

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A Business Meeting of the Springfield School District No.19 Board of Education was held on May 11, 2026.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Director Light read 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 attending the meeting included Board Chair Jonathan Light, Director Ken Kohl, Director Nicole De Graff, Director Bob Brew, and Director Amber Langworthy.

District staff and community members identified included Acting Superintendent Jodi O'Mara, Brett Yancey, Martie Steigleder, Mindy LeRoux Brian Richardson, Jeff Michna, Joyce Johnson-Smith, Jeff Fuller, Teagan Roche, Tamera Brown, Bill Miller, Sandy Miller, Melissa Blomquist, Ingrid Nordstrom, Matt O'Malley, Sheila Garrets, Jonathan Gault, Julie Kemper, Tommy Kemper, Rob Hess, Andy Price, Zach Bessett, Tyna Julian, Lucy Rogers, Jaco Eden, Areonna Carey, Hunter Murphy, Cayden Finney, Bailee Foster, Patty Sandoz, Josh Donaldson, Cliff Schutte, Heather Quaas-Annsa, Ryan Herlands, Bayleigh Harshbarger, Kimberlee Pelster, Megan Knight, Melissa Stalder, Cassandra Moorhead, Kari Isham Skelton, Naomi Raven, Peter Raven, Morgan Rees, Kristyl Rogers, Amy Lyons, and Brandon Ferguson.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Light asked for a motion to approve the May 11, 2026, agenda as presented.

MOTION: Director De Graff moved, seconded by Director Brew, to approve the May 11, 2026, agenda as presented.

The motion was incomplete. No votes were cast.

Director Langworthy requested to add a discussion to the agenda about allowing Springfield Education Association (SEA) to speak at board meetings.

After some debate, the board agreed to a short discussion on the topic, adding it as agenda item 6.F.

Director Kohl requested to pull consent agenda item 5A.1. Board meeting minutes from April 13th, for a separate discussion.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Langworthy, to approve the May 11, 2026, agenda as amended.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the May 11, 2026, agenda as amended: Director Brew – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff– No, Director Light – Yes, and Director Langworthy – Yes.

Motion passed, 4:1.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Student Board Representative Communication

A3's Bradley Norris and **Brattain Campus's** Aiden Hight were not present.

Springfield High - Lucy Rogers provided updates on:

- Various school activities, including the success of the spring athletics program and the choir's advancement to the state level.
- Junior council's efforts in planning the prom and organizing Spirit Week were highlighted.
- The theater performance of "She Kills Monsters" was celebrated for its success.
- The multicultural assembly's positive impact and the final senior class meeting's updates on graduation was mentioned.

Thurston High - Hunter Murphy shared highlights on:

- The success of various school events and achievements.
- The Cold Night event, which featured multiple CTE and art pathways, GSA leadership, and many others.
- The Jubilee week begins May 18th, culminating in the BSU Block Party on May 22nd.
- Next year's ASP leadership elections concluded, with new leaders announced.
- Appreciation expressed for this year's ASB leadership.

WLA - Dortys Diaz and/ or Cayden Finney shared:

- Spring Carnival - May 9th.
- Junior and senior prom - May 16th.
- The color guard will represent Willamette Beach Academy at the Emeralds game on May 22nd.

- The theater performance, “Dracula”, opens on Friday, April 24th, and will run for two weekends.
- Spring sports highlights were presented.
- Band and orchestra programs excelled, with several students placing in the top at the state solo and ensemble competition.
- The Language Academy’s testing for middle and 11th graders began.
- 62% of Seniors completed their FAFSA in preparation for graduation.
- Ninth and tenth graders maintained over 75% attendance.

B. K-5 Presentation

Director De Graff interjected, expressing concerns about the process and governance of the K-5 presentation, which she believed had been shaped by serial communications prior to the meeting that evening.

Joyce Smith-Johnson provided an overview of elementary instruction, covering K-5 content standards in arts, English, health, library, math, PE, science, and social and emotional learning. While all schools cover the same content, they work on delivering it in ways that work for their students and staff. The school day runs from 8:35 - 2:50 p.m. with two early releases per month. All required standards and subjects are being taught every single day in each of the district buildings.

Maple Elementary Principal Megan Knight, presented their detailed building schedule, integrating thematic weeks and focusing on the second grade.

- The morning routine includes Healthy Moves and morning meetings.
- The CORE instruction block includes math, recess, two-tier reading, and literacy activities.
- Afternoon blocks are dedicated to integrated learning; writing, science, second step, health, social studies, library, art, SEL, and themed units.
- Teachers share responsibilities, with specialists handling specific subjects.

