

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on September 11, 2023.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Director Ken Kohl read 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 attending the meeting included Board Chair Jonathan Light, Board Vice Kelly Mason, Director Emilio Hernandez, Director Ken Kohl and Director Nicole De Graff.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Dustin Reese, Brett Yancey, Martie Steigleder, Brian Richardson, Jeff Michna, Whitney McKinley, Johnathan Gault, Brian Reece, Mindy LaRoux, Brian Watson, Matt O'Reilly, Armando Garcia, Kimberlee Pelster, Lacey Macdonald, Andy Price, Jose da Silva, Megan Knight, Joan Bolls, Violet Olsayk, Sasha Chang, Lonnie Usrey, Arne Beard and Daniel Pestle.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Light asked for a motion to approve the September 11, 2023 agenda as presented.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Mason, to approve the September 11, 2023 agenda as presented.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the August 14, 2023 agenda as presented: Director Hernandez – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, Vice Chair Mason – Yes and Chair Light – Yes.

Motion passed, 5:0.

3. INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Three new secondary administrators were highlighted and welcomed.

1. Brian Watson is the new Assistant Principal at Briggs Middle School.
2. Matt O'Reilly is the new Assistant Principal at Hamlin Middle School.
3. Daniel Pestle is the new Assistant Principal at Thurston High School.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Light read the following statement concerning public comment:

This is the portion of our agenda for public comment. The board provides three ways for community members to share public comment: written public comment, in person oral public comment and virtual public comment. Written public comment is received via email. Public comment received via email for this evening has been reviewed by the Board and has also been posted on the District's website. The deadline for submitting a request for oral public comment was today at noon. Those who requested an opportunity to speak this evening were notified by the board secretary about their request.

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. 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.

The Board will not hear comments regarding any school personnel. We ask those speaking to refrain from using names and titles of school personnel. Any complaints regarding a particular employee must be processed through the procedure set forth in Board policy KL, 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. A compliment involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, their supervisor and the Board.

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

Springfield resident and retired teacher, Colleen Hunter spoke virtually. She was pleased to see the subject of public comment procedures on the night's agenda. Ms. Hunter spoke briefly on many topics, such as the newly launched district website, previous board meetings, as well as her previous public comments.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

1. August 14, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Financial Statement
3. Personnel Report, Resolution # 23-24.006

Brett Yancey
Dustin Reese

MOTION: Director Mason moved, Director Kohl seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the Consent Agenda: Director Hernandez – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, Vice Chair Mason – Yes and Chair Light – Yes.

Motion passed, 5:0.

B. Teacher Growth and Evaluation, Resolution #23-24.007

Dustin Reese

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, Director De Graff seconded the motion to approve the updated Teacher Growth and Evaluation, Resolution.

Motion passed, 5:0.

C. Alternative Education Program Approval, Resolution #23-24.008

David Collins

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, Director De Graff seconded the motion to approve the Alternative Education Program Resolution.

Motion passed, 5:0.

6. DISCUSSION

A. HB 2753, Compensation of Directors of District School Boards

Superintendent Hamilton stated that a draft resolution was being presented to the Board, clarifying that it was at this time, for their consideration only.

The Board discussed and agreed upon the following:

- The stipend would help to diversify the Board.
- The importance of gathering public input and feedback regarding this decision.
- The provision of multiple avenues for the public to contact Board members with questions.
- The necessity of reaching as many people as possible through the use of a variety of methods of communication, announcing a date and time and to provide clear sign-up instructions for the public to offer feedback and to voice their opinions.

B. Public Comment

Chair Light stated that the value of public comment is to have as much participation as possible. Chair Light had submitted a proposal to the Board that would require pre-registration for both virtual and in-person speaking, which would guarantee that person an opportunity to speak. The cut-off period would be at 4:00 p.m. Once closed, any unused positions would be subject to sign-up when they attend the meeting, allowing them to speak publicly.

- Chair Light had submitted a proposal for public speaking.
- Board members voiced their thoughts and concerns with one another, regarding the public speaking proposal.
- The discussion was concluded with each Board member in support of Chair Light's proposal, with the agreement that they would monitor the results and revisit the topic if needed.

C. Board Communication Processes

Chair Light

Chair Light polled each Board member's information need and their preferred format, in which to receive communications and information. He suggested these conversations also be held in a public format enabling the community and staff to be made aware of the Board members individual interests and any information that they are seeking. Chair Light suggested they share the following items during these representations:

- Acknowledgement of community events attended, either as an official or unofficial district representative.
- Meetings or conversations with community, state or federal leaders.
- Media articles, OSBA press releases or similar thoughts or comments of interest to share.
- Future topics for discussion as agenda items or within board communications.

D. School Board Representation – Agencies & Civic Organizations

Chair Light

Chair Light confirmed each Board member's representation of the following agencies/organizations:

1. Ken Kohl - Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)
2. Emilio Hernandez - Lane ESD
3. Nicole De Graff - Springfield Education Foundation (SEF)
4. Kelly Mason - Wildish Theatre

7. Reports and Information

A. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Hamilton thanked staff for all their hard work that went into preparing for a wonderfully successful first day of school.

- Over 1,500 staff members worked hard to prepare for the first day of school.
- The Springfield Block Party at the Mural Celebration was attended by many of the school staff, labor workers and city and local government officials.
- The OSBA Legislative Roadshow will be held on September 18, 2023. Dinner will be provided.
- Team Springfield elected officials will meet on September 28, 2023 to discuss System Development Charges.
- The Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) fundraiser, "Night of Stars" will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

B. Board Communication

- Board Committee Reports

Chair Light shared that the Block Party was incredible and reminded him of the early days of the Eugene Celebration. He had fun seeing the community come together. He noted that it was great to see district staff at the unveiling of the mural and offered a shout-out to teacher Ame Beard and her staff. Chair Light was able to visit Ridgeview, Riverbend, Mount Vernon and Maple schools. The staff and the students were so excited to receive the large amount of free school supplies. Chair Light concluded by offering a shout-out to the custodians who had seamlessly maintained the buildings through Summer School and then had successfully readied it for the first day of school.

- The National School Board Association (NSBA) conferences will be held in New Orleans on April 6-8, 2023. Early registration is currently open and strongly recommended. Contact Chair Light for more information.
- The consideration of a Board Retreat, possibly in November or December. This will provide the opportunity to discuss current strategic direction and vision of the district, as well as the discussion of some items the Board may wish to modify.

Director Hernandez expressed appreciation for his fellow Board members who have displayed understanding and a genuine concern for him, in addition to their continued support through difficult times.

Director Kohl attended the Mural Celebration and enjoyed the Block Party, as well.

Director De Graff shared that her goal has been to increase her involvement and interact more with her community. She really enjoyed Meet the Teacher Night and also had the opportunity to connect with the principals. She noted that it was good to hear the teachers talk about their excitement for the school year and also in discussing their needs.

Vice Chair Mason shared that she had fun at the SEF Summer Celebration, celebrating the hard work of other Board members and Superintendent Hamilton. She represented Wildish Theatre at the Block Party

and had worked the booth with Todd. She enjoyed having had good conversations that brought awareness of Springfield's beautiful downtown theater.

8. NEXT MEETINGS

September 25, 2023 - Board Work Session, 5:30 p.m.

October 9, 2023 - Board Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Chair Light thanked everyone for attending.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Light adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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