

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, MARCH 13, 2026

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Work Session on Friday, March 13, 2026, in person at the Spring Lake Middle School Conference Room. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Curt Theune, Paul Aldridge, Christopher Beck, Courtney Holmes and Dustin Brown. Absent: None

Dennis Furton, Superintendent, reminded the Board that work sessions are provided for informal discussion and that no action is taken. The Board will be asked to take action at the April regular Board meeting on what to do with the current Hickman Field and the tennis courts at the IS/MS campus. These are the topics of discussions for this work session.

Mr. Furton provided an overview of the Intermediate/Middle School campus and highlighted the tennis courts, other athletic fields and school buildings currently on the property. He indicated that, depending on the needs of the district, the Board will likely need to consider a bond proposal for replacement of the current IS/MS buildings and other district needs in roughly 4-6 years. Mr. Furton explained the district's history on bond proposals since 1997, how the timing flows and provided some ideas on what options might be considered at that time.

Questions from the Board were discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katelyn Schaffer Andrews, 513 Grandview, SL – commented that, as the current Varsity Tennis coach, she is looking for options to keep the current MS tennis courts in play and provided a list of considerations for preservation versus removal of same.

Mike Culleton, 15072 Waterleaf Ct, SL – offered solutions on how to make the current MS Hickman Field available for multiple uses, including baseball. His suggestions included a hybrid field with outfield grass, infield turf, and removable/adjustable mound, bases, home plate, etc. He explained how this type of field could convert for other sports.

DISCUSSION

Liz Boeve, Director of Operations, provided the history on the district's efforts to maintain the MS tennis courts. In 2019 it was determined that the best option would be demo them and start fresh. However, in 2020, the district put \$55,000 into the courts to make them safe and sustainable for a 5-year period. She noted that the courts continue to erode and the cost to make them safe and eliminate some of the cracks is about \$20,000. It was noted that the cost to demo the existing MS courts was built into the current bond. The maintenance manpower hours for the current athletic fields and complexes were provided to the Board and discussed.

JT Hogan, Athletic Director, provided how the current baseball field is used by JV and Varsity. The Board discussed the use of the baseball field, the recent elimination of other local baseball fields and tennis courts, costs to install and maintain turf versus grass fields, and the value of keeping and maintaining current fields and courts.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, MARCH 13, 2026 (Cont.)

ADJOURNMENT

Dustin Brown moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary