

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A Work Session of the Springfield School District No.19 Board of Education was held on August 24, 2026.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education Work Session to order at 6:03 p.m.

A. The Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Light led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. The Land Acknowledgement

Director Kohl shared aloud 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 honor the heritage and the humanity of all people and to promote unity within our school district. .

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

District staff and community members identified included Interim Superintendent Shawn Stover, Brian Megert, Brett Yancey, Martie Steigleder, Taylor Madden, Jeff Michna, Miranda Cyr, Kimberly Weston, John Osgood, Loretta Halter, Ingrid Nordstrom, Nancy Bray, Johannis Tadeo, Lou Woodford, Patty Sandy, Alex Aguilar, Gail Woodford, and Jocelyn Sanchez.

Board Amendment

MOTION: Chair Light moved, seconded by Director Brandt to approve having board communications on the agendas at all regular meetings and work sessions.

Chair Light called for a vote, asking each board member to indicate if they approve the motion to have board communications on the agendas at all regular meetings and work sessions: Director Langworthy - Yes, Director Kohl - Yes, Director Brew - Yes, Director Brandt - Yes, and Chair Light - Yes.

Motion Passed, 5:0.

2. ACTION ITEM

A. Action on Information Discussed in Executive Session

Chair Light

MOTION: Director Brew moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve the motion to accept the recommendation made in Executive Session on a personnel matter.

Chair Light called for a vote, asking each board member to indicate if they approve the motion to approve the motion to accept the recommendation made in Executive Session on a personnel matter: Director Langworthy - Yes, Director Kohl - Yes, Director Brew - Yes, Director Brandt - Yes, and Chair Light - Yes.

Motion Passed, 5:0.

3. DISCUSSION

A. Bargaining Planning

Interim Superintendent Shawn Stover & Chair Light

Interim Superintendent Stover addressed the board, informing them that they had begun the planning process for the upcoming bargaining session with the Springfield Educators Association (SEA). The hiring of an outside facilitator/spokesperson to lead negotiations was recommended, per Policy BBA. A formal plan for the hiring of a facilitator/spokesperson will be presented in an upcoming executive session, with potential starts as early as September.

B. Policy – Immigration

Interim Superintendent Stover

Interim Superintendent Stover shared that per state legislature requirements, the district must adopt a new immigration enforcement policy by the end of September. Stover presented the OSBA Model Policy, noting that while it is restrictive, the district had already implemented many communication protocols and staff training. The board will conduct a first read and markup during the September work session.

The Proposed Policy includes:

- Naming a designee
- Providing one hour of staff training
- Including a link to the policy in student handbooks

C. School Board Representation - Local Org

Chair Light

The board discussed filling an open seat for the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF).

MOTION: Chair Light moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve Mathew Brandt as Springfield Board Representative to the Springfield Education Foundation.

Chair Light called for a vote, asking each board member to indicate if they approve Mathew Brandt as Springfield Board Representative to the Springfield Education Foundation: Director

Langworthy - Yes, Director Kohl - Yes, Director Brew - Yes, Director Brandt - Yes, and Chair Light - Yes.

Motion Passed 5:0.

D. 30 Day Parking Lot

Interim Superintendent Stover

Stover presented updated working agreements and operating procedures following a recent board retreat. The non-policy agreements clarify roles in strategic planning, day-to-day operations, and communication protocols between the board and administration. Due to interim status, long-term leadership of major projects may be deferred to a permanent superintendent. Various future priority topics included local levy options, solar arrays for energy savings, and affordable green housing projects.

Primary Priorities

- Ensuring Smooth District Operations (“Better Together”)
- Advancing Teaching and Learning Momentum

Working Agreements

- Updated General Operating Procedures were reviewed to clarify roles between the board and administration.
- Key Updates include:
 - Revisiting agreements on a quarterly basis
 - Clarifying that strategic direction is board-driven, while daily operations are administrative-driven.
 - Establishing protocols for following up on public comments and managing student concerns through proper channels, rather than via public comment periods or direct board intervention.
 - Media relations - designated spokespersons are the board chair, superintendent, and the spokesperson (PIO).
 - Policy versus Agreement

Strategic Planning — The board reviewed a list of potential focus areas for long-range planning following the superintendent’s initial entry period.