Walterville Elementary Principal Andy Price, presented their detailed building schedule, highlighting the morning routine and integrated studies.

- The morning routine includes Arrival & Welcome and Integrated Studies.
- The CORE instruction block includes math and tier-two reading.
- Afternoon blocks are dedicated to integrated studies; health, science, social studies, SEL, Art, Library, Technology, and writing.
- The schedule is flexible to meet the needs of students and teachers, with a focus on core content areas.

Chair Light acknowledged community concerns about the coverage of subjects like science and social-emotional learning.

Johnson reassured that all subjects are being taught and encouraged families to reach out to building administrators if they have concerns.

4. 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.

Heather Quaas-Annsa - Board Responsibilities and Professional Governance Practices.

Naomi Raven - Board Conduct, Behavior, and Accountability.

Sandy Miller - No Show

James Stegall - Board Member use of Social Media to Solicit Parent Opinions and Shape Policy Decisions.

Ryan Herlands - Teacher Appreciation, Current Budget Process, and Staff Cuts.

Brandon Ferguson - Proposed Budget Presentation and Staff Cuts.

Lisa Barrager - Board Conduct, Behavior, and Cohesiveness

Zach Bessett - Child Centered Leadership

Sheila Garrelts - Walterville Elementary Principal's Reduction of Hours.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

1. April 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
2. April 20, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
3. Financial Statement, Resolution #25-26.051

Brett Yancey

Chair Light asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for May 11, 2026, as presented.

Director Kohl requested Consent Agenda Item 4.A.1; April 13th Board Meeting Minutes be held for discussion.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Chair Light to approve the Consent Agenda of Items 2, 3, and 4; for May 11, 2026, as amended.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor of approving the May 11, 2026 Consent Agenda Items 2, 3, and 4 as amended: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, and Director Langworthy – Yes.

Motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

(Consent Agenda Item 4.A.1) April 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

Director Kohl raised concerns about the accuracy of the meeting minutes, including the recording of notes and the approval of district-wide pesticides.

The board agreed to table the minutes for clarification and further discussion at the June 8th meeting.

B. Approve School Security Systems, Resolution #25-26.053

Brett Yancey

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the agreement for Summit 17 Solutions to provide security system replacement through the State of Oregon contract OETC-21B-Camera & Video, for a total cost of \$482,191.50.

MOTION: Director Brew moved, Director De Graff seconded the motion to approve the resolution for Summit 17 Systems.

Chair Light asked if there was any discussion.

Director Kohl noticed a discrepancy in the numbers, to which Brett Yancey acknowledged the transposed error and amended the total bid cost from \$462,191.50 to \$482,191.50.

Director Kohl questioned the contracting process, specifically whether board approval is required for special procurements over \$250,000.

Yancey explained that purchasing off the state award contracts is an exception to procurement law and does not require board approval.

Director Kohl emphasized the need for a Capital Improvements Plan to anticipate future maintenance and replacement needs. Yancey remembered the board discussing reconvening a Facilities Advisory Committee, adding that staff is waiting for board direction on the matter.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they approve the agreement for Summit 17 Solutions to provide security system replacement through State of Oregon contract OETC-21B-Camera & Video, for a total cost of \$482,191.50: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, and Director Langworthy – Yes.

Motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

**C. Approve Administrators, Certified & Classified,
Resolution #25-26.054**

Brett Yancey

It is recommended that Springfield Public Schools Board of Directors authorizes the Superintendent or designee to implement reductions in force across administrative, classified, and licensed employee groups in preparation for the 2026-27 school year, in accordance with board policy, state law and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

MOTION: Director De Graff moved, Director Brew seconded the motion that Springfield Public Schools Board of Directors authorizes the Superintendent or designee to implement reductions in force across administrative, classified, and licensed employee groups in preparation for the 2026-27 school year, in accordance with board policy, state law and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Chair Light asked if there was any discussion.

Director Kohl declared a conflict of interest, as a spouse of an employee subject to the reductions.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they approve that Springfield Public Schools Board of Directors authorizes the Superintendent or designee to implement reductions in force across administrative, classified, and licensed employee groups in preparation for the 2026-27 school year, in accordance with board policy, state law and applicable collective bargaining agreements: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, and Director Langworthy – No.

Motion passed, 4:1, and 1 declared conflict of interest.

**D. Adopt Elementary Science, Resolution #25-26.053 and Secondary Social Science
Adoption, Resolution #25-26.055**

Whitney McKinley & Jeff Fuller

It is recommended that the Board approve the request of: McGraw Hill, Wonders + Discovery Education, Mystery Science, for instructional use in Elementary School and the adoption of Secondary Social Science.

