SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING, JUNE 15, 2026

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Budget Hearing on Monday, June 15, 2026, in the SLIS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the hearing to order at 5:45 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Paul Aldridge, and Courtney Holmes. Absent: Curt Theune, Christopher Beck and Dustin Brown.

Jennifer Nicles appointed Paul Aldridge as acting Secretary for the meeting due to the absence of Curt Theune.

2026-2027 SLPS GENERAL FUND BUDGET & TRUTH-IN-TAXATION HEARING

Brad VanDe Vusse, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, advised that a public budget and truth-in-taxation hearing was required before the Board can adopt next year's budget or tax levy. He indicated that the budget must be adopted by July 1 per state requirement. No action is taken at this hearing.

Mr. VanDe Vusse presented the following:

2025-26 Budget

- US, State of Michigan and Ottawa County Economic Overviews
- School Aid Fund Overview
- Revenue Sources of the School Aid Fund
- School Aid Appropriations and History of Same
- Review of Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference
- 2026-27 Baseline of State School Aid Fund and General Fund
- College and University Funding Paid by School Aid Fund History
- State Budget SAF Budget Negotiations
- The current year budget shows overall budget stability leading to slightly favorable changes from January's amendment with increased Act 18 and Medicaid revenues, staffing adjustments and retirements and decreased operations and transportations costs
- Review of the 2025-26 budget amendment with a projected fund balance of 19.15% of expenditures

2026-27 Budget

The notable revenue assumptions include:

- Blended enrolment of 2,293 student FTE (a decrease of 10 FTE from 2025-26)
- Utilizing the Governor's proposal of $250 increase in per pupil funding, which is $10,300
- Enhancement millage funding estimated at $880,000
- Indirect cost subsidy of $75,000 from the Food Service Fund

The notable expenditures include:

- Wages per negotiated contracts and other employment agreements
- Employer retirement contribution rate of 27.91%, effective October of 2026
- Health insurance hard cap increase of 3.00%
- Impact of staff retirements and resignations and replacements and new programming to meet student needs
- Inflationary increase to utilities and contracted services
- Review of the 2026-27 proposed budget with a projected fund balance of 19.5% of expenditures

2026-27 Proposed Operating Tax Levy
Voters approved a two-year 18.4894 mill levy for operation in May of 2026. The 0.4894 mills in excess of the 18-mill cap was approved as a hedge against potential Headlee rollbacks. The district will be levying the full 18 mills for operations in 2026-27 on all non-homestead properties. The voter authorization for levying the operating mills runs through December of 2028.

2026-27 Proposed Debt Tax Levy
When bonds are approved, voters agree to tax themselves enough to repay the debt over a prescribed number of years. Based on the annually-required calculation, the district will levy 7.00 mills for the upcoming year, the same rate that was levied for the current tax year.

Mr. VanDe Vusse answered questions from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to adjourn the Budget Hearing.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ _____
Date Board Secretary

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 15, 2026

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, June 15, 2026 in person at the SLIS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m., immediately following the Budget Hearing. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Paul Aldridge, and Courtney Holmes. Absent: Curt Theune, Dustin Brown and Christopher Beck

Paul Aldridge was appointed acting Secretary due to Curt Theune's absence from this meeting.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the Minutes of the Regular and Special Meetings of May 18, 2026 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRINTED AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Garth Trask, 14808 Herring Dr., SL – spoke on behalf of the Wrestling program and referenced a memo sent to the Board in May requesting installation of two basketball courts on the mezzanine of the Laker Athletic Center, support for the need of more basketball courts in the district and the public comments at the May Board meeting addressing the same concerns. He noted that the mezzanine of the LAC is a dedicated practice space for both the wrestling and competitive cheer programs. He noted that sharing space would be very difficult and not necessarily resolve the issue. He believes there are other solutions to the basketball court demand issue which would not involve building basketball courts on the mezzanine of the LAC. He offered his assistance in finding a productive solution that will not negatively affect the student athletics of the Competitive Cheer and Wrestling programs.

Cori Geoghan, 15255 S Scenic Dr., SL – provided that she stands by her concerns brought at public comments at the May Board meeting regarding the space needs of the Basketball programs, but believes that any consideration of additional courts should not negatively impact other programs and that every program in this district is important and deserves the opportunity to thrive. She noted she met with coaches from Wrestling and Cheer and learned how they use the space at the LAC. She expressed appreciation for the Boards' willingness to listen and explore potential solutions and that she supports exploring potential solutions to address the needs of the Basketball programs while supporting needs and opportunities for all the athletes and programs in the district.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – totaling $578,909
- Payroll – totaling $2,831,452

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Courtney Holmes, to approve the 2025-2026 General Appropriation Resolution Amendment as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

NEW HIRES

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the following new hires as presented:

Shannan Conrad	MTSS Specialist	SL High School
Anna Fedewa	English Teacher	SL High School
Lea Carter	Elementary Music Teacher	Holmes/Jeffers
Gabriella Jungwirth	IRR Special Education Teacher	Holmes
Abby Snell	Speech-Language Pathologist (Part-time)	Jeffers
Lydia Tibble	Paraprofessional	SL Middle School

Mr. Furton provided details on the new hires.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

2026-2027 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Paul Aldridge moved, supported by Kelly VanderHoek, to approve the General Appropriations Resolution for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

2026-2027 TAX LEVY

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Courtney Holmes, to approve the 2026-2027 Tax Levy as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

HS WORLD HISTORY TEXTBOOK PURCHASE APPROVAL

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the purchase of 130 Savvas Learning's World History textbooks for a total cost not to exceed $24,182 as presented.

Mr. Furton provided the details behind the purchase approval request.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

REPLACEMENT OF DIVING BOARDS/REFURBISHMENT OF DIVING STANDS APPROVAL

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Courtney Holmes, to approve the purchase of two new Duraflex diving boards and refurbishment of the existing diving stands for the Fitness and Aquatic Center diving well from Springboards and More for an amount not to exceed $25,158.16 as presented.

Liz Boeve, Director of Operations, provided that current diving boards are over 18 years old and have substantial wear. It was determined by the district's pool partners that they are beyond their useful life and bid quotes were received for replacements. Ms. Boeve noted that the diving stands are able to be refurbished. The diving boards would be installed prior to the start of the girls' swim and dive season in the fall.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

POLICY FIRST READINGS

Copies of the policy updates were provided to the Board for policy #s 0100, 1410, 2418, 3120.09, 3210, 4120.09, 4210, 5136, 6320, 6325, 8120.09, and 8402 for review. Mr. Furton noted that the policy committee met in May to review these updates and he provided a brief overview of the changes. These will come to the Board for approval in July.

DISTRICT OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

- June 22 through July 31 Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to Noon
- Regular hours resume August 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – provided to the Board.
- Personnel – Joe VanderLinde, maintenance employee since January of 2023, is retiring at the end of June. He will be missed!
- MI HEARTSafe School Awards – all 5 of the district's school buildings have been awarded the MI HEARTSafe designation now. Kudos given to the MERT teams in each school building and special thanks was noted for Megan Vink and Emily Louange's efforts supporting this initiative.
- Calendar/Events:
  - July 7 & 8: WMHIP Summer Work Session

UPCOMING MEETING

- Regular Board Meeting – July 20, 2026, 6:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

CLOSED SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT'S MID-YEAR EVALUATION

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to move to closed session at 6:31 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to return to open session at 7:27 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

Kelly VanderHoek moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ _____

Date Board Secretary