

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2025

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025 in person at the SLIS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Paul Aldridge, Courtney Holmes and Dustin Brown. Absent: Curt Theune

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to Curt Theune's absence, Jennifer Nicles appointed Paul Aldridge as acting secretary for the meeting.

### **PRESENTATION**

West Michigan Design Prize Challenge – Kelli Adrian, Middle School Math teacher and the advisor for this challenge, presented this is a 12-week student design-thinking competition that provides hands-on, real-world learning experience that fosters problem solving. The focus of the challenge is how might students improve social connections within our school to support wellbeing and a sense of belonging. Middle School participants, consisting of one 8<sup>th</sup> grade student group and one 7<sup>th</sup> grade student group, provided the following to the Board:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade group presented their ideas on a lunch room redesign to make it a more inclusive environment for students by utilizing various table shapes and sizes. They believe this will improve student social interaction during lunch. They provided their ideas on how to raise the funds for the project that includes grant writing and fundraisers that have a lunch theme.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade group presented their ideas for a Laker Lounge remodel to make it a space that is cozy and inviting and that students will want to use after school or on early dismissal days. The idea includes using a mixture of lower tables and comfortable seating for playing games, doing homework or socializing with friends. They also suggested adding a vending machine and outlets/chargers for devices.

Questions from the Board were answered by both groups and Ms. Adrian.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2025 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### **ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRINTED AGENDA**

Add as item C under action items: Approval of retirement of Tricia Ryther, Special Education teacher at Jeffers elementary.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2025 Cont.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – totaling \$1,451,282.
- Payroll – totaling \$3,224,483.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**ACTION ITEMS**

**SL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER & COMMONS FURNITURE BID AWARDS**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve bid awards for the HS Media Center and Commons furniture to Custer Office Furniture, Interphase Interiors and Great Lakes Furniture for a total cost not to exceed \$308,051.37 as presented.

Liz Boeve, Director of Operations, provided the details of the bid process, which included 16 bid categories for furnishings for the high school Media Center and Commons areas. 13 of the categories were bid publicly with the other 3 being fulfilled with government contract bids. These three recommended vendors were the lowest bidders in their categories. The total cost, including contingency, came in \$45,000 less than anticipated. These projects are expected to be completed during Spring Break with the Media Center and Commons available for use when staff and students return after the break.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**POLICY APPROVAL**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve policy #s 1422, 1422.02, 1623, 1662, 2210, 2260, 2260.01, 2264, 2266, 2412, 3122, 3122.02, 3123, 3362, 4122, 4122.02, 4123, 4162, 4362, 5517.01, 7540.02, 7541, 8300, and 8305 as presented.

Mr. Furton provided that these policies were first read last month and are being sought for approval this month with no questions brought by the Board.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2025 Cont.**

**RETIREMENT**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, support by Chris Beck, to approve, with regrets, the retirement of Tricia Ryther, Special Education teacher, effective January 16, 2026 as presented.

Dennis Furton provided the details behind this mid-year retirement and that the position will be filled with a long-term sub or subs for the remainder of this school year. The fulltime position will then be posted in the spring.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – None
- Personnel – As mentioned earlier, Tricia Ryther’s vacancy will be filled with a long-term sub for the balance of this school year then posted in the spring.
- Central Office Holiday Hours – Open December 22, 23, 29, and 30 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon each day.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Organizational Board Meeting – January 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m.; IS/MS Media Center

**CLOSED SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION & PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to move to closed session at 6:32 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to return to open session at 8:39 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2025 Cont.

**ACTION ITEM**

**ADOPT COMPLETED YEAR-END EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to adopt the completed year-end superintendent evaluation.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**ADJOURNMENT**

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Board Secretary