

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 19, 2024

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, August 19, 2024 in person at the SLIS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Paul Aldridge, Courtney Holmes and Kelly VanderHoek. Absent: Bruce Callen

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRESENTATION**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of July 29, 2024, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### **ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRINTED AGENDA**

A change to item 8A under Discussion Items on the agenda, Policy 3131 was added in error, the policy is removed from the agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eric Brown – 15 Circle Drive, Fruitport – Mr. Brown brought concerns to the Board regarding the current Advanced Placement (AP) weight system at Spring Lake High School (SLHS). He stated that curriculum for AP courses is set by the College Board independent of the school. Mr. Brown commented that an AP class is an AP class, however, an AP class at SLHS carries 33% more weight for the student grade point average than it does for the same Michigan Virtual High School (MVHS) AP class. This discrepancy between the AP courses has not been explained in the student handbook. Mr. Brown does not have a solution, but wanted the Board to be aware of the discrepancy and to work towards a solution.

Crystal Brown - 15 Circle Drive, Fruitport – Ms. Brown spoke regarding Spring Lake High School's current AP course weight system. She stated that a Michigan Virtual High School employee informed her that MVHS does not grant credit for their courses, the local school district grants credits. Ms. Brown provided that the SLHS school student handbook did not expressly distinguish between virtual and in person classes and credits granted for each. Ms. Brown expressed concern regarding the matter because an extra half credit does make a difference when colleges are considering students.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

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- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – totaling \$1,285,162
- Payroll – totaling \$2,387,708

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**ACTION ITEMS**

**NEW HIRES**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve the following new hires as presented:

Nathan Manske ..... Door Security ..... High School  
Emily Louange ..... SXI Nurse ..... Holmes Elementary  
Katie Sullivan ..... Media Parapro ..... High School  
Kate Hedrick ..... Media Specialist ..... High School  
Mackenzie Anderson ..... Bus Aide ..... Jeffers Elementary

Mr. Furton provided brief background information on the new hires. He noted the High School Door Security position is a temporary position due to the temporary construction entrance.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous; Paul Aldridge abstained from voting

**RESIGNATIONS**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve the resignations of Jeannine Buhr, SXI Nurse at Holmes Elementary, Jennifer Gwinnup, High School Art teacher, and Shelley Peets, Jeffers Elementary Principal, as presented.

Dennis Furton provided details on the resignations and noted they all would be missed!

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**FALL COACHING ASSIGNMENTS**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the Fall Coaching Assignments as presented.

Mr. Furton noted that there are still 2 unfilled positions, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball B team and the strength coach.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**BUS PURCHASES**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve the purchase of four (4) 2025 Conventional IC CE 77 passenger buses from Midwest Transit Equipment at a purchase price of \$134,277.31 each for a total purchase of \$537,109.44 as presented.

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Mr. Furton noted that this is a bond purchase. Ms. Boeve also clarified that Bradyn Juhas, transportation director, recommended purchasing all 4 busses due to increasing costs and lead times to receive the new buses. These will replace 4 older buses that have engines that are no longer made, making parts difficult to procure.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### FAC FAMILY POOL MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve the FAC Family Pool Maintenance Project in the amount of \$168,574, as presented.

Ms. Boeve explained that in February of 2023 Counsilman-Hunsucker & Associates was hired to complete an analysis of the FAC competitive pool and family pool. The results of this analysis were used to assemble a 10 year capital projects plan. The budget for this plan came in under the expected \$200,000 at \$168,000. Ms. Boeve also stated that due to the difficulty in working with pool contractors, OAK was asked to oversee the project. The monies will be paid out of the Capital Projects Fund. Projects to begin September 3, 2024.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### CREW BUILDING PROJECT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to authorize the superintendent and/or his designee to approve the addition of a boathouse as proposed, contingent upon continued oversight of the project by District administration.

Mr. Furton explained Mr. Paul Winter approached the district regarding the possibility of using private funds to erect a boathouse for the Crew Team to house their boats. The structure will be constructed to the east of Grabinski Field.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### FOOD SERVICE COMBI OVEN

Curt Theune moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the SLPS Food Service Department to purchase a two (2) Combi Pro 6-Full Size double stacked Rational Combi Oven in the amount of \$44,622.35 from Merchandise Equipment & Supply, Inc. as presented.

Ms. Boeve stated the Combi oven currently in use in the middle school kitchen is over 20 years old. The oven is used for all food preparation, however, only the upper oven was functioning during the last school year. Ms. Boeve indicated repair costs have increased significantly. The oven is to be funded out of the Food Service Fund.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### POLICY APPROVAL

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Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve policy numbers 1240, 2410, 2414, 2418, 3220, 6320, 6321, 6325, 6350, 6520, 8390, and 8800 as presented.

Mr. Furton indicated the first read of these policies occurred at last month's meeting and approval was recommended by the Policy Committee.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DUTCH STUDENT EXCHANGE TRAVEL APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chis Beck, to approve the Dutch Student Exchange trip for June of 2025 as presented.

Ada Feasby and Abigail Weis, students at SLHS and Dutch Student Exchange Travel Program participants both spoke about their experiences with the Dutch Student Exchange Travel Program and the impact made on their lives.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan as presented.

Dennis Furton, superintendent, gave an overview of the district Strategic Plan for 2024-2029.

Questions and comments from the Board followed.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

POLICY FIRST READINGS

Mr. Furton provided a high-level overview of the following policy changes:

- Policy 0122 – Board Powers – Taking items previously prohibited subjects of bargaining and striking them as they are no longer board powered items.
- Policy 1420 – School Administrator Evaluation – Requires board approval
- Policy 3120 – Employment of Professional Staff – Changes with wording and comma placement
- Policy 3142 – Probationary Teachers – Brings policy into alignment with current law
- Policy 3220 – Professional Staff Evaluation – Required board approval

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – Nothing to report
- Personnel
  - Aaron Zuelke, middle school art teacher, requested transfer to the vacant high school art position. A candidate for the middle school art position is expected to be hired in the next day or two.
  - The open special education position at the intermediate school has been offered to one of the three interviewed candidates.
  - Chad Wahlberg has indicated that he is retiring after the first trimester of this school year, though he has not made that official;
  - The principal position at Jeffers Elementary will be posted on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Furton anticipates qualified applicants both internally and externally. He is confident we will fill the position this fall. A permanent principal is anticipated versus interim principal.
- Recognition
  - Gail Brye, Brent Gustafson, Sue Theune, and Jennifer Thompson were recognized for their efforts to continue to improve our FMX system.
  - Our operations team, led by Liz Boeve, Marian Karell, Bradyn Juhas, and Maggie Cook for an outstanding job getting the district ready for the school year.
  - David Theune for his work on our website and app.
- Calendar/Events:
  - August 20 – Class of 1965 anniversary luncheon
  - August 21 – Welcome Back for all staff at 7:30 am
  - August 21 & 22 – Staff PD
  - August 26 – First day of school, half day
  - August 30 – September 2 – Labor Day Weekend/No School
  - September 17 – 20 – Mr. Furton will be at the MASA Fall Conference

**UPCOMING MEETING**

- Regular Board Meeting – September 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

**ADJOURNMENT**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Courtney Holmes, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Board Secretary