- Curriculum Oversight
 - Implementing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) - ensures consistent educational products across grade levels and allows teacher autonomy.
 - Define “Mastery Standards” to clarify student and family expectations.
 - Remain nimble in defining the district's academic approach.
- Community Engagement
- Proposed Topics:
 - Permanent superintendent recruitment
 - Local levy options and development processes
 - Solar arrays for energy cost reduction
 - Affordable green housing
 - Staff well-being and chronic student absenteeism

Operational Improvements — The meeting addressed logistical changes to improve board productivity and policy management.

- Meeting Structure - Table arrangement to facilitate collaborative work
- Policy Committee - The formation of a board policy committee

Board Operating Agreements and Complaints

- Protocol for handling student discipline concerns
 - Family exit surveys to understand declining enrollment
 - The need to choose a more accessible versus more robust discipline handbook
 - The importance of “upward advocacy” to address state (disciplinary options) laws and possible use of student surveys about school climate.
- Handling of anonymous complaints regarding student safety
- Protocol for board member information requests
- Complaint process regarding faculty or staff concerns

Strategic Planning and Media Policy

- Gather community feedback on the overall document; discuss at the September meeting.
- Seek consensus on working agreements
- Clarification of the media relations policy
- Long-range strategic planning to begin after the October work session

Elementary Curriculum Review — The board reviewed a proposed focus on elementary curriculum, specifically looking for a district-wide K-5 overview that shows how instruction builds across grade levels. Board members expressed interest in viewing integrated curriculum maps and priority standards that demonstrate how science and social studies are taught; and providing a “safety net” of resources for new teachers, and that exemplary practitioners should not face a “ceiling” on their instructional creativity.

Community Engagement and Communication Plans

- Strategically Address Absenteeism - Through use of student and family surveys.
- Correct misinformation within the community.
- Build Trust and Attract New Families - Through use of listening sessions and improved website visibility.
- Social Media Updates and Website Content - Use statistical data as a baseline for success.

Facilities Planning - A significant portion of the meeting focused on declining enrollment and potential school consolidation or resource maximization.

- The formation of a sites and facility committee to manage long-term goals
- The committee could potentially partner with entities, district, or community partners
- Preparing for possible school closures or consolidations for the 2027-28 school year

Stover presented a draft board meeting calendar that includes regular meetings and work sessions. November 30th, March 29th, and May 24th were identified as potential meeting dates. The board considered whether to hold semi-annual retreats or additional meetings, allowing for deeper strategic planning. The creation of a decision point menu outlining the pros and cons of scheduling more meetings.

Policy Reviews

Policy BG - Regarding board-to-staff communication and school visits requires immediate attention due to its impact on the September school start. Clarify definitions of “official” versus “unofficial” visits will be provided by the next board meeting.

- A dedicated policy committee to handle technicalities like DFA (capital expenditures) was advocated for, and to trigger points for improvement.
- The need to resolve contradictions across three existing policies.
- Questions remain regarding how site councils will be utilized in practice compared to current policy.

Superintendent Selection Process

The board plans to begin addressing the superintendent selection process in September by issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for search firms.

F. Dual Immersion Summary

Taylor Madden & Brian Megert

Dual Language Update:

- The addition of 1.0 FTE at Springfield High School for 12th graders. This is funded by the one-time monies from the summer learning grant and high school success grant.
- The designation of Armando Garcia as the K-12 dual language instruction coordinator
- An application submitted to ODE for the Pathways to Multilingualism Grant, which could provide \$50,000 for community engagement and curriculum materials.
- Parent & Student meeting - Thursday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Hamlin Middle School
- Establish a K-12 dual language advisory committee, ideally with level subcommittees

G. Board Communication

Director Brew presented a proposal to address declining enrollment and housing shortages by examining district property assets.

- Explore options for establishing a six-month ad hoc advisory committee to review and recommend potential uses.
- The committee would include professionals from various sectors.
- The goal: To use assets strategically to address Springfield declining enrollment and housing challenges.

Director Brandt did not participate.

Director Langworthy did not participate.

Director Kohl did not participate.

Chair Light shared:

- New Teacher Orientation - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
- NAACP banquet - Saturday night

5. NEXT MEETINGS:

September 14, 2026 - Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
September 28, 2026 – Work Session at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all business, Chair Light adjourned the Work Session at 8:39 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)