

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A Work Session of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on April 14, 2025.

Attendance:

Board Members in attendance included Board Chair Nicole De Graff, Vice Chair Heather Quaas-Annsa, 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, Joyce Johnson, Joan Bolls, Linda Merritt, and Patrick Walch.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Nicole De Graff called the Springfield Board of Education Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. REVIEW PROCESS FOR CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Chair De Graff

Chair De Graff provided a brief overview of the interview process to fill the mid-term Budget Committee, Position 4 vacancy. This position will expire December 31, 2026. A decision and appointment was made during the Springfield School Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. later that evening.

3. INTERVIEW CANDIDATES

School Board

Applicants Linda Merritt and Patrick Walch were present to take turns in answering the same six questions posed by the Board. The Board concluded by answering the applicants varied questions regarding budget strategy, decision-making data, budget challenges, and state funding.

A. Linda Merritt

Merritt, although lacking school committee experience, stressed her understanding of fiscal management's impact on an organization's success and highlighted her commitment to the District's future success.

B. Lindsey Green withdrew from the board position vacancy.

C. Candra Robinson withdrew from the board position vacancy.

D. Patrick Walch

Walch highlighted his varied and extensive experience in finance and passion for education. He discussed his community involvement and emphasized the importance of holistic education and community engagement through personal stories.

Both candidates discussed their strategies for handling differing opinions on the committee and ensuring effective representation.

4. DEBRIEF INTERVIEWS

Chair De Graff

The remainder of the meeting was set aside for the Board to deliberate on the appointment of a new member. Those present were invited to stay. Board members expressed difficulty in making a decision between the two very impressive and qualified candidates.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair De Graff

Having no further business to conduct, Chair De Graff adjourned the work session at 6:08 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)