

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on February 23, 2026.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education organizational meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Light led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Land Acknowledgment

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 honor the heritage and the humanity of all people and to promote unity within our school district.

Attendance

Board Members in attendance included Board Chair Jonathan Light, Director Ken Kohl, Director De Graff, and Vice Chair Amber Langworthy.

District staff and community members identified included Brian Richardson, Martie Steigleder, Brian Megert, Jodi O'Mara, Ame Beard, Taylor Madden, Jeff Michna, Katie Dawson, Brandi Starck, Melissa Stalder, Kari Isham, Sheila Stapley, Josh Donaldson, Lou Woodford, Jonathan Gault, Melissa Blomquist, Andy Price, Gail Woodford, Katie Ryan, Ingrid Nordstrom, Barry Barrean, Jose da Silva, Kimberlee Pelster, Matt Brandt, and several in attendance virtually.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Light

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Chair Light for a motion to approve the agenda.

Chair Light motioned for approval of the amended agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Langworthy motioned to approve the amended agenda.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Each board member was asked to indicate if they approve the motion to amend for Additional Items to the Agenda: Director Light - Yes, Director De Graff - Yes, Director Kohl - Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion unanimously passed, 4:0.

3. DISCUSSION

A. Acting Assistant Superintendent Candidates

Chair Light

The board emphasized the importance of experience and qualifications, highlighting Brian Megert and Jodi O'Mara as the most qualified candidates.

O'Mara was praised for her extensive experiences, detailed transition plan, and ability to lead effectively from day one.

Megert was commended for his deep understanding of the district, relational skills, and experience with special programs and legal matters.

4. ACTION ITEM

Chair Light

A. Appoint Acting Superintendent

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director De Graff to approve a motion to Appoint Jodi O'Mara as Acting Superintendent.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Each board member was asked to indicate if they approve the motion to appoint Jodi O'Mara as Acting Superintendent: Director Light - Yes, Director De Graff - Yes, Director Kohl - Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion unanimously passed, 4:0.

Jodi O'Mara was appointed as Acting Superintendent.

B. Authorize the Board Chair to Negotiate and Execute Agreement for Acting Superintendent

Chair Light

MOTION: Director De Graff moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve the motion to Authorize the Board Chair to Negotiate and Execute Agreement for Acting Superintendent.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Each board member was asked to indicate if they approve the motion to Authorize the Board Chair to Negotiate and Execute Agreement for Acting Superintendent: Director Light - Yes, Director De Graff - Yes, Director Kohl - Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion unanimously passed, 4:0.

C. Action on Assistant Superintendent Resignation Agreement

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director De Graff to Approve the Resignation Agreement with Assistant Superintendent Collins and Delegate Authority to the Board Chair to Execute the Agreement.

A roll call vote was not called. The board unanimously voted - Yes.

Motion unanimously passed, 4:0.

5. DISCUSSION

Chair Light

A. Board Member Appointee Process

Chair Light reiterated the current process for board member appointments and opened the floor for comments. The board will have from February 27 thru March 8th to review board candidates.

Director Kohl suggested that if they were to have a large number, narrowing down the list of candidates may make the interview process more manageable.

Board members discussed:

- The possibility of pre-screening candidates and the need for a transparent process
- Development of interview questions
- Timeframe for candidates to answer interview questions

Chair Light suggested starting the March 9th meeting earlier to accommodate the board member appointment discussion.

B. New Board Member Orientation

The Board discussed the need to improve the orientation process for new board members and proposed starting onboarding immediately.

Suggestions included:

- Provide candidates with policies and materials to help them get up to speed.
- Host a class or session on understanding laws and ethics, from day one.
- The need for a more defined and consistent orientation process to support new board members effectively.
- Develop a new board member onboarding packet, to include district goals, board calendar, Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) materials, Robert's Rules info, contact list, and orientation timeline.
- Provide a mentor to the new board member.
- Provide a tour of district properties to give new board members a better understanding of the district

C. Board Development

Vice Chair Amber Langworthy

Roles & Responsibilities Training:

Director Langworthy listed organizations contacted, including OSBA, Oregon Educational Collaborative (OEO), and Aligned Education Consulting (AEC); each offering different models and scopes of work related to board governance, roles, responsibilities, board superintendent coordination, and board development.

Director De Graff expressed concern about the board's authority to hire consultants and the process of soliciting proposals.

Chair Light explained his process of developing a request for proposal (RFP) and the board's role in defining the training criteria.

Vice Chair Langworthy admitted to initial confusion about the RFP process and expressed a commitment to transparency.

Director Kohl suggested Langworthy had gathered information and gotten budget-level numbers from firms without signing contracts.

Oregon Government Ethics Commission Training:

Information will be gathered from potential facilitators for board governance training. Training can be interactive and tailored to the board's needs and can cover topics like transparency, accountability, and public trust. The board also considered opening the training to other boards for broader insights.

Public Meetings Law:

A potential training session with Ruth Sylvester on public meeting laws was scheduled for May 11, 2026. The need for targeted training specific to the board's needs and the importance of understanding legal guardrails was discussed.

Serial Communication:

The board debated the timing and cost of training, with a preference for a two-hour session, and considered budget constraints and potential reallocations. The need for a detailed scope and time frame for training proposals was emphasized.

5. NEXT MEETING:

March 9, 2026 - Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Light thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to conduct, Chair Light adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)