

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 20, 2025

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 20, 2025, in person at the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Paul Aldridge, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Courtney Holmes, Kelly VanderHoek and Dustin Brown. Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Board Appreciation Month, i.e. “Pie Month”. Dennis Furton, Superintendent, presented pies to the Board and expressed appreciation for their dedication and care for students and staff.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Paul Aldridge moved, supported by Chris Beck, to suspend the rules and present a slate of officers.

Paul Aldridge nominated the following officers:

- Jennifer Nicles – President
- Kelly VanderHoek – Vice President
- Chris Beck – Treasurer
- Curt Theune – Secretary

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Identify the District’s legal status and District’s official name – The School District Legal Reference Note reflects the Board member terms.
- Check Signature Authorization and Investment Accounts.
- Establish 2025 Meeting Dates – Regular Board Meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of each month with a start time of **6:00 pm** for the balance of the 2025 meeting schedule. All will be held in the SLIS/SLMS Media Center, 345 Hammond St. unless noted otherwise.

February 17, 2025	August 18, 2025
March 17, 2025	September 15, 2025
April 21, 2025	October 20, 2025
May 19, 2025	November 17, 2025
June 16, 2025	December 15, 2025
July 21, 2025	January 19, 2026

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Jennifer Nicles provided committee assignments have been determined and noted two name changes: Athletics will change to Student Activities and Finance will change to Finance and Property.

SLPS BOARD OF EDUCATION CODE OF CONDUCT

Jennifer Nicles noted this is reviewed and signed by the Board members on an annual basis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of December 15, 2024 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Obits, 740 Winter St, SL– asked the Board to consider livestreaming meetings.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. totaling \$2,862,956.
- Payroll – totaling \$2,656,583.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve and adopt the 2024-25 General Appropriation Resolution Amendment as presented.

Dennis Furton, Superintendent, provided that the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting to review the amendment in detail.

Scott Powers, CFO, provided details on the revenue and expenditure assumptions in the amended 2024-2025 budget. He touched on the following highlights:

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- Original budget adopted in June was built on assumptions as fall enrollment and state aid were unknown at that time and before union contracts were settled
- Original budget for 2024-25 projected \$37 million in revenues and \$38 million of assumed expenditures
- Noted the changes are not significant and are just under \$300,000
- Administration believes this to be a conservative representation of the budget at the mid-point of the fiscal year
- Enrollment is down 25 students from the original projection
- Administration is looking at ways to market the district to increase pupil enrollment

Chris Beck provided that the drivers of the change were the difference in pupil enrollment, state per pupil allowance aid, settlement of union contracts and student device expenditure originally paid out of bond funds now being paid out of the general fund.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

NEW HIRE

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the hiring of Courtney Wyant to fill the vacant GSRP Parapro position at Holmes Elementary as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

BID AWARD FOR HS OFFICE & FIELDHOUSE AUDIO/VIDEO & SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS

Curt Theune moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the bid award for AV and Security Systems for the HS Office and Fieldhouse to Town & Country Group for a total project cost not to exceed \$169,457.33 as presented.

Brent Gustafson, Technology Coordinator, provided the details of the items addressed in the bid, all relating to audio/video system, security cameras, and related systems, for the new Fieldhouse and HS Office spaces. He indicated the district has experience working with Town and Country and feels this is a great opportunity to move forward with them.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

CURRICULUM APPROVAL – 5 HS COURSES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the addition of the following five elective course offerings at the High School, all beginning with the 2025-26 school year: Business Management and Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Business Computer Applications, Marketing, and Introduction to Fitness as presented.

Board questions were answered by Kate Drake, Curriculum Director.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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POLICY APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve policy #s 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7440.03, 7540.09, and 8321.

Mr. Furton noted that the first reading for these polices was last month, that they are largely new policies required by law, and provided a brief review of the policies presented.

Questions from the Board were answered by Mr. Furton.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

MAY 6 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the May 6, 2025 Special Election Resolution as presented.

Scott Powers provided that this proposal is brought to voters every two years for tax on non-homestead property. The proposal would allow the district to levy 18.4894 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law. This includes the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills and an increase of .4894 mil only available to be levied to restore millage lost if property values exceed inflation rates as required by the “Headlee” amendment. If approved, this proposal allows the district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance. If this proposal is not approved by voters, it would be a revenue loss of \$4,660,000.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tina Koratich, 16789 Bridlepath, SL – thanked Mr. Furton for calling a snow day and stated that the community at large would appreciate more transparency on how school closures and athletic cancellations are determined and what factors are considered in making those determinations.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – There were 9 lame duck bills withheld from being presented to the Governor for approval, including house bill 6058 regarding PA 152, which revised health insurance hard caps. This will be something to keep an eye on.
- Personnel – Nothing to report.
- One Pass at FAC – An agreement has been reached for a new contract with Optum, part of Priority Health, to continue the One Pass benefit retroactive to January 1 and continuing through December 2025. It was noted it may be a challenge to negotiate a new contract for 2026 due to an expected increase to FAC membership fees in the near future.

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- Calendar/Events –
 - February 6, 3:00-5:00 pm: Staff Happy Hour @ TEDs
 - February 10-11: Mid-Winter Break
 - February 25-February 28: The Pool (WMHIP) Winter Retreat

Courtney Holmes inquired if there was a dedicated lobbyist for the district, and Mr. Furton provided there is a partnership between Muskegon, Kent & Ottawa districts with one representative for all.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – February 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

CLOSED SESSION – NEGOTIATIONS

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to move to closed session.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board went into closed session at 6:36 p.m.

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to return to open session.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board returned to open session at 7:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Thune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary