

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

A. The Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Light led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. The Land Acknowledgement:

Director Brew 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, Director Bob Brew, and Director Ken Kohl.

District staff and community members identified included Acting Superintendent Jodi O'Mara, Brett Yancey, Martie Steigleder, Rob Hess, Taylor Madden, Brian Richardson, Jeff Michna, Jonathan Gault, Andy Price, Melissa Blomquist, Miranda Cyr, and Ingrid Nordstrom.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Light

MOTION: Chair Light moved, seconded by Director Brew to approve the agenda.

Chair Light called for a vote.

Director De Graff interjected, calling to amend the agenda by adding Policy BCB into discussion; preventing a chair from re-entering leadership if removed by the board.

There were no votes cast. The motion was incomplete.

MOTION: Director DeGraff moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve the agenda as amended and add Policy BCB into discussion.

Chair Light called for a vote.

Motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

3. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660(2)(f) Chair Light
A. Review of Confidential-Attorney-Client Privileged Information ORS 192.660(2)(f)

The board convened into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m.

The board reconvened into regular session at 5:51 p.m.

4. ACTION ITEM
A. Action on Information Discussed in Executive Session Chair Light

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Brew for the board to take no further action related to the complaint discussed in Executive Session and to delegate authority to the chair to draft a response to a complaint based upon the board's decision.

Chair Light asked if there were any questions or discussion.

Director Langworthy declared a conflict of interest.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote to indicate if they approve the motion to take no further action related to a complaint discussed in Executive Session and to delegate authority to the chair to draft a response to a complaint based upon the board's decision: Director Amber Langworthy declared - Conflict of Interest, Director Kohl - Yes, Director Brew - Yes, Director DeGraff - No, and Director Light - Yes.

Motion passed, 3:1, with 1 declared conflict of interest.

5. DISCUSSION

The board agreed to address agenda Item 5.B before 5.A, to better accommodate the schedule of Rob Hess from Grundmeyer Leader Services (GLS), the firm selected to search for an interim superintendent for the Springfield Public School District.

A. Interim Superintendent Search Updates Chair Light
Rob Hess provided updates to the board on the interim superintendent search, highlighting the recruitment process, including recruitment locally and nationally, and data collection from the stakeholder surveys. The involvement of various groups and stakeholders in the screening and final interview process was expounded upon.
May 20th. - Screen applications
May 27th. - Semi-final interviews

Hess discussed the structured interview questions based on stakeholder survey data and the importance of board member input in the recruitment process.

- Final interviews will involve a round-robin format with various groups.
- The board will discuss and decide on key qualifications during the screening process.
- GLS provides a draft set of questions based on all the data to the board, who will then decide which questions to use during the interviews and will also have an opportunity to add or modify them.
- Interviews are conducted in Executive Session.
- The importance of confidentiality of the first two rounds and the importance of board members familiarity with applicants.

B. Future Board Agenda Topic Priorities

Chair Light

Board members questioned and discussed the origin of the original board agenda topics list and sought clarification on whether certain topics are for ongoing discussion or just informational reports. The need for clarity and alignment with board member goals in prioritization of future agenda topics was emphasized. The importance of ongoing communication and understanding of board member roles and responsibilities was also stressed.

Board Discussions:

- The need for an updated board calendar and prioritization list, emphasizing efficiency and student performance.
- Board interest in viewing the calendar and metrics to better understand the district's strengths and weaknesses.
- Parent involvement, with questions around understanding student report cards.
- Data collection and reporting.
- Exit interviews.
- Legislative mandates.
- Finalizing the prioritization list and discussions on policy.
- The importance of family engagement and understanding their needs.
- The board agreed to retain the current prioritization list, with a focus on student performance.

De Graff suggested the board first set goals before brainstorming agenda topics to avoid confusion, to weed out irrelevant board agenda topics and to align them with board roles.

Director Langworthy suggested they unpack current priorities and set new ones for the present and future.

Director Brew discussed the importance of key-metrics for board review and also proposed the idea of creating a comprehensive, district-specific data repository to provide and enhance board member understanding and decision-making.

Chair Light highlighted the need for clarity in the prioritization list, particularly for staff presentations and key metrics.

Director Kohl proposed setting a direction for data reporting with a focus on providing board members with actionable information.

C. BG Policy and Operating Agreements

Chair Light

The board discussed Policy BG on board members visiting schools, while emphasizing the need for clear guidelines and coordination through the superintendent. Board members briefly shared their challenges and experiences of coordinating school visits with multiple people. Board members debated policy interpretation and the level of flexibility the policy should have to accommodate different needs.

Board Discussions:

- The importance and necessity of official versus unofficial and formal versus informal visits clarified.
- The importance of security measures and the need for coordinated visits.
- The importance of creating clear policies and providing better guidance on board member restricted topics outside of work hours.
- Comparison of current policy with those of other districts, noting that all visits go through the superintendent.
- Policy changes should go through the superintendent.

Director Brew highlighted the importance of First Amendment rights in private conversations and also noted the challenges of coordinating school visits with multiple people.

Director Langworthy mentioned not having had the privilege of visiting schools with ease and questioned the necessity of strict policies.

Chair Light suggested gathering more information, including that of reaching out to OSBA for further input.

Acting Superintendent O'Mara suggested tabling the discussion until an interim superintendent is hired, to ensure consistency in policy implementation and due to the board's very busy schedule planned over the next few months.

D. Proposed Changes to BCB Board Member Eligibility Policy

Director De Graff proposed that additions be made to Policy BCB concerning board officers. DeGraff read aloud two draft ideas that she had created, highlighting the proposed policy changes to be in the best interest of the board's effective governance. De Graff called for the topic to be placed on a future agenda, for possible action of Policy BCB change.

Draft 1. Board members who have been censured or removed from leadership roles should not be eligible for re-election until they have taken corrective action.

Draft 2. Possible eligibility following a period of time, such as six months or one year.

Chair Light questioned legal precedents for such changes and suggested the board should consider the broader implications.

Director Kohl compared the proposal to term limits for legislators, suggesting that the board's decision should reflect the will of the voters.

Director Brew asked about past cases where board members were censured or removed.

Director De Graff provided background on the matter-at-hand, suggesting that board members who have been censured or removed from leadership roles, should not be eligible for re-election until corrective action is taken; thus, holding the board accountable, in addition to mitigating risks through the implementation of these changes.

Director Langworthy shared her experience of reaching out to district legal counsel and OSBA, which indicated that there is no precedent for barring censured board members from future leadership roles.

Director De Graff noted that although current policy does not explicitly address the issue, the proposed changes are necessary to guarantee that policy violations will not be repeated by a member in a board chair position.

Chair Light suggested taking the item under advisement and to consider further discussion in future meetings.

6. NEXT MEETINGS:

May 5, 2026 - OGEC Training at 5:00 p.m.

May 7, 2026 – First Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

May 11, 2026 – Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

May 14, 2026 – Second Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

May 20, 2026 – Special Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

May 21, 2026 – Third Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m. (if necessary)

May 27, 2026 – Special Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all business, Chair Light adjourned the Springfield Board Special Meeting at 7:41 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)