stattler, she thought, did a nice job of saying how she would try to see the moving parts and the big picture of what the person was talking about.

Mr. Mann agreed with Ms. Raven and said he thought that Mr. Durfee and Ms. Svenrou did a good job of saying that they would hear the individual out before directing them to the correct person. Mr. Mann also said that Ms. Barrager seemed to have a good understanding of what a stakeholder was.

Chair Bessett said that he liked that Mr. Durfee talked about how he would support a decision made by the Board, even if he disagreed.

Chair Bessett shared that the Board would appoint a new member to serve out the remainder of the current term at the Business Board Meeting that would begin at 7:00 that evening. The person appointed would then run for re-election at the end of the current term. The term for this position expires June 30, 2021.

The work session was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Lane County School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on September 23, 2019.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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 pm.

Attendance

Board Members present included Board Chair Zach Bessett, Board Vice Chair Naomi Raven, Dr. Emilio Hernandez and Todd Mann.

Others in attendance included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Brian Megert, Jeff Michna, Suzanne Price, Jenna McCulley, Whitney McKinley, Mindy LeRoux, Dustin Reese, Sally Storm, Anne Goff, Kevin Durfee, Lindsay Durfee, Lori Palermo, Jill Parrish, Johanis Tadeo, Marion Malcom, Mike Eyster, Michelle Webber, Robyn Sattler, Melanie Svenrou, Nicole DeGraff, Lisa Barrager (via phone), Judy Bowden, Lydia Dysart and Jordyn Brown from the *Register Guard*.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes made to the agenda.

MOTION: Ms. Raven moved, seconded by Mr. Mann to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bessett read the 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.

Laurie Palermo of 1602 Linden Avenue in Springfield, approached the Board and spoke about how she believed Ms. Barrager was the correct choice to fill the Board vacancy. Ms. Barrager grew up in the Springfield school system, raised her kids in Springfield and had volunteered in the community for a majority of her life. Ms. Palermo said that there was no wrong choice in candidates, since everyone seemed qualified, but that as someone who spent her whole life in Springfield, Ms. Barrager was the right choice. She disclosed to the school board that Ms. Barrager was her sister.

Jill Parrish of 1610 Monterey Lane in Springfield, approached the Board and talked about why she thought Ms. Barrager would be the best choice to fill the Board vacancy. She had known Ms. Barrager to have a passion for education and youth and someone of good overall character. Ms. Parrish said Ms. Barrager's family had been in Springfield for over five generations, so her love for the community and its schools ran deep.

4. BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Chair Bessett reported the Board interviewed five candidates, Robyn Sattler, Kevin Durfee, Melanie Svenrou, Nicole DeGraff and Lisa Barrager (via telephone) for the vacant School Board Position 5 in a Work Session that took place earlier that day. He called for a motion to appoint the new Board member.

Motion: Ms. Raven moved, seconded by Dr. Hernandez, to nominate Mr. Durfee to serve on the Springfield Board of Education through the term ending June 30, 2021.

Chair Bessett called for discussion.

Ms. Raven said that while she thought all the candidates were well qualified, Mr. Durfee seemed to have well rounded experience in both the Springfield community and its schools. She said that he understood the role that the School Board played. Ms. Raven also appreciated his honesty during the interview and how he volunteered in the community to teach English to non-English speakers.

Dr. Hernandez was torn between Mr. Durfee and Ms. Barrager, since they both seemed to be at the same level.

Mr. Mann stated that he would not support the motion to approve Mr. Durfee because he felt there was another more qualified candidate.

Chair Bessett called for the vote. Ms. Raven voted in favor of appointing Mr. Durfee to Position 5, while Mr. Mann, Mr. Bessett and Dr. Hernandez opposed the appointment. The motion failed 1:3.

Motion: Chair Bessett moved, seconded by Dr. Hernandez, to nominate Ms. Barrager to serve on the Springfield Board of Education through the term ending June 30, 2021.

Chair Bessett called for discussion.

Chair Bessett thought Ms. Barrager was a caring community member who had a background in trauma, which would be helpful in the current political climate when making sure that students felt safe. He also felt that she had good support from the community.

Dr. Hernandez agreed with Chair Bessett and thought that Ms. Barrager had a good sense for community issues.

Mr. Mann stated that this was a hard decision to make, and that while both Ms. Barrager and Mr. Durfee were good candidates, he still did not feel they were the right fit for the board.

Chair Bessett called for the vote. Mr. Bessett, Dr. Hernandez and Ms. Raven voted in favor of appointing Ms. Barrager to Position 5. Mr. Mann opposed the appointment. The motion carried 3:1 to appoint Ms. Barrager to the Board vacancy.

Mr. Mann said that while he did not vote for Ms. Barrager, he would support both her and the vote.

Chair Bessett said that they would work with Ms. Barrager to set up a time for her to come in and take her Oath of Office, since it must be done in person. He urged all the other candidates to stay involved in the community and join other committees and councils in Springfield.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

Mr. Bessett said the next Board meetings would be as follows:

October 14, 2019, 7:00pm Business Meeting to be held at the District Office in the Board Room.

October 16, 2019, 5:30-8:00pm TEAM Springfield Annual Meeting to be held at the City of Springfield.

October 23, 2019, 5:00-8:00pm Oregon School Boards Association Board Training Work Session to be held at the District Office in the Board Room.

October 28, 2019, 4:00pm a Fall Planning Work Session to be held at the District Office in the Board Room.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Bessett adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.

(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)