

Martie Steigleder

From: Dee Burdge <deespring97@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 5:36 PM
To: public comment; Martie Steigleder
Subject: Written Comment

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Members of the School Board,

I am writing to you as a community member, a parent of Springfield school district students, and as someone who is deeply disturbed by what is happening in our district and how it is being handled.

The administrators in our district - including our Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Directors, Principals, and Assistant Principals have devoted many, many years to education in this community. They do not do this work for recognition. They do it because they believe in public education and in showing up for our kids. They are continually faced with challenging situations that demand difficult decisions, knowing that in this day and age, it's impossible to make everyone happy. But they continue to show up and do the work because it matters. Some have given their entire careers to serving this community.

What is happening now is not about accountability. If it were, we would be acknowledging decades of service that came before this moment. This is about wrongfully finding someone to blame.

There is a narrative being pushed that the administration is corrupt, that they do not care, that they are somehow villains in a story that is far more complex than social media is willing to understand. That narrative is false. These are not faceless bureaucrats. They are neighbors, parents, volunteers, and mentors. They are real people with families who live here, who shop here, who raise their children here-and yet they are being treated like enemies.

We have all seen how reckless and cruel the public discourse has become. We have seen threats. We have seen lies. We have seen people torn apart by those who have never reviewed a budget, never sat in your seats, and never faced the impossible choices you face.

Let's be honest about how we got here. This chaos did not come from the administrators. It came from a board that failed to stand together when it mattered.

You approved this budget months ago. You knew reductions were unavoidable. And yet, when public pressure came, some of you chose to save yourselves instead of telling the truth.

Shame on you for not having the spine to stand up and say: "This is painful. This is unfair. But it is necessary."

Instead, you fractured. You contradicted one another. You sent a signal to the community that someone must be corrupt-when in reality, you were all part of the same decision.

You did not protect the public. You did not uphold your responsibility as Board Members governing a public school district. You threw other people under the bus for a budget you voted for.

This division did not have to happen and the responsibility for it belongs to this board. Destroying people to satisfy public anger is cowardly and you should be ashamed of your inaction.

Model the values you claim to stand for: honesty, courage, fairness, and compassion. Do not let the reputation of life long public servants be ruined tonight because you lacked the courage to stand up and speak plainly.

I hope you will reflect on the role you have played in this, and I hope you will find the courage to tell the full truth to this community-be the voice of reason that is needed.

Important: Please do not reply or forward this e-mail if this communication constitutes a decision or deliberation toward a decision between and among a quorum of a governing body which could be considered a public meeting. E-mails on district business are governed by public records law.



In Person/Virtual Oral Public Comment
February 9, 2026

The following in person oral public comments will be shared at the meeting:

Melissa Winningham –

Jed Alexander (Virtual) – Budget Cuts

Sara B. – Community Engagement

Hunter Murphy – Community Input

Thank you, members of the School Board, for giving me the opportunity to speak to you this evening. I have the honor and privilege of serving as ASB President at Thurston High School, as well as Student School Board Representative. However I come to you this evening, not as ASB President, but as a member of the community, and by this time next week, a voter.

These last few meetings have inspired me to get off the bench and share my thoughts. I have watched dozens of brave community members speak up and share their thoughts, suggestions, and grievances. I decided after much deliberation, and many conversations that it was time for me to step up and share my own.

What we see in our district is a result of bad decisions, judgment, and lack of regard and respect for this community. There are many Administrators, Teachers, and Board Members even who I look up to, and see their efforts as admirable. But we as a district need to wake up, support our teachers, and not sugarcoat and avoid real life issues. I won't claim to know what it's like to formulate a budget. That's not my job. I can only speak for the effects on students and staff. The last few weeks have been tense. Our teachers didn't know who was going to go and who was going to stay. Our students didn't know if they would lose their favorite teachers. Our school lost some really good educators, who loved their students and their jobs. Other schools did as well. You mean to tell me the money isn't there?

Sure, let's say we believe that, which no one does, but let's say we do. Where is it then? As someone who goes to a school with *three* Vice Principals, I don't think I need to explain further. We need to strip away the lies, the politics and coverups, and really get to the core of our issues.

For those in attendance, if you think the resignation of one School Board Member will solve all our problems, you are sadly mistaken. This fight is far from over, and our district is headed in a direction that without Community, Teacher, and Student involvement will cause it to self implode. Board members, I want to thank you. You have provided me with an amazing opportunity this year to be a Student Board Representative, something that even a couple years ago would've blown my mind. But in this respect, it is disappointing to see our district heading the way it is. I feel that I can simultaneously respect the efforts of all School Staff, Board members, and Administrators, while also being disenfranchised with the direction of our District.

Now, anyone can complain. Complaining isn't constructive, as good as it feels sometimes. I believe in backing my complaints with a call to action. Board members, you have a wide array of Community members, teachers, and staff, all of whom I'm sure would be happy to pay a little more, and be involved a little more if it meant that our decision makers could be better equipped to deal with these issues. Teachers, we as the students of this district are proud beyond measure to learn and grow under your guidance. Continue fighting, advocating and demanding what you need to live and thrive in an amazing and worthwhile career. Administrators, learn to listen to your staff and your students. Students, as the Class of 2026 is set to graduate, it's your turn to step up, to advocate for what you need, for what you believe, unapologetically and peacefully.

Thank you.



SPRINGFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Student, Every Day

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Name Nicki Linder

Date 2/19/26

District Residency SPS

Phone 541-510-2025

Email _____

Agenda Item or Topic Transparency / Accountability

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The meeting is being tape recorded. Please limit your comments to three minutes.



SPRINGFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Student, Every Day

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Name Laura Farrelly

Date 2/9/26

District Residency SHS

Phone 541-574-6404

Email laura.farrelly@springfield.k12.or.us

Agenda Item or Topic Budget cuts

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The meeting is being tape recorded. Please limit your comments to three minutes.
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Springfield High School Board Report February 9, 2026

Good evening, school board members. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share several special highlights and updates from SHS.

Freshman elections were a huge success this semester, welcoming five new members to our leadership team. These students have already shown great enthusiasm and commitment. With the help of a creative idea from our wonderful co social promoter Erica our freshmen are currently leading a Spread the Love campaign at SHS. Every student will have the opportunity to fill out a paper heart with one thing they love or appreciate and these hearts will be displayed throughout the school to help promote kindness, positivity, and a strong sense of community.

As our new semester is now underway seniors are actively submitting their yearbook photos and senior quotes. We are also holding our third senior meeting this week where important information about graduation requirements, upcoming deadlines and end of year expectations is being shared to help keep seniors on track.

Our Winter Formal dance was beautifully decorated and truly a night to remember. Students had a safe enjoyable evening filled with school spirit. It was wonderful to see students come together and create positive memories.

Looking ahead SHS Theater will be presenting the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Performances will take place February 12th–14th and February 19th–21st in the SHS Commons. Our cast and crew have been working incredibly hard and it is sure to be an amazing show. We encourage the community to come out and support our talented Millers.

Night school will begin on February 23rd and offers students a valuable opportunity to make up classes they may have previously failed. This program plays an important role in helping students stay on track toward graduation and reach their academic goals.

From the College and Career Center seniors are now approaching key deadlines for scholarship applications and FAFSA completion. Ms. Stillwell, our new College and Career Coordinator, along with our UO SAIL mentors continue to work closely with seniors to provide guidance and support in college planning, career pathways, and trade opportunities. Their dedication ensures that every senior has access to the resources and knowledge they need to plan for life after high school.

Overall SHS continues to see strong student involvement, academic support and community engagement. We are proud of the hard work being done by our students, staff, and mentors, and we appreciate your continued support.

Our 2025 graduation rate increased to a record 83.9%, which is 1.9% above the state average. This reflects a 3.9 percentage point increase from 2024 and an 11-point gain over the past two years.



I wish to continue on the topic of Community Engagement this evening.

Wednesday, January 28th, was the last day that many of our children had with their most beloved SPS teachers. My own child lost the teacher who was the first to comfort and connect with her when she was a freshman at A3.

That same Wednesday evening, I hosted a forum at the Springfield City Council chambers to address the apparent lack of urgency surrounding the K-5 curricular shortcomings. I was proud of and inspired by the attendees, *especially those folks who don't currently have students in our K-5 school buildings*, and our collective determination to not let the ball drop on this important issue.

As much as I found kinship with the folks in attendance, I think it is *shameful* that the community has been shut out of having an open conversation *here*, working side by side with our school board and SPS directors.

It's because of the absence of straightforward communication on this topic that I fear the community may further become alienated as the district faces the upcoming task of social studies curriculum adoption.

Martie Steigleder

From: Harlee Harris <harlee.harris@sps19.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 7:25 PM
To: public comment
Subject: Written Public Comment

Hello, and good afternoon!

My name is Harlee Harris and I am in 6th grade. I go to Agnes Stewart Middle School in the SPS district. I am 12 years old.

I am very mad that teachers are getting pulled from schools. 4 of them per school (from what I've heard from my teachers) in the district. Even 1 is too much! We all deserve to keep our teachers in schools so they can provide for their families, and the students that they are teaching.

My ELA and Social Studies teacher is a super great example of this! His name is Mr. Weber. He has a wife and 2 kids, who are going to school in the SPS district. He is my favorite teacher in the building because he teaches well, he lets us all joke around every now and then, and overall is very honest and helpful. He sent me screenshots and the email that I am writing to right now, so I can express my feelings about this!

Talking about feelings again, I must say, I feel anxious about the new schedule changes.

I'm scared to have no classes with my friends, or having specific classes at specific times, like P.E or math for 1st period. That's not fun. Or not having teachers that I can say hello to or talk to about what's going on today. I'd hate switching between classes every period, every hour or so, and I know many people who would too. Imagine having a very nice, clean, organized schedule with AM and PM blocks- to a schedule where You have P.E, ELA, math, social studies, science, orchestra, and then flex. The changes are very drastic, not something that I or many other people would like.

I understand why most of this is happening, kind of. People don't like paying taxes, and that's what's happening (to my understanding.). Mr. Weber doesn't have a working sound system, and at one point my elementary school (Mount Vernon Elementary) couldn't afford copy paper.

Simply to say, me and many other people are upset, and a bit mad.

Have a good rest of your evening, to whom this may concern.

Harlee Harris

Martie Steigleder

From: Joy Marshall <joymarshall293@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 2:18 PM
To: public comment
Subject: concerns about District

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you all for your service to the school district.

I have been a public school advocate in Eugene and Springfield for 25 years.

I'm disappointed and discouraged that a lawsuit has been filed against school board members by the district administration.

I have seen Board members who are not acting in good faith, but Jonathan Light and Ken Kohl are not remotely in that group.

I am only writing about Jonathan and Ken because I know them personally . I have volunteered with them both for over a decade.

They are both people of great integrity who are on the board for all the right reasons - to help kids. They are dedicated to the district, and it is disturbing to me how they are being treated.

Every district is facing problems that are tough to work out, and I know being a Superintendent is a tremendously demanding job -

but I ask you all to work out your problems in good faith.

Whether a Board member overstepped their role is a matter worthy of discussion, but surely we do not need to sue people to resolve this.

Use mediation if needed.

This lawsuit will damage the reputation of the District and all involved. It will cause lasting damage. Worse, it takes energy and attention

away from helping our children. Children need us to lower the temperature, work out our differences, make compromises, and focus on their education.

Thank you for considering that there is a better way to solve differences.

Sincerely,

Joy Marshall

541-912-2921

please note that I am retired, and these comments represent only my own opinion

Martie Steigleder

From: Leah Emmett <leah.emmett@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:44 PM
To: public comment; ! Board; Ken Kohl; Heather Quaas-Annsa; Jonathan Light; Nicole De Graff; Amber Langworthy; Todd Hamilton
Subject: Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Leah Emmett
2302 Loch Dr, Springfield, OR 97477
Support for Board Members and a Call to Prioritize Students

Superintendent Hamilton and Members of the Springfield School Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for Amber Langworthy, Ken Kohl and Jonathan Lightfoot and to share my deep disappointment in the direction this conflict has taken our district.

Over the past year, I spoke at multiple board meetings about my dyslexic son's experience in Springfield Public Schools. I described how the district's curriculum and instructional approach have failed to meet the needs of students with reading disabilities and how those failures have real, lasting consequences for children. I did not come to the board to cause conflict — I came because my child was struggling, and I believed the board would want to know.

I have seen firsthand how board members asked difficult but necessary questions on behalf of families like mine. That is not dysfunction — that is oversight. It is exactly what an elected school board is supposed to do.

To see district leadership respond to this accountability with lawsuits and legal threats is deeply troubling. It sends the message that protecting reputations has become more important than addressing the very real academic, attendance, and special-education crises facing our schools. Every dollar, every hour, and every ounce of attention spent on litigation is taken away from the students who need more support, not less.

My son — and many children like him — do not have time for adults to be locked in power struggles. Kids with dyslexia cannot wait while leaders defend egos instead of fixing systems. They need evidence-based reading instruction, appropriate interventions, and leaders who focus on solutions rather than silencing criticism.

I want a school district where board members can ask hard questions without fear of retaliation, where administrators work collaboratively with elected leaders, and where student outcomes — especially for our most vulnerable learners — come first.

I urge district leadership to step back from this lawsuit, pursue resolution through dialogue and mediation, and refocus on the urgent needs of our students.

Our children are watching. They deserve better than this.

Sincerely,
Leah Emmett