

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on May 27, 2026.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Light led the room in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Ken 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 prevent the erasure of Native culture, heritage, and people and to ensure a quality contemporary education for future generations.

Attendance

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

Absent: Director Bob Brew.

District staff and community members identified included Acting Superintendent Jodi O'Mara, Brett Yancey, Martie Steigleder, Taylor Madden, Brian Richardson, Jeff Michna, Dr. Rob Hess, Melissa Stalder, Zach Bessett, Hollea Puzio, Miranda Cyr with the Register Guard, Lilly St. Angelo with LookOut, and Ron Sauer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Light

Chair Light called for a motion to approve the board meeting agenda.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Langworthy to approve the May 27, 2026, board meeting agenda.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each board member to indicate if they

approve the May 27, 2026 board meeting agenda: Director Kohl - Yes, Director Langworthy - Yes, Director De Graff - Yes, and Chair Light - Yes.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

3. DISCUSSION

Chair Light

Dr. Rob Hess held a discussion, brought forward by Director De Graff on the semi-finalist interview process. Hess explained the goal of finalizing candidates for the June 9th meeting. A proposal for a listening session with the Latino community was discussed, with concerns about its timing and fairness.

The board decided against conducting the session immediately, preferring to focus on the scheduled meetings. There was also a discussion on safeguarding the interview process to avoid bias, to which Hess explained that the process is open and transparent, and discussions about candidates cannot be held in open session.

The Special Meeting concluded at 10:14 a.m. with adjournment into Executive Session directly following.

4. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. ORS 192.660(2)(a), employment of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, specifically for initial hiring.

Chair Light

The board adjourned into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. for employment discussions.

The board took a lunch break from 12:00 to 12:30 pm

The Executive Session adjourned at 4:00 pm.

5. NEXT MEETINGS:

June 8, 2026 – Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

June 9, 2026 – Special Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

June 22, 2026 – Special Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all business, Chair Light adjourned the Special Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)