

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No.19 Board of Education was held on September 9, 2024.

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

Board Chair Kelly Mason 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 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 Kelly Mason, Board Vice Chair Nicole De Graff, Director Ken Kohl, Director Jonathan Light and Director Heather Quaas-Annsa.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Dustin Reese, Brett Yancey, Martie Steigleder, Brian Richardson, Jeff Michna, Kristen Noor, David Willis, Craig Annsa, Wayne Waas, Laura Waas, Jose da Silva, Sarah Bosch, Hollea Puzio, Aspen Hickman, Ame Beard, Jody Barnhart, Marion Malcolm, Jonathon Gault, Terry Smeltzer, Andy Price, Troy Barnhart, Melissa Locke, Joan Bolls, Sasha Chang.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Mason asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2024 agenda as presented.

MOTION: Director De Graff moved, seconded by Director Kohl, to approve the September 9, 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 September 9, 2024 agenda as presented: Director Quaas-Annsa – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff– Yes, Director Light – Yes and Chair Mason– Yes.

Motion passed, 5:0.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Oath of Office

Todd Hamilton

Superintendent Todd Hamilton administered the oath of office to Heather Quaas-Annsa for position 2, a ten-month term of office on the Springfield Public School Board.

B. Honor Dr. Emilio Hernandez

Todd Hamilton

Superintendent Todd Hamilton praised Dr. Hernandez for his dedication and leadership over the past seven years. Dr. Hernandez was recognized for his commitment to equity, inclusion and supporting students during challenging times, such as the Pandemic and the Holiday Farm fire.

A gift was presented to Dr. Hernandez's family in recognition of his service.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Mason shared: 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 2:00pm. Those who requested an opportunity to speak this evening were notified by the board secretary about their request.

Time permitting, the board may also hear public comment from individuals who signed up in person at the Administration Office before the meeting. 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.

— Volunteer Springfield Communications Director David Willis, thanked the Board for their efforts and presented a gift of pears harvested by church volunteers.

— Springfield student parent Terry Smeltzer, shared concerns regarding the accuracy of school supply lists and suggested improvements moving forward.

— Springfield student Aspen Hickman, returned to raise awareness regarding bullying and gun violence.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

1. August 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
2. August 26, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes
3. Financial Statement, Resolution #24-25.005
4. Personnel Report, Resolution #24-25.002

Brett Yancey
Dustin Reese

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, Director Light seconded the motion to approve the consent Agenda.

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 Consent Agenda: Director Quaas-Annsa – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Chair Mason – Yes and Director De Graff – Yes.

Motion passed, 5:0.

B. School Board Representation, Agencies & Civic Organizations

Chair Mason

The Board discussed school board representation for agencies and civic organizations. Chair Mason discussed the interests of board members serving on various boards and committees.

- Director De Graff agreed to continue serving on the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF).

- Director Kohl expressed interest in continuing to serve on the board of Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) as well as volunteered to serve on the Audit Committee.
- Director Light mentioned that he would be interested in serving on the Wildish Theatre Board.
- The Board discussed filling the vacancy on the Wildish Theater Board and potential representation on the Lane Educational School District (ESD).

B. Alternative Education Program, Resolution #24-25.003

Brian Megert

It is recommended the Board approve the following in-district programs and private contractors for alternative education services for the 2024-2025 academic year.

MOTION: Director De Graff moved, Chair Mason seconded the motion to approve the following in-district programs and private contractors for alternative education services for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Chair Mason asked if there was any discussion.

Board members held a discussion on:

- The approval process for contracted service providers and the evaluation of those programs.
- Brian Megert expounded upon the approval process for contracted service providers and the evaluation of those programs.
- The approval of Bridgeway's inclusion in the resolution, despite a pending fire marshal inspection at Camp Creek.
- The options provided to the Board included passing the resolution as presented, with a delay until the next meeting, or excluding Bridgeway.
- The Board's approval would allow for formalizing contracts with the organizations, allowing for the same assurances as the evaluation process.
- The Board discussed the long-standing partnership with Bridgeway and the need to acknowledge all processes once the fire marshal approval is in place.

Superintendent Hamilton stated they would return to provide an update to the Board, once all processes had been completed.

Chair Mason called for a roll call vote. Chair Mason asked each Board member to indicate if they approve the following in-district programs and private contractors for alternative education services for the 2024-2025 academic year: Director Quaas-Annsa – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Chair Mason – Yes, and Director De Graff – Yes.

Motion passed, 5:0.

C. Approve Bus Purchase, Resolution #24-25.004

Brett Yancey

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the purchase of Four (4) Type 20, Ford Transit activity buses with a total purchase cost of \$509,313.90, and three (3) Blue Bird Vision Conventional, 40 passenger, special needs buses with a total purchase cost of \$655,500. The total purchase cost of all buses is \$1,164,813.90. This purchase is being executed through the Salem-Keizer Cooperative RFP process.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, Director Quaas-Annsa seconded the motion to approve the purchase of Four (4) Type 20, Ford Transit activity buses with a total purchase cost of \$509,313.90, and three (3) Blue Bird Vision Conventional, 40 passenger, special needs buses with a total purchase cost of \$655,500. The total purchase cost of all buses is \$1,164,813.90. This purchase is being executed through the Salem-Keizer Cooperative RFP process.

