

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, MAY 18, 2026

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2026, in person at the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Curt Theune, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Paul Aldridge and Dustin Brown. Courtney Holmes joined the meeting at 6:02 Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PRESENTATION

#### CYBERSECURITY

Rex Thelen, Chief Technology Officer, and William Kelly, Cybersecurity Operations Manager, both with the OAISD, presented on the cybersecurity work being done in our district and surrounding districts. The presentation touched on the following:

- The MDE 12c grant process to assist schools with initial costs related to consolidating technology and network services or infrastructure
- Feasibility study conducted
- Grant award provided
- Overview of key budget allocations consisting of: Staffing, security tools and training, insurance and legal costs, and materials and equipment
- Overview of services provided to the district through the Cyber Security Operations Center (CSOC), which is a centralized information security team that monitors, detects, analyzes and responds to cybersecurity threats; and a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), which is a high-level executive responsible for developing and implementing an information security program
- District leadership and school boards of education are the primary groups served by the CISO
- Implementation timeframe provided
- How the district will benefit with cost savings, improved cybersecurity, staff training and support, compliance and risk management
- 13 districts are served by the group
- MDE 12c Grant Advisory committee and Cyber Security Operations Center team rosters were shared
- Incident categories and detection sources provided
- A breakdown of the first major cyber incident was given including the timeline summary, what the team has improved upon since the incident, and a sample of the phishing email and google form that was used in the email
- Other CSOC work being done

Questions from the Board were answered.

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, MAY 18, 2026 (Cont.)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of April 20, 2026 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Lieto, 19154 Rosemary Rd, SL – would like to discuss why we have 10,000 square feet in the LAC dedicated to Wrestling, Cheer and Dance teams, when we could have hardwood courts for basketball, volleyball and pickleball while maintaining a dedicated space for Wrestling during its season. He further commented on the financials of the bond and district budgets. He provided that basketball is the number one sport in grades 7-12. He expressed frustration with the pivot away from including hardwood courts in the LAC and feels it was politically motivated. He is now asking the Board to stand up and do what the bond committee asked for three years ago and add the court space back.

Cori Geoghan, 15255 S. Scenic, SL – provided she is the girls' Head Varsity Basketball coach for the district and expressed frustration with the current lack of full-court gym space available for use in the district by all teams. She indicated that adding a basketball court in the LAC would be hugely impactful for the basketball programs and immensely help the coaching staff adequately prepare their teams. She indicated she is excited about the discussion and potential for adding court space and would be happy to answer any further questions through email.

Jeremy Andres – 16075 Surrey Way, SL – advocated for more gym space for youth basketball programs as the lack of space has made it very difficult for teams and coaches to schedule practice times. He noted that the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade intramural basketball program had to be cancelled due to lack of space. He stated that more gym space would be a win-win for youth teams and coaches and help Spring Lake be its absolute best.

Bryon Ayers 15737 Connelly, SL – affirmed what Jeremy Andres provided and the importance of having a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball program, with varsity players coaching and parents coming to watch. He stated he believes that it directly impacts the attendance at varsity basketball games and lack of student participation at those games. He indicated the district has an opportunity to fix that right now.

Mike Ladd, 7409 Pine Bluff Drive, SL – advocated to add additional basketball courts at the LAC, commented about the hardships the previous speakers spoke about with cancellations, last minute changes, conflicts with gym space, and cancelling the intramural basketball program for youth, all experienced by his children as well. He expressed his frustration that the district pivoted away from including hardwood courts at the LAC when it was built. He provided that he has been a financial donor for decades to the school district, in the classrooms and through the SL Schools Foundation, has given thousands and will not give another dime to the district until the basketball court situation is remedied.

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Tom Jones, 16903 Birchview Dr., Nunica – indicated he piggybacks on to what the other comments have been regarding court space and provided his personal experience as a youth basketball coach over the last five years and having to practice during a 7 pm – 9:30 pm timeslot, indicating that the late time is hard for many families with young children.

