

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on February 10, 2025.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Nicole De Graff called the Springfield Board of Education special meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

- A. Chair Nicole De Graff led the Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Director Kohl shared 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 prevent the erasure of Native culture, heritage, and people and to ensure a quality contemporary education for future generations.

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, Dustin Reese, Whitney McKinley, Martie Steigleder, Brian Richardson, Andy Price, Lesa Haley, Kimberlee Pelster, Greg Crawford, Lonnie Usrey, Jeff Michna, Mindy LeRoux, Joyce Smith-Johnson, Sefiu Ballam, Ivy Barr, Heather Gray, Amber Langworthy, and Michael Alvarado.

2. Review Process for Candidate Interviews

Chair De Graff

Chair De Graff explained the selection process involved in choosing a community member to fill the mid-term vacant Board Position 5 seat. This position will serve through June 30, 2025. Candidates were supplied with the same five questions prior to the meeting. Five eligible

applicants were present for the interview process and were divided into two panels. The interview process involved rotating the same five questions between the candidates and providing equal time for the candidates to respond.

Following the candidate interviews, the Board will discuss any candidates and/or answers given that stood out to them. If the Board agrees upon a particular candidate and their given answers, and that they believe would be a good choice for the position, the Board will nominate and vote in that candidate to fill the mid-term vacant Board Position 5 seat.

3. Interview Candidates

Vice Chair Quaas-Annsa

Each of the five candidates were asked the same five questions and given equal time to respond.

Candidate Panel 1) Heather Gray and Sefiu Ballam

Candidate Panel 2) Amber Langworthy, Michael Alvarado, and Ivy Barr

1. How would you describe your approach to interacting with others, and how would you contribute to the team, as a board member, for the remainder of the term?
2. How would you balance representing the interests of multiple perspectives or constituents? Please provide an example of how you have done this in the past.
3. How would you navigate a difficult conversation or address a challenging topic when you disagree with a fellow board member?
4. Given the short-term nature of this appointment, how would you quickly become a contributing member and make informed, student-centered decisions? What would you need from us or staff to support you?
5. What are your long-term interests in being a Springfield Public School board member?

5:52 p.m. ————— Break ————— 5:58 p.m.

4. Debrief Interviews

Chair De Graff

Board members were encouraged to focus on strengths and potential contributions of the top candidates. Each member was asked to state which candidates stood out to them.

Director Kohl mentioned two candidates. He felt that Heather Gray could hit the ground running and already possessed a fair amount of board experience. Michael Alvarado, he believed would be able to come in and make good use of the short time available to him.

Director Quaas-Annsa commented that given the short term of office, the candidates selected would need to have experience and be able to jump right in. She noted that Heather Gray and Michael Alvarado stood out because of their previous board experience.

Director Light felt they could not go wrong with either candidate, noting the positive aspects of each candidate, however he commented that Amber Langworthy and Michael Alvarado stood out because of their previous board experience, as well as their experience within the business community.

Chair De Graff stated the two who stood out to her were Amber Langworthy and Heather Gray, due to shared perspectives and values, including an appreciation for their insights and experience.

The Board was scheduled to vote for the mid-term vacant Board Position 5 seat during the 7:00 p.m. Springfield Public School Board meeting, to begin later that evening following the recess.

5. Next Meetings:

February 13, 2025 – Budget Committee/Work Session Meeting at 6:00 PM

February 24, 2025 - Board Work Session at 5:30 PM

The Board recessed at 6:03 p.m. and planned to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for the Springfield Public School Board of Directors meeting.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)