Chair Mason asked if there was any discussion.

- Brett Yancy reminded the Board that the \$1,164,813.90 had been approved and funded through reimbursable state funds and would not impact the general operating fund.
- There is a demand for transportation, even though the overall student enrollment is decreasing.
- The District will take delivery of the new school buses in 9-10 months and quickly get them deployed on routes.
- A new Bus Replacement Strategy was discussed.
- The Board inquired of the logistics of transporting new busses from Georgia, including the involvement of district staff in the process.

Chair Mason called for a roll call vote. Chair Mason asked each Board member to indicate if they approve the purchase of Four (4) Type 20, Ford Transit activity buses with a total purchase cost of \$509,313.90, and three (3) Blue Bird Vision Conventional, 40 passenger, special needs buses with a total purchase cost of \$655,500. The total purchase cost of all buses is \$1,164,813.90. This purchase is being executed through the Salem-Keizer Cooperative RFP process: Director Quaas-Annsa – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Chair Mason – Yes, and Director De Graff – Yes.

Motion passed, 5:0.

6. Discussion

A. Board Policy Updates

Superintendent Hamilton

Superintendent Hamilton introduced the board policy updates and explained the process of a comprehensive desk rewrite with the Oregon School Board Association.

- An explanation of the policy review process, including legislative changes, state board of education updates, and best practices was provided.

- The board will review the policies in sections, beginning with administration, and will provide opportunities for public input and board feedback.
- No action is needed on a first reading. Announcements will be placed on the school district's website.

The Board reviewed the comprehensive policy update process, with a goal to complete all policy updates by February, ensuring clean policies for the 2025-2026 school year.

7. Reports and Information

A. Learning and Engagement Programs

Melissa Locke

Federal Programs and Grants Coordinator, Melissa Locke shared highlights on summer learning and Springfield Public Schools (SPS).

- The summer of 2024, SPS served 1,836 students in grades pre-K through 12, across various programs, with funding from multiple sources including Esser funds, State Summer Learning grants, and 21st Century grant funds.
- The success and expansion of summer programming along with the need for continued funding was emphasized.
- Through translations, phone calls, and coordinated outreach, efforts were improved to recruit students. Programs included special education teachers, behavior support staff, mental health supports, English Language Development standards (ELD) supports health aides, and bilingual emergency alert system (EAS). The success of the programs, KITS, especially Spark and Strong Start and the High School Credit Recovery programs were discussed.
- Community Partners included Willamalane, Lane Arts Council, Springfield Library, Connected Lane County, and the Decision Education Foundation.
- Concerns about funding replacement for Esser funds were raised, with a strategy to be discussed during the upcoming budget process.
- Program impacts and recruitment were measured through surveys, pre and post-assessments, staff testimonials, advertising including social media, flyers and targeted outreach, and counselor recommendations with additional efforts by special education teachers and family resource coordinators.

B. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Hamilton

Superintendent Hamilton shared:

- The implementation of HVAC projects over the summer successfully placed air conditioning in all Springfield schools.
- All Esser funded projects are on track and on budget.
- The importance of community engagement and the district's readiness for the school year was emphasized.
- The dedication of operations and facilities crews were praised, with a focus on the behind-the-scenes work that supports teaching and learning.
- The district's forward-thinking approach and commitment to student success were highlighted.

- Extreme weather had caused issues with freezers and refrigerators, necessitating the redirection of technicians.
- Board conversation emphasized the need for clear communication to manage expectations and keep everyone informed.
- Summer programming had wrapped up. Students were being registered for the new school year.
- Student enrollment is being tracked and the final numbers will be reported to the board once they are available.
- An emphasis on the importance of safe and healthy spaces throughout the entire year for students and staff.
- Agnes Stewart Middle School will receive their chiller on September 26th.
- Encouraged all to continue with their involvement and excitement for the new school year.

C. Board Communication and Comments

Chair Mason

Chair Mason wished all a safe and good first week back at school. She appreciated the public comment from the student. Mason was pleased that Springfield Public Schools had participated in the block party. She wished to publicly thank Emilio Hernandez for his service and for everything he had done for her and for the board as a whole.

Director De Graff announced that the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) fundraiser Night of 11,000 Stars gala will be held on October 19th. Five days remain to buy tickets.

Director Light shared that he was excited and looked forward to another school year. He encouraged any who could, to make time to attend the school's open houses. Light expressed his appreciation for Emilio Hernandez's contribution to the students and to the community.

Director Kohl did not have anything to share.

Director Quaas-Annsa shared that her kids and herself were excited that school is back in session, crediting the faculty for making a difference with the students.

8. NEXT MEETINGS

September 23, 2024 – Work Session at 5:30 PM

October 14, 2024 – Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

Chair Mason thanked everyone for attending.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Mason adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan (LCOG)