

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A Work Session of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on August 26, 2024.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Mason called the Springfield Board of Education work session to order at 5:30 p.m.

- A. Chair Mason led the Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Director Light shared 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 Kelly Mason, Vice Chair Nicole De Graff, Director Ken Kohl and, Director Jonathan Light.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Dustin Reese, Whitney McKinley, Taylor Madden, Martie Steigleder, Brian Richardson, Jeff Michna, Violet Olszyk, David Willis, Marion Malcolm, Kurt Ryan, Johannis Tadeo, Alex Aguilar, Hilliard Gastfriend, Robert Coe, Lester (Les) Tovey, Brett Markwardt, Anthony Reed, Sarah Bosch, June Fothergill, Kayla MacFarlane, Robert (Bob) Brew, Rosie Hernandez, Maria Estrada, Terry Pickering - via Zoom, Heather Quaas-Annsa, and Guadalupe Lopez.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Mason

Chair Mason asked for a motion to approve the August 26, 2024 agenda as presented.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Light, to approve the August 26, 2024 agenda as presented.

Chair Mason called for a roll call vote. Chair Mason asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the August 26, 2024 agenda as presented; Director Kohl – Yes, Vice Chair De Graff - Yes, Chair Mason – Yes and Director Light - Yes.

The motion passed, 3:0.

3. REVIEW PROCESS FOR CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Chair Mason

Twelve candidates were interviewed to fill a midterm board vacancy. The board candidates were divided into three panels. Each candidate was provided an opportunity to answer the following questions:

1. How would you describe your approach to interacting with others, and how do you contribute as a team member?
2. How would you balance representing the interests of multiple stakeholders? Please provide an example of how you've done this in the past.
3. How would you navigate a difficult conversation or address a challenging topic when you disagree with a fellow board member?
4. How can board-established goals be effectively utilized to enhance student achievement?
5. How do you view your role in advancing district initiatives?

Two Short recesses were taken in between each panel interview.

— Recess #1, 6:13 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.

— Recess #2, 6:44 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

4. INTERVIEW CANDIDATES

School Board

Board Candidates in attendance:

Johanis Tadeo, Robert (Bob) Brew, Anthony Reed, Hilliard Gastfriend, Sarah Bosch, Terry Pickering - via Zoom, Heather Quaas-Annsa, Kayla MacFarlane, Violet Olszyk, Robert Coe, Brett Markwardt., and Michelle Akehurst Jolicoeur

- The response of the candidates to the questions posed included, the importance of respect, active listening, and finding common ground
- Examples were provided, such as balancing stakeholder interests in contract negotiations and addressing educational equity
- The discussion emphasized the need to align resources with board goals to enhance student achievement, support families, and prioritize safe learning environments

The Board listened intently to the thoughts and answers given by each of the candidates, while occasionally taking brief notes to be referenced during the interview debriefing.

5. DEBRIEF INTERVIEWS

Chair Mason

Chair Mason asked Board members to share asset-based comments about the candidates they would support being appointed to the board.

- The Board's discussion focused on the strengths and potential contributions of the top candidates
- Parliamentary procedure was used for appointing the nominees and the voting process was conducted in the order of nominations
- Nominations do not require a second
- No member may nominate more than one candidate

Nominations for Position 2 on the Board of Directors:

- Director Light nominated Johanis Tadeo for his experience with the Latino community.

- Director Kohl and Chair Mason nominated Heather Quaas-Annsa for her district investment with the Equity Committee and the Budget Committee, a parent of children within the district, familiarity with board operations, and her perspective on some underrepresented communities.
- Director De Graff nominated Violet Olszyk for her thoughtfulness on families and community involvement, active listening, and her comment regarding triaging a priority of needs.

Director Light thanked the candidates for their outstanding goal of both expertise and passion toward the students and toward making the district better. Light encouraged the candidates to remain involved in the school district and in the community.

Director Kohl echoed Director Light's comment and added that he truly appreciated all of their input, causing him to give thought on how he could be a better board member. He stated that each candidate possessed a great deal of qualifications.

Director De Graff thanked the candidates for their thoughtful answers. She found strengths for each candidate and was impressed with their breadth of experience and passion about being involved.

Chair Mason expressed her appreciation to the candidates for the time they had taken out of their busy lives to submit their applications and in showing their willingness to serve. She commented that she truly resonated with many of the candidates' comments.

The Board felt it was an incredibly challenging process of narrowing down the chosen candidates, as they each had such thoughtful answers. It was noted, they felt they could hardly go wrong having that perspective, expertise and knowledge added to the board. Due to the appointment a short term, so having someone with a familiarity of the operation was of importance.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENT

Chair Mason asked the Board members to cast their votes for each of the nominees.

APPOINTMENT: The Board voted 3:0, in favor of Heather Quaas-Annsa for position 2 on the Board of Directors.

Heather Quaas-Annsa was officially appointed to fill Position 2 on the Board of Directors until June 30, 2025.

The Board thanked the candidates for their community involvement and discussed the impact of their efforts within the schools and within the community.

7. NEXT MEETINGS

September 9, 2024 - Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

September 23, 2024 - Board Work Session at 5:30 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Mason adjourned the work session at 7:47 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)