Jan Ennis, 17953 Channel View Dr., SL – thanked the Board and Superintendent Furton, Coach Core and Ben Curtis for establishing a youth basketball program this year. He indicated there were 55+ plus kids who participated making up 5 teams, all vying for space. He commented he 100% supports adding more courts to the LAC, or wherever they can be added. He further provided he would like to see improved operations around the programs as far as gym space scheduling and communications, allowing technology to assist with both.

Katelyn Andrews, 513 Grandview Ave, SL – commented she is the girls’ Varsity Tennis coach and encouraged the Board to vote to keep the MS tennis courts. She provided a brief update on the grant process that she has mentioned to the Board at previous meetings and indicated arrangements were being made for a “Tie Breaker” tennis tournament fundraiser. She stated she is hopeful that those efforts can secure funds to improve the MS tennis court. She provided the grant timeframe is 4 to 5 months and is typically in the form of reimbursement for improvements already made.

Taylor Holmes, 15375 Oak Point Dr., SL – stated in regards to the current Hickman field, she shares the same sentiments as the basketball comments made, thanked the Board for listening and provided that the Lakeshore Little League has met with Bill Core to inquire about a long-term rental of the field and partnering with the district to help maintain the fields. They would like to work alongside the district in a positive and collaborative way to keep the field useable for baseball as the program is rapidly growing.

Kevin Priddy, 15997 Vinecrest Ave, SL – wanted to talk about what the public supported, what the Board supported, and why so many residents no longer trust what the Board does. He commented on results from a community EPIC/MRA survey and how the public favored replacing tennis court at the Middle School, and did not support relocating the varsity baseball field from the Middle School to the High School. He further provided the building of a 70,000 square foot fieldhouse was opposed by the largest majority.

### **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 \$1,561,949.
- Payroll – totaling \$2,688,527.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### **ACTION ITEMS**

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, MAY 18, 2026 (Cont.)

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve, with regrets, the resignations of the following staff, as presented:

- Mike McPherson, a/k/a Mr. Mike, Bus Driver
- Kate Beyer, part-time Speech Pathologist for Pre-K/GSRP
- Laura Sevensma, HS Special Education teacher
- Lisa Mulder, Holmes Special Education teacher
- Jessie Crawford, HS English teacher
- Jerry Rabideau, HS PE teacher
- Laurie Draeger, District Media Specialist

Mike McPherson and Lisa Mulder will be retiring at the end of this school year, and Jerry Rabideau and Laurie Draeger will retire after the first trimester of the 2026-27 school year. Mr. Furton noted that all will be greatly missed by students, staff and parents, and he is sad to see them go. Jennifer Nicles wanted to publicly thank Mr. Mike for his service and dedication to the district and athletic teams over the years as a bus driver.

Mr. Furton provided that there are a few positions left to be filled and are in the final stages, including HS English teacher, Holmes IRR teacher, Elementary Music teacher and HS MTSS Specialist.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

NEW HIRES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the hiring of the following:

- Sarah Kirby..... Special Education Teacher .....SL High School
- Emily Oegema..... Spanish Teacher .....SL Middle School
- Lauren Bieszka ..... 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher ..... Jeffers Elementary
- Meredith Armour ..... ASD Teacher ..... Jeffers Elementary
- Mya Udell ..... Health/PE Teacher.....SL High School
- Lance Johnson ..... PE Teacher/Head Varsity B-Ball Coach.....SL High School

Dennis Furton provided details on the new hires and the positions they are filling and that we continue to get some of the best candidates.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

NON-UNION STAFF CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the superintendent and administrator contract extensions as follows:

- Contract extension through 2028-29 for the following administrator:  
Dennis Furton, Superintendent
- Contract extensions through 2027-28 for the following administrators:  
Liz Boeve, Director of Operations

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Amy Kendall, Director of Special Education  
Kate Drake, Curriculum Director  
Ben Armev, High School Principal  
Tony Bush, High School Asst Principal  
Jonathan Fitzpatrick, Intermediate/Middle School Principal  
Charis Larson, Intermediate/Middle School Asst Principal  
Sandra Smits, Holmes Elementary Principal  
Kristin Dewitt, Jeffers Elementary Principal  
JT Hogan, Athletic Director  
David Theune, Communications Director

Vote: Yes – Unanimous; Curt Theune abstained

RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE BUDGET HEARING

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the resolution to schedule the 2026-27 Budget Hearing for 5:45 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026, in the IS/MS Media Center as presented.

Mr. Furton provided that this is required by law as part of the truth-in-taxation process and that the finance committee will meet before the budget hearing to discuss the 2026-27 budget in depth.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

OAISD GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the OAISD General Fund Budget Resolution as presented.

Mr. Furton provided the background on this required action.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

MHSAA MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the 2026-27 MHSAA Membership Resolution as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

OVERNIGHT TRAVEL APPROVAL – BAND TRIP TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Orlando, Florida band trip to Disney for February 12-18, 2027 as presented.

Mike Truskowski, Band Director, answered questions from the Board.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous; Dustin Brown Abstained

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, MAY 18, 2026 (Cont.)

HS ART & TECH EDUCATION DEVICE PURCHASE APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the purchase of 30 Apple iPad Air 13s with Apple Pencil Pros and 30 Dell Pro All-in-One Workstations through REMCSaves for a cost not to exceed \$86,779.70 as presented.

Brent Gustafson, Technology Coordinator, provided details on the purchase and answered questions from the Board.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

NETWORK EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PURCHASE APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the purchase of a wireless network upgrade package from Vector Tech Group in the amount of \$70,368.30 and a physical network upgrade package from MOSS in the amount of \$237,534.41, for a total cost not to exceed \$307,902.71 as presented.

Brent Gustafson, Technology Coordinator, provided details on the purchase and answered questions from the Board.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

REVISED STUDENT DEVICE PURCHASE APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the purchase of 400 Lenovo 100e G5 Chromebooks through REMCSaves for a cost not to exceed \$129,200.00 in place of the Lenovo G4 Chromebooks previously approved for purchase on March 16, 2026 as presented.

Brent Gustafson, Technology Coordinator, provided details on the purchase and answered questions from the Board.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

MS TENNIS COURTS

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve retaining the MS tennis courts for continued use as presented.

Board discussion followed.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

MS BASEBALL FIELD (CURRENT HICKMAN FIELD)

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve maintaining the MS baseball field as a game-ready baseball field as presented.

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Board discussion followed and it was noted that the Hickman name will follow to the new varsity field.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – Provided to the Board. While there is no approved budget from the State yet, it is anticipated the district will see a per pupil increase of \$250.
- Calendar:
  - May 27, 6:00 p.m. – Graduation at Trinity Health Arena; Board members wishing to carpool should contact Dennis
  - May 28, 3:00-5:30 p.m. – District Happy Hour at Stan's
  - June 4 – Last Day/Half Day

In response to some of the public comment, Mr. Furton provided that he is entirely comfortable with the process that was utilized and the integrity and transparency of the process. While he is uncertain if they made the right decision on how to use the mezzanine, there was nothing secretive about how it was decided. He noted that the pivot point came after Wrestling and Cheer presented their cases to the coaches who were assembled. Basketball was represented. That was how the decision got made. While he is happy that Wrestling has a home, he does recognize the need for basketball courts, and volleyball courts to a lesser extent. He commented that with so many youth teams, and for a district our size, we have relatively few courts available for use. He provided the process involved over a year of discussion, review of the EPIC/MRA results with the bond study committee and that, in the end, the district trusted the voters, with 60% voting yes. The top two priorities identified for the Fieldhouse were a turf field and weight room. He indicated the crux of the decision happened with the assembled coaches, and that a lot goes into designing facilities that are as complex as that fieldhouse and there will always be winners and losers unless you go forward with a budget that is 20-50% bigger. Mr. Furton reiterated that he feels very comfortable with the process but has an open mind as to what can be done to alleviate the court issue.

Further, in terms of finances, Mr. Furton provided there is a lot that gets misunderstood by people who are outside of education, and he briefly spoke about the bid process and reallocation of funds.

Questions from the Board were answered regarding use of elementary gyms and discussion about utilizing the rubberized court at the FAC was had.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, MAY 18, 2026 (Cont.)

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Budget Hearing & Regular Board Meeting – June 15, 2026, 5:45 p.m.  
Regular meeting to immediately follow the Budget Hearing  
Location: 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 7:47 p.m.

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