

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 17, 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, Kelly VanderHoek, Curt Theune, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Paul Aldridge, Courtney Holmes and Dustin Brown. Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION – ENROLLMENT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

David Theune, Director of Communications, provided a presentation regarding the Enrollment Communications Plan that included the following:

- Desire to hit the ideal number by lifting enrollment to 2450
- Understanding the obstacles such as decreasing birth rates in Ottawa County and expensive real estate in Spring Lake
- Building the community bridge, enhancing enrolment awareness, and engaging in district listening by
 - Messages out to preschool directors inviting them to a community meeting geared towards preschool parents
 - GH Tribune community columnist each month with the focus on enrollment and schools of choice application
 - Enhancing enrollment awareness through social media advertisements March-May
 - Using temporary banners during open enrollment high season
 - Website overhaul to clarify enrollment language and add an FAQ tab
 - Exit surveys to parents to understand why families are leaving and where they are going
 - Implementing school tours at all buildings
 - Extending reach of schools of choice in an effort to get more applications

The presentation followed with questions and suggestions from the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of January 20, 2025 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Joanne Koratich, 16789 Bridlepath Ct, SL – expressed her appreciation for the Math Counts program for Middle School students. She congratulated the SL middle school team for their recent 1st place finish in a competition and praised Kelli Adrian for her leadership. She would like to see the program expanded to 6th graders and the institution of an American Mathematics Competition opportunity for students in grades 8, 10 and 12. She asked that these state competitions be given the same kind of attention that state athletes receive and asked about the possibility of a drum line send off for Middle School students.

Travis Young, 16909 Birchview Ct, SL – commented about the Lakeshore Little League program, the declining availability of baseball diamonds in the area and the difficulty seeking use of district fields and facilities for the program and other youth sports. He would like to see a growth plan be developed for the use of district space by community parents/coaches supporting youth programs.

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 \$1,368,728
- Payroll – totaling \$3,956,808

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

NEW HIRES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve the hiring of the following:

Stephanie Bannink	IRR Parapro	Holmes Elementary
Jessica Dyball	Instructional Parapro.....	Holmes Elementary
Jamie Swears	Playground Parapro.....	Jeffers Elementary
Reagan Sidor.....	Playground Parapro.....	Jeffers Elementary

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

BOND AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Bonds in the principal amount not to exceed \$24,900,000 as presented.

Mr. Furton provided details on the bond sale, which follows the planned schedule, and that the funds will be put into an interest-bearing account until needed.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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SUMMER TAX COLLECTION FEES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the agreements with Crockery and Spring Lake Township for the collection of 2025 summer taxes at the rate of \$2.90 and \$3.05, respectively, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Obits 740 Winters St, SL – commented on the protection of rights of immigrant students and wanted to be sure the district received the information recently sent out by the ACLU and MIRC regarding same. She provided a copy to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – Not a lot happening at the state level, most of the focus is on ESTA and the minimum/tipped wage. The tuition tax credit is one thing to keep an eye on at the federal level.
- Immigration – The district has utilized the services of school law specialists in Michigan in preparation of an ICE visit, albeit unlikely. The necessary information and instructions have been shared with each school building.
- Personnel – Nothing to report.
- 2025-26 Calendar – The final negotiated calendar was provided to the Board consisting of 177 days of instruction, 17 early release days and 7 half days.
- Superlatives – shout outs to the following:
 - The team who spearheaded the recent Unified Sports event and upcoming polar plunge event including Tanya Mey, Mike Rotman, Ashley Reynolds and Amy Kendall
 - Dr. Dewitt for instituting a breakfast club for Jeffers staff
 - Ben Armey, Tony Bush, and JT Hogan for allowing HS students to role model for elementary students
 - Amy Kendall for being a calming presence in recent tense situations around special education issues
 - Tony Bush, Mike Feasby and Trevor Johnson for their efforts Improving the district's crisis response plan
- Calendar/Events –
 - February 25-February 28: The Pool (WMHIP) Winter Retreat
 - March 14, 2:00 p.m. – Board Work Session
 - March 17-19 – Dennis out of the district

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Work Session – March 14, 2025, 2:00 p.m., MS Conference Room
- Regular Board Meeting – March 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

CLOSED SESSION – STUDENT DISCIPLINE HEARING

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board went into closed session at 6:51 p.m.

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board returned to open session at 7:17 p.m.

ACTION ITEM – STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, for a long-term suspension of 180 days from Spring Lake High School for the student.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary