

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, JULY 16, 2026

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Work Session on Thursday, July 16, 2026, in the Spring Lake Intermediate/Middle School Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kelly VanderHoek, Curt Theune, Paul Aldridge, Christopher Beck, Courtney Holmes and Dustin Brown. Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION

COURT SPACE

Mr. Furton provided the framework for the discussion around the existing court space for use by athletic teams in the district and scheduling. He noted the importance of collaboration and compromise amongst coaches and departments in the scheduling of space. The objective is to solve the problem without unnecessarily creating new ones.

Discussion Framework:

1. Is there a problem?
2. What is causing the problem?
3. What can we improve operationally?
4. What capital options were evaluated?
5. What is administration's recommendation?

JT Hogan, Athletic Director, Lance Johnson, Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach, Cori Geoghan, Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach, Garth Trask, Alex Lininger, Varsity Wrestling Coach, Jessica Dunneback, Varsity Competitive Cheer Coach, and Liz Boeve, Director of Operations, were in attendance to answer questions.

The Board asked several questions surrounding the issue including the impact of youth basketball programs and use of court space.

Mr. Hogan provided the background on scheduling issues. The Board inquired about scheduling morning practices, use of Holmes, Jeffers, and Intermediate/Middle school gym spaces, and adding a court and if those things may elevate scheduling issues. It was noted that the issue is not simply a lack of gyms, but multiple factors including multi-use facilities, event conflicts, coaching availability, rescheduling demands, practice scheduling, rubberized surface limitations and youth basketball demand.

Operationally, it was noted that the Athletic Director will lead collaborative scheduling with affected coaches, expand elementary gym utilization where appropriate and continue balancing varsity, sub-varsity, middle school and youth access. Fairness and efficiency are the goal, there is no scenario that does not require compromise.

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The capital options that were evaluated by the district were provided to the Board and included scheduling improvements, adding hardwood to the High School mezzanine, adding a hardwood court to the LAC mezzanine, adding a temporary turf court, estimated costs for all options, safety concerns, operational complexity and overall appeal. Discussion about each option followed.

The recommendations include continuing to focus on collaborative scheduling, consider pursuing hardwood court conversion of the HS mezzanine when unspent bond funds are known, and preserving the dedicated wrestling and cheer space. Discussion followed and included whether or not the Board sees a need to proceed with capital improvements sooner and other capital projects that will need to be considered after the completion of schedule bond projects. It was noted that adding a drop-down sound curtain to the HS mezzanine in the near future may be useful and that current safety concerns of the mezzanine rubberized floor will be addressed by the operations team.

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to adjourn the work session.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary