

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No.19 Board of Education was held on March 9, 2026.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Attendance

Board Members attending the meeting included Board Chair Jonathan Light, Director Ken Kohl, Director Nicole De Graff, and Vice Chair Amber Langworthy.

District staff and community members identified included Acting Superintendent Jodi O'Mara, Martie Steigleder, Brian Richardson, Jeff Michna, Brett Yancey, Whitney McKinley, Mindy LeRoux, Taylor Madden, Kate Hughes, Amberly Trano, Andy Price, Josh Donaldson, Karen Carney, Laura Farrally, Josh Drozdenko, Jacob Eden, Lucy Rogers, Dortys Diaz, Kirsten Woodward, Katie Ryan, Morgan Rees, Ingrid Nordstrom, Sarah Bosch, Elourdea Estrada, Abraham Constantino, Kimberlee Pelster, Kimberly Weston, Jonathan Gault, Melissa Stalder, Lesa Haley, Aiden Hight, Amelie Rees, Colette Rees, Bob Morgan, Diana Morgan, Kristyl Rogers, John Whisler, Clara Matlock, Jose da Silva, Brody Wassen, Guy Latham, Emily Dodson, Christina Scott, Wendy Simmons, Jill Chadros, Melissa Blomquist, Danes Deglee, Zach Bassett, Bob Brew, Matt Brandt, Devon Lawson, Larry Lewin, Hunter Murphy, and Jane Crass.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Light asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2026, agenda as presented.

Director Kohl requested Agenda Items 4.A.4: Financial Statement Resolution and 4.A.6: Annual Integrated Pest Management Report be pulled from the agenda for further discussion.

MOTION: Chair Light moved, seconded by Director Kohl, to approve the March 9, 2026 agenda including agenda Items 1, 2, 3, and 5, and remove agenda Items 4.A.4: Financial Statement Resolution and 4.A.6: Annual Integrated Pest Management Report for further discussion.

Chair Light called for a board vote. Chair Light asked the Board members to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the March 9, 2026, agenda as amended.

Motion unanimously passed, 4:0.

2. STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Willamette Leadership Academy (WLA), Dortys Diaz shared:

- The first high school winter formal organized by a student committee.
- "Oregon out of the Books" competition - Saturday, March 14th.
- Spirit Week - March 9-13.
- College and Career Day - March 6th.

- Future Events: Intramural Volleyball competition in April and a spring carnival in May.

Thurston High (THS), Hunter Murphy shared:

- The annual training by Sources of Strength on recognizing and connecting students to mental health supports.
- The focus for the month is identifying superheroes in students' lives.
- The Student Union organized a spring carnival, and a class meeting for setting goals and earning privileges.
- Spring theater performance, "*The Passion of Dracula*", will open April 16th.
- Robotics competitions and winter sports achievements were highlighted.

Springfield High (SHS), Lucy Rogers shared:

- Updates of the Classified Staff Appreciation Week campaign.
- The Freshmen Showcase - March 17th; 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- The Girl's Varsity basketball team won the first round of state playoffs and finished co-champions of their league.
- Student activities and achievements were highlighted, including DECA team success, OSSA district solos and ensembles festival, and the College and Career Center's support for students.
- Highlights on the Book Love Foundation.

Gateways School, Aiden Hight shared:

- A school-wide assembly celebrated quarter-two achievements and welcomed new students.
- The leadership team organized Spirit Week, which included various themed days.
- The Gateway cosmetology salon is open and accepting appointments Monday-Friday, 12:30pm-3:00pm.
- May 21st - second-year cosmetology student showcase. Board members and the public are invited to attend.
- Sources of Strength meetings are planning their first campaign of the quarter to promote positivity and support within the school community.
- Second-year college students are preparing for state board exams and will present their Alma mater showcase on May 21st.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the portion of our agenda for public comment. The board provides three ways for community members to share public comment: written public comment, in person oral public comment and virtual public comment. Written public comment is received via email. Public comment received via email for this evening has been reviewed by the Board and has also been posted on the district's website. The deadline for submitting a request for oral public comment was today at 2:00 p.m. Those who requested an opportunity to speak this evening were notified by the board secretary about their request.

Time permitting, the board may also hear public comment from individuals who signed up in person at the Administration Office before the meeting. We encourage groups with a common purpose to designate a spokesperson. If your comments will be covered by a group spokesperson, please indicate so when your name

is called. I want to remind those members of the public who have indicated a desire to make comments that our policy provides for a limitation of three (3) minutes per person.

The Board will not hear comments regarding any school personnel, whether named or implied. Any complaints regarding a particular employee must be processed through the procedure set forth in Board policy KL, which requires that complaints be submitted in writing to the Superintendent. This procedure must be followed before there is any Board involvement with such issues. A compliment involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, their supervisor and the Board.

Speakers are reminded that their public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.

Mindy LeRoux, a 27-year educator reported high graduation rates and improved student achievement. She emphasized the importance of collaboration, transparency, and shared commitment to students.

Colin Lyons - absent (no-show)

Angela Landy, an administrator at Agnes Stewart shared positive school developments, highlighting staff dedication and student efforts to create a positive environment.

Sarah Bosch discussed community engagement efforts and encouraged the district to focus on building trust and accountability with parents and teachers.

Robert Morgan stressed the need for a visionary superintendent and improved communication with parents. He highlighted the importance of teacher retention.

Katie Ryan, a non-tenured teacher, discussed mid-year staff reductions and presented a letter of no confidence, citing a lack of transparency in budget information.

Wendy Simmons - (walk-in and no-show)

4. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

1. February 9, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
2. February 20, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
3. February 23, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
4. Financial Statement, Resolution #25-26.042
5. Personnel Report, Resolution #25-26.043
6. Annual Integrated Pest Management Report

Brett Yancey
Dustin Reese
Brett Yancey

Chair Light asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for March 9, 2026, as presented.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, Director Langworthy seconded the motion to approve Items 1,2,3, and 5 of the Consent Agenda as amended.

Chair Light called for a board vote. Chair Light asked Board members to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the Consent Agenda as amended.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

Agenda Item 4.A.4 Financial Statement, Resolution #25-26.042.

Brett Yancey

The Board discussed a \$600,00 reduction in capital outlay due to a structural engineering study.

MOTION: Chair Light moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve the Financial Statement, Resolution #25-26.042 as presented.

Chair Light asked if there was any discussion.

Director Kohl raised concerns about the reduction in projected capital outlay expenditures.

Brett Yancey explained the delay in issuing a request for proposal for structural work, affecting the budget.

Chair Light asked what the final cost of the engineering report was.

Yancey stated that it was sitting at \$278,000 through February, but there was still the month of March with some management costs associated, such as having the engineers return to certify the completed work.

Chair Light called for a board vote.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

Agenda Item 4.A.6 Annual Integrated Pest Management Report

Brett Yancey

The board debated the inclusion of costs in the Integrated Pest Management Report. The need for consistency and transparency in the report was emphasized.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Chair De Graff to approve the Annual Integrated Pest Management Report.

Chair Light asked if there was any discussion.

Director Kohl questioned the report's compliance with ORS 634 and the district's Integrated Pest Management Plan, as well as related costs.

Yancey clarified that the report meets the legal requirements and offered to provide more detailed cost information if needed.

Chair Light suggested revisiting the plan during the annual re-adoption process to ensure accuracy and completeness.

The board discussed the use of low-impact pesticides like Crossbow. Mr. Yancey shared that this was approved in 2024 by the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. The Board would like documentation that Crossbow is approved for use on school grounds.

{Recorder's note}

March 9th Board Meeting Minutes regarding the annual Integrated Pest Management Report were accurately recorded. No revisions are necessary. The district approved Crossbow

pesticide, which meets established criteria under ORS.634705 by the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention on October 30, 2024. The annual Integrated Pest Management Report was unanimously passed by the board, 4:0 on March 9, 2026.

{Addition to March 9th Board Meeting Minutes}

“Updated supporting documentation of district-approved chemicals will be provided to the board”.

Chair Light called for a board vote.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0

**B. Approve Out of State Travel Request, Springfield High, DECA,
Resolution #25-26.044**

Mindy LeRoux

It is recommended the Board approve Springfield High School DECA student's request to travel to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the DECA International Career Development Conference 2026. Dates of travel will be April 24-29, 2026.

MOTION: Chair Light moved, Director Kohl seconded the motion to approve Springfield High School DECA student's request to travel to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the DECA International Career Development Conference 2026. Dates of travel will be April 24-29, 2026.

Chair Light asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Chair Light called for a board vote.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

C. Approve Designating District Clerk, Resolution #25-26.045

Brett Yancey

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the resolution designating Jodi O'Mara as Clerk of the District for the remainder of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

MOTION: Chair Light moved, Director Kohl seconded the motion to approve designating Jodi O'Mara as Clerk of the District for the remainder of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Chair Light asked if there was any discussion. The board discussed the role and responsibilities of the district clerk.

Chair Light called for a board vote.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

Jodi O'Mara was appointed as Clerk of the District for the remainder of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

D. Board Appointment

Chair Light

It is recommended that the Board of Directors vote to select a candidate for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027.

The board discussed the merits of Mathew Brandt, Zach Bassett, and Robert Brew, considering their experience and potential contributions. Each candidate was noted for having strong points for governance and community engagement.

NOMINATION: Chair Light moved, Director Kohl seconded the motion to recommend the Board of Directors vote to select Robert Brew for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board Member to vote to indicate if they approve of selecting Robert Brew for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027: Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – No, and Director Langworthy – No.

Motion failed, 2:2.

NOMINATION: Director De Graff moved, Director Kohl seconded the motion to recommend the Board of Directors vote to select Zach Bassett for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board Member to vote to indicate if they approve of selecting Zach Bassett for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027: Director Light – No, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, and Director Langworthy – No.

Motion failed, 2:2.

NOMINATION: Director Langworthy moved, Chair Light seconded the motion to recommend the Board of Directors vote to select Mathew Brandt for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board Member to vote to indicate if they approve of selecting Mathew Brandt for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027: Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – No, Director De Graff – No, and Director Langworthy – Yes.

Motion failed, 2:2.

NOMINATION: Director Langworthy moved, Chair Light seconded the motion to recommend the Board of Directors vote to select Robert Brew for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board Member to vote to indicate if they approve of selecting Robert Brew for the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027: Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – No, and Director Langworthy – Yes.

Motion passed 3:1.

Robert Brew was appointed to the Board, Position 2 through June 30, 2027.

5. Discussion

A. 2026-27 Academic Calendar

Whitney McKinley

Whitney McKinley presented the academic calendar, which includes 174 school days for students, one full day collaboration for staff, and early release collaboration days. The calendar is for first reading and may require adjustments to fit projected budget conditions prior to board approval in June. No significant changes have been noted for the community, and the calendar aligns with neighboring school districts. The calendar will be reviewed at the April 13th meeting, with potential adjustments in June.

B. Interim Superintendent Process

Chair Light

Chair Light discussed the goal of having an interim superintendent position filled by July 1st. The board aims to be inclusive of all associations and community members in the selection process.

Brett Yancey explained and presented three interview process time frames for the board to choose from.

The board discussed criteria they believe to be most important to both the role of superintendent and to the board of directors.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director De Graff approve the motion for the Board of Directors to delegate the acting superintendent to solicit proposals for a search firm for an interim superintendent.

Chair Light called for a board vote.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director De Graff for the Board of Directors to delegate authority to the chair and for Director De Graff to work with staff to select a firm for the interim superintendent search.

Chair Light called for a board vote.

Motion passed unanimously, 4:0.

6. Reports and Information

A. Superintendent Communication

Acting Superintendent O'Mara

Acting Superintendent O'Mara highlighted positive achievements in Springfield Public Schools, including student achievement, teacher recognition, and athletic success. O'Mara was enjoying ongoing visits to schools.

- The Thurston High Band and Orchestra program has been selected for the Eric Hammer Memorial community outreach program.
- The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) selected two Springfield schools to participate in the Statewide Attendance Study.
- Over 100 responses to the staff survey had been received and were being reviewed.
- Coffee and Conversation - Wednesday 7:30-9:30 at the Washburne Public House on Main Street.

B. Board Communication and Comments

Chair Light

Director De Graff shared:

- Sona Hodaie is the new Executive Director of the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF).
- The deadline for the SEF grants is April 1, 2026, and more volunteers are needed for grant reviews.
- The working Battle of the Books elementary tournament is scheduled for March 14th at Thurston High.
- SEF is planning Amber School staff parties at Walterville, Ridgeview, and Thurston High in March and April.
- SEF will host a new fundraiser series beginning on March 19th for Walterville at the Public House. The fundraiser for Yolanda will be held in April. Refer to the district's Facebook page or website for all event details.

Director Light shared:

- John Bridges and Springfield High partnered with the Eugene Symphony, bringing in musical director and conductor Alex Pryor, as the on-stage clinician.
- The Eugene Symphonic Band held a successful joint “Outreach” concert with the Thurston High School band on March 2nd. The band received an award, which came with a significant cash donation.
- Seven elementary school programs are participating in the Eugene Symphony Youth Concert, which will be held at the Holt Center, April 27th; with 2500 students expected to attend.

Director Kohl did not share any updates.

Director Langworthy expressed excitement about the reconsideration of House Bill 4177, which addresses social and serial communication. She is looking forward to training from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) to understand the new legislation. Langworthy enjoyed attending an OGEC live webinar, and plans to attend the March 18th live webinar, noting that the training will provide clarity on interpretation of public meetings laws and civil communication.

The Oath of Office was administered to Robert Brew, who raised his right hand and swore aloud the following:

“I, Bob Brew, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and the laws thereof, and the policies of Springfield School District. During my term, I will faithfully and impartially discharge the responsibility of the Office of board member, to the best of my ability”.

8. NEXT MEETING:S

April 13, 2026 - Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

April 27, 2026 - Special Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all business, Chair Light adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)