

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2026

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Monday, January 26, 2026, in person at the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Paul Aldridge, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Courtney Holmes, and Dustin Brown. Absent: Kelly VanderHoek

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Board Appreciation Month. Dennis Furton, Superintendent, expressed appreciation for the Board members service and dedication to the district's students and staff.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Paul Aldridge moved, supported by Chris Beck, to present a slate of officers.

Paul Aldridge nominated the following officers:

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

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.
- Account Signature Authorizations
- Establish 2026 Meeting Dates – Regular Board Meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of each month with a start time of 6:00 pm, unless otherwise noted. All are scheduled to be held in the SLIS/SLMS Media Center, 345 Hammond St., Spring Lake.

February 16, 2026	August 17, 2026
March 16, 2026	September 21, 2026
April 20, 2026	October 19, 2026
May 18, 2026	November 16, 2026
June 15, 2026	December 14, 2026 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday
July 20, 2026	January 18, 2027

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2026 (Cont.)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Jennifer Nicles provided that the 2026 committee assignments have been determined with no changes from the 2025 assignments.

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

Paul Aldridge moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of December 15, 2025 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Obits, 740 Winter St, SL – provided details on the Soul Box Project, which is a nationwide initiative to spread awareness of gun violence, coming to Grand Haven. She stated that the event is open to the public and the display will be available for viewing January 31 through February 14.

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 \$634,818.
- Payroll – totaling \$2,809,956.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve and adopt the 2025-26 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.

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2026 (Cont.)

Brad VanDeVusse, Assistant CFO, provided details on the revenue and expenditure assumptions in the amended 2025-2026 budget. He noted that overall there is positive traction for the budget since approved in June of 2025.

### Highlights:

- Original budget adopted in June was built on assumptions as fall enrollment and state aid were unknown at that time
- Original budget for 2025-26 projected \$37,238,800 in revenues and \$37,680,500 of assumed expenditures, resulting in a \$441,700 use of fund balance. With the new State budget now passed and enrollment known, the amended budget projects \$38,794,200 in revenues which is a \$1,555,400 increase, and \$38,667,100 in expenditures, which is a \$986,000 increase.
- Reasons for the increases to both revenues and expenditures were noted as follows:
  - Student enrollment is up slightly, 2,304 versus 2,300 from the original projection
  - The majority of the increased revenues received from the State are restricted to be used as one-time contributions to continue decreasing the state's unfunded portion of the pension program and to increase educator compensation
  - Revised expenditures estimate is down from original budget due to savings from SLPS staff retirements/replacements, less than expected contracted custodial costs for the LAC/HS office addition, and less than expected curricular costs
  - A portion of those budgeted savings will be transferred to the Capital Project Fund to be used for identified future capital needs
- The amended budget now calls for a \$127,000 addition to the fund balance, which would put the fund balance at 18.9%
- This is a conservative representation of the budget at the mid-point of the fiscal year

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### ACTION ITEMS

#### NEW HIRE

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the hiring of Stacey Plott to fill the teaching vacancy at Jeffers Elementary for the balance of the 2025-26 school year left by the retirement of Tricia Ryther as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

#### RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve with regrets the resignation of Kathy VanderMeulen, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, effective June 5, 2026 as presented. Ms. VanderMeulen intends to retire at the end of the school year. She has been with the district since 1996 and will be greatly missed by students, staff and parents. The teaching position will be posted sometime in the spring.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2026 (Cont.)**

**BOND BID PACKAGE 04 APPROVAL – HS RENOVATIONS, ADDITIONS AND ATHLETIC IMPROVEMENTS**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve bid package 4 for the HS Renovations, Additions and Athletic Improvements, including cost of work, project alternates, general conditions, adjustments, allowances, CM fee, construction contingency, FFE, technology and AE fee, in the amount of \$16,281,704 as presented.



Spring Lake Public Schools  
 BP04 High School Renovations & Athletic Improvements  
 Bid Summary Sheet  
 Construction Manager: Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.



Bid Category	Contractor	Base Bid	HS - Alt 3: Room D107 Conference Room Renovation	HS - Alt 4: Fine Arts Outdoor Learning Pavilion	HS - Alt 5: Cafeteria Light Replacement	Athletics - Alt 1: Synthetic turf baseball & softball fields	Voluntary Alternates	Total
Bid Category No. 01 – Earthwork	Terra Contractors	1,576,500		6,500		(379,000)		1,204,000
Bid Category No. 02 – Synthetic Turf	Astro Turf Great lakes	0				1,707,689		1,707,689
Bid Category No. 04 – Asphalt Pavements	Asphalt Paving Inc	236,000						236,000
Bid Category No. 05 – Fencing	Fence Consultants of West Michigan	382,688				139,135		521,823
Bid Category No. 06 – Tennis Court Surfacing	Goddard Sports Surfaces	100,350						100,350
Bid Category No. 07 – Selective Demolition	Specialized Demolition	179,500	2,300	3,000				184,800
Bid Category No. 08 – Post Tension Concrete	VanLaan Concrete Construction	549,670						549,670
Bid Category No. 09 – Concrete	RLE	630,080		21,500		74,945		726,525
Bid Category No. 10 – Masonry	Burggrabe Masonry	415,993		10,306			(1,400)	424,899
Bid Category No. 11 – Metals	Steel Systems	67,937						67,937
Bid Category No. 12 – General Trades	Triangle Constructors	996,700	2,500	29,500				1,028,700
Bid Category No. 13 – Roofing	Summit Point Roofing	129,363						129,363
Bid Category No. 14 – Joint Sealants	Premier Caulking	18,000						18,000
Bid Category No. 15 – Doors, Frames and Hardware	Architectural Hardware Co	332,000						332,000
Bid Category No. 16 – Aluminum, Glass & Glazing	Grand Valley Glass	510,775						510,775
Bid Category No. 17 – Lath, Plaster, Drywall, Acoustical (LPDA)	Schepers Brothers Company	378,830	46,193		22,853			447,876
Bid Category No. 18 – Flooring	Sobie Company	327,000	5,110					332,110
Bid Category No. 19 – Painting	H&H Painting	173,612	2,335					175,947
Bid Category No. 20 – Athletic Equipment	Partition Systems	186,810				43,550		230,360
Bid Category No. 21 – Fire Protection	Brigade Fire Protection	236,930						236,930
Bid Category No. 22 – Mechanical/Plumbing	Vans Mechanical Contractors	350,600	20,400	22,550				393,550
Bid Category No. 23 – DDC Controls	Grand Valley Automation	34,708	1,905	7,189				43,802
Bid Category No. 24 – Testing and Balancing	Third Coast Test & Balance	8,015	225	250				8,490
Bid Category No. 26 – Electrical	Bazen Electric Company	640,935		3,981	15,232			660,148
Bid Category No. 27 – Technology	Parkway Electric & Communications	180,395						180,395
Allowances								
Unsuitable Soils & Dewatering		500,000						500,000
Irrigation Well		100,000						100,000
Fencing/trees at east property line		95,000						95,000
Shot Blasting Tennis Courts		30,000						30,000
General Conditions	Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.	1,407,565	357	461	168	6,982	(9)	1,415,523
CM Fee	Owen Ames Kimball Co.	351,913						351,913
	Subtotal	11,127,869	81,325	105,237	38,253	1,593,301	(1,409)	12,944,575
Building Contingency		1,432,565	8,132	10,529	3,842	159,331	(140)	1,614,259
	Billing Subtotal	12,560,434	89,457	115,766	42,095	1,752,632	(1,549)	14,558,834
FFE		200,000						200,000
Technology		550,000						550,000
AE Fee		972,870						972,870
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,283,304</b>	<b>89,457</b>	<b>115,766</b>	<b>42,095</b>	<b>1,752,632</b>	<b>(1,549)</b>	<b>16,281,704</b>

**Bond Funds 16,302,870**  
**Over / (Under) (2,019,566)**

**Bond Funds 16,302,870**  
**Over / (Under) (21,166)**

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2026 (Cont.)

Liz Boeve, Director of Operations, provided this bid package specifically includes high school interior renovations to classrooms, science rooms, extensive remodeling to the visual and industrial arts room, auditorium upgrades, the addition of two new classrooms and an outdoor learning center, new tennis courts, adding additional parking to the west of the high school, and synthetic turf baseball and softball fields. There were 27 categories bid out and 85 bids were reviewed.

Matt Hulswit with OAK provided that they were fortunate to have competitive bids with a lot of different alternates.

Questions from the Board were answered and specific renovations/additions were explained in greater detail.

Mr. Beck inquired about the safety of the synthetic turf fields planned, and Tracy Ezell with TMP provided some insight.

Mr. Furton noted that long-term plans for the current Hickman Field will need to be decided on by the Board over the next few months.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### MAY 5, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the May 5, 2026 Special Election Resolution as presented.

Mr. Furton provided that this proposal is brought to voters every two years for tax on non-homestead property. The proposal would allow the district to continue 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 .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 continue to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Culleton, 15072 Waterleaf Ct, SL – commented on his experience as a baseball coach for area travel teams and the difficulty to find available baseball fields for practice. He stated that he would love to see the current Hickman Field be kept for baseball use and provided how it could be used for baseball and still be available for other sports by utilizing a removal mound.

Travis Young, 16909 Birchview Ct, Nunica – stated he is a coach for area youth baseball programs, provided that there is a great need for available baseball fields in order to continue to grow the sport and commented that he would love to see the current Hickman Field be kept useable for baseball, even if it became a multiuse athletic field.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2026 (Cont.)

Kelly Sanders, 6633 Hilton Park Rd, Fruitport – commented that she is a district parent of kids who play baseball and advocated for keeping the current Hickman Field useable for baseball.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – Provided to the Board indicating two bills were recently passed in the House and Senate relating to student cell phone usage during the instructional day. Both are expected to be brought to the Governor soon.
- Personnel – Negotiations with paraprofessionals continue with the next meeting to be scheduled in a couple of weeks.
- Calendar/Events –
  - February 6: Professional Development
  - February 11: Policy Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
  - February 16: Board of Ed Meeting, 6 p.m.
  - February 17-20: Dennis attending the Pool (WMHIP) Winter Work Session
  - February 19: District Happy Hour @ TEDs, 3 to 5:30 p.m.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Regular Board Meeting – February 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

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