

## WORK SESSION MINUTES

A Work Session of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on August 28, 2023.

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education work session to order at 5:36 p.m.

- A. Chair Light led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Chair Light asked Director Emilio Hernandez to share the following Land Acknowledgement:

*We acknowledge that we are in the traditional homeland of the Kalapuya people, specifically the community that was known as Chifin, the area that we now call Springfield.*

*Kalapuya people, who have lived in this region since "[Time Immemorial](#)", were illegally dispossessed of their land and forcibly removed to what are now the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations over several years, but most notably in treaties between 1851 and 1855.*

*The Kalapuya are now members of the [Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde](#) and the [Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians](#), and members of the Kalapuya still live, work, study, and thrive in this area, and continue to make important contributions here in Springfield, across the land we now refer to as Oregon, and around the globe.*

*This information is shared out of a responsibility to honor the heritage and the humanity of all people and to promote unity within our school district.*

#### Attendance

Board Members in attendance included Board Chair Jonathan Light, Board Vice Chair Kelly Mason, Emilio Hernandez, Nicole De Graff and via Zoom (phone) Ken Kohl.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Dustin Reese, Whitney McKinley, Taylor Madden, Brian Richardson, Martie Steigleder, Jonathan Gault, Joan Bolls, Brian Megert, and Nicole Nakayama.

### 2. DISCUSSION

#### A. Alternative Education Programs

Special Program Director Brian Megert and Assistant Director Nicole Nakayama shared a presentation with the board regarding the various Alternative Education Programs in the District.

#### Bridgeway School

This school has two locations. The Camp Creek location serves elementary age students and the downtown Eugene location serves middle and high school age. Grade levels served are K-12+. The program does not offer a high school diploma. The typical profile of students served by Bridgeway are those with either a medical or educational diagnosis of autism. Bridgeway's instructional focus is to support students emotionally, behaviorally, socially, and academically in the context of characteristics of

autism. In addition, they offer applied behavior analysis (ABA). Their overall capacity is around 100, but currently they have 15-20 Springfield students participating. Tuition is \$33,300 per year.

Director Hernandez asked if tuition is an issue for families or if the District is financially responsible.

Ms. Nakayama replied that Bridgeway is a private school. Sometimes families seek it out independently, and then they either pay the tuition themselves or apply for a scholarship. If it is a placement decision, then the referring district is financially responsible for the tuition.

Mr. Megert added that when tuition and expenses exceed \$35,000, the district can apply for high-cost disability reimbursement (ADM), additional resources from the state. Conversations on tuition seldom occur because their team's main concern is simply, to find the best placement for the student.

#### Circle of Friends

This program is new and is located in Cottage Grove. They serve grade levels K-5 and do not offer a high school diploma. Typical student profiles are of those with significant medical, physical, and cognitive needs (students who typically qualify for an ESD Life Skills Placement). The instructional focus of the program is augmentative communication, basic academic skills, student wellness, and PT/OT. They have an RN on staff and offer a full scope of services. The overall capacity is 12, but currently they have less than 10. Tuition is \$46,200 per year.

Chair Light asked if transportation is the responsibility of the district.

Mr. Megert replied, yes the district holds that responsibility.

Director Hernandez asked who approves the programs' hiring staff.

Mr. Megert answered that the responsibility belongs to Executive Director Jen Davis to hire for their agency. Ms. Davis is a former special educator, who has an extensive background and expertise in her field.

#### Jasper Mountain & SAFE Center

This program has two separate locations, but are part of the same agency. They offer residential facilities and fall under long-term care and treatment. Private alternative-E.D programs, also known as day-treatment programs are also offered. The typical profile of students served are those experiencing significant psychological needs. They serve K-8 grade levels. The instructional focus is on psychological stabilization, basic academic skills, specially designed instruction, and access to psychiatric care. Overall capacity is 25, but currently they have less than 10. Tuition is \$30,500 per year.

#### Wellsprings Friends School

This school is for those students who have difficulty engaging in a large, comprehensive high school and might thrive in a smaller setting. They are located in north Eugene and serve grades 9-12. The instructional focus is on individualized, interest-based educational programming with a strong focus on community building. Students must participate in daily Community Circle and Silent Circle to graduate from this school. Overall capacity is 60, but typically there are only 10 per year. Tuition is \$15,100 per year.

#### Looking Glass - Centerpoint

This program is located in Eugene. They serve grades 6-12. The typical profile is for those students with significant mental health and behavioral concerns. The instructional focus is on mental health treatment,

specially designed instruction, and high school credit. This is the only program that serves high school level students who have these types of needs. The overall capacity is 12, but typically there are only 10 per year. Tuition is \$61,700 per year.

Vice Chair Mason asked if the diplomas given out were traditional ones or something different.

Ms. Nakayama replied that it would depend upon the kind of needs of the student and whether they needed modified coursework, then it may be a type of modified diploma.

Chair Light asked if this is a program that students attend for a while, but then return to a regular school.

Ms. Nakayama commented that it had been their experience that students typically finish out their school career in the program.

#### Looking Glass - Riverfront

This program is located in Eugene and serves grades 6-12. The typical profile is for those students who thrive in hands-on environments, seeking job-readiness skills, and are credit deficient. The instructional focus is on vocational training, paid summer experiences, basic academic skills, high school credit, and GED preparation. Paid summer experiences are connected to the program through Lane Youth Corp, and also have a Workforce Investment Act program that serves students from 18-24 years old. Overall capacity is 50-80, typically there are 70-80 Springfield students per year. Tuition is \$15,100 per year.

#### Lane School

This program is located on the Westmoreland Campus and serves student grade levels K-8. The typical profile is for those students with significant social, emotional and behavioral concerns. The instructional focus is on small class size, intensive behavioral support systems with incentive programs. Overall capacity is 45, but they typically have less than 10 students per year. Tuition is \$39,800 per year.

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center

This program is run in conjunction with the Oregon Youth Authority and the Lane ESD. It is located on the same campus as the Youth Authority jail for juveniles. They serve grade levels 9-12. The typical profile is for those students with current or previous contact with the Youth Authority. The instructional focus is on small class sizes, typical high school academic courses, GED preparation, and vocational support such as culinary, computer and horticulture. The overall capacity is 45 and is expected to be at capacity this school year. Tuition is \$15,100.

### **B. HB 2753, Compensation of Directors of District School Boards**

Superintendent Hamilton discussed the process of House Bill (HB) 2753, Compensation of Directors of District School Boards. Mr. Hamilton briefly reminded the Board of their previous discussions on allowing directors to receive the \$500 stipend and if they were to approve HB 2753, individual board members may choose to opt-out. He explained an additional provision the Board may consider in addition to the stipend, which would be a reimbursement for actual and necessary work expenses. Mr. Hamilton said that he included that particular provision because if they chose to move forward with the stipend, that is something that they would need to explicitly state in the resolution when they move forward. Mr. Hamilton said that whichever way the Board votes, the School Board Association is going to encourage them to look at the following four different areas:

- Board amends, deletes or suspends policy HB 2753 to allow for board member compensation.
- Board ensures that the budget includes adequate funds.
- Board approves a resolution establishing the amount of the stipend.

- District business office follows existing procedures to make payments to participating board members.

The Oregon School Board (OSB) recommends the Board move forward with a resolution and then their best practice would be to annually reaffirm that this is something that they want to move forward with.

The following options in order to move forward are:

- Delete the policy - two meeting process
- Amend the policy - two meeting process
- Suspend - one meeting process
- Suspend and amend - two - three meeting process

The following suggested procedure:

- The Board amends, deletes or suspends policy BHD to allow for board member compensation.
- Board ensures that the budget includes adequate funds.
- Board approves a resolution establishing the amount of the stipend.
- District business office follows existing procedures to make payments to participating board members.

The Board continued a discussion on the matter, concluding that they wished to open the discussion up to the community to gain their input before making a final decision. A discussion item will be brought to the September meeting, with a draft resolution for the Board to take a look at, based on their recent conversation. The public will be invited to offer their feedback that evening.

### **C. Board Communications**

Chair Light suggested the following topics be moved to a Board Communication topic at the September 11, 2023 meeting. He briefly discussed these two items:

- Public Comments - Review of the Public Comments procedure, addressing the issue of how to create an efficient logistics procedure, in which to allow in-person comments.

Chair Light felt the current policy regarding this does not really speak to the logistics of the actual procedure and suggested they look at the procedure first, to ensure that it is in line with their policy and then have a follow-through discussion.

Director Mason added that regarding online speaking, they still need to sign up by noon the day of, to ensure the technology team has time to set them up as presenters and to deliver the appropriate link to them. In-person speakers can show up at the time of the meeting to speak, so there would remain some time stipulations, regardless of how consistent they may try to make it.

Director Kohl asked if they were required to have the same system for those speaking virtually versus in-person.

Chair Light answered that for the ease of the public's understanding, built-in consistency is best. The real issue was how to accommodate those who did not sign up by the deadline.

Superintendent Hamilton offered to bring Director De Graff and Director Kohl up to speed on the previous discussions and proposals surrounding these issues.

- Restructuring of the Board's Agenda - to ensure that all board members have all of the needed information in order to make good decisions.

Chair Light stated that he wanted to ensure Board members are given sufficient time to be involved not only in the design and topics of the agenda, but that they feel comfortable with the information provided. Chair Light said that he and/or Vice Chair Mason may change how and when that information is delivered to the Board members. He asked for input from Board members as to what those topics will be and concluded by suggesting they move Item 2.c to their next business meeting, as an expansion of the Board Communication.

Director Hernandez commented that the community will feel better just knowing that the Board is, for their benefit, continuing to address the matter.

### **3. NEXT MEETINGS**

Business Meeting, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.  
Work Session, September 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Light adjourned the work session at 7:51 p.m.

*(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, Lane Council of Governments(LCOG))*