Teachers' Curriculum Institute:

- 6th: History Alive! The Ancient World (2023)
- 7th: History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond (2024)
- 8th: History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism (2023)
for instructional use in the Middle School Social Science Courses, and

Cengage:

- National Geographic American Government, (2022)
- Contemporary Economics, (2018)
- National Geographic World History Voyages of Exploration, (2021)
- National Geographic U.S. History America Through the Lens 1877 to the Present, (2025) for instructional use in the High School Social Science Courses.

MOTION: Director Brew moved, Director Kohl seconded the motion to approve the request of: McGraw Hill, Wonders + Discovery Education, Mystery Science, for instructional use in Elementary School and the adoption of Secondary Social Science.

Chair Light asked if there was any discussion.

Director Kohl questioned the process for approving contracts for the procurement of materials and suggested approving the curriculum but requiring a separate approval for the contract.

McKinley provided estimated costs for the materials, which are well below the approved budget line item.

Yancey clarified that the board's action authorizes the purchase, not the contract negotiation. Director Brew requested report on cost, and policy definition.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they approve the request of McGraw Hill, Wonders + Discovery Education, Mystery Science, for instructional use in Elementary School and the adoption of Secondary Social Science: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, and Director Langworthy – No.

Motion passed, 4:1.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Lane ESD Budget Committee

Acting Superintendent Jodi O'Mara

Acting Superintendent Jodi O'Mara discussed the need to fill a vacancy on the Lane Education Service District (ESD) Budget Committee.

NOMINATION: Chair Light nominated Amber Langworthy to serve as board representative on the Lane ESD Budget Committee, Director Brew seconded the nomination.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they approve of Amber Langworthy to serve as board representative on the Lane ESD Budget Committee: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director De Graff – Yes, and Director Langworthy – Yes.

Nomination passed unanimously, 5:0.

B. Superintendent Contract

Acting Superintendent O'Mara

Acting Superintendent O'Mara requested a revisit of the additional stipend for the acting superintendent, citing the substantial undertaking of both roles. O'Mara noted, it was initially agreed upon but not included in the contract. Board members discussed the initial negotiations and the inclusion of the additional stipend in the contract.

Chair Light asked if there were any motions. There were no motions made by the board.

C. Interim Superintendent Updates

Acting Superintendent O'Mara

Dr. Rob Hess, provided an update on the interim superintendent search, mentioning the stakeholder survey results. The stakeholder survey revealed 561 respondents, highlighting the top respondent affiliations and district strengths in caring staff, academic growth, community partnerships, and challenges in staff support and morale.

Search Timeline

- May 10th - Application Deadline: 16 applications were submitted for board review.
- May 20th Board Meeting - Candidate Presentations: Board review of applications and recommendation of a group to go forward to the semi-final interview.
- May 27th - Semi-Finalist Interviews
- June 9th - Finalist Interviews, emphasizing transparency and democratic selection.

The board discussed the district's strengths and community partnerships, emphasizing the importance of addressing these challenges to improve the overall district performance. The process for selecting participants for the screening team and semi-final interviews was explained. Additional discussion topics:

- An outline of the plan for selecting board members and community members to participate in the screening and interview committees.
- The criteria for selecting candidates, including prior superintendent experience and alignment with survey results.
- The importance of a balanced representation and of having different stakeholders on each day of the process to ensure diverse feedback.
- Finalist Day - Board interviews and board district tours, interview structures, and community involvement.
- Desired qualifications and advice for the new leader.
 - Ethics and transparency, culture and climate fostering, and resource management.
 - Advice by survey respondents, emphasizing the need for visibility, listening, and collaboration.

The board agreed on the need for live data collection and stakeholder feedback to inform the final decision.

D. Policy BCB Review

Chair Light

Chair Light introduced agenda item Policy BCB review and draft project changes to enhance board member access to schools and communication with staff.

Director De Graff noted that the topic she had brought to the table was recently discussed on May 27th; focusing on the need for changes in the policy to ensure accountability and transparency in leadership actions. She stated that other than speaking with OSB and Spencer Lewis, she did not have anything new to add to the discussion at that time. The board debated the proposed changes, with some members expressing concerns about the fairness and effectiveness of the current policy.

E. Policy BG Review

Chair Light

Chair Light clarified the board member's responsibilities, emphasizing the need for oversight and support of the superintendent and for board members to be informed and proactive in addressing district issues.

The board discussed the importance of visiting schools and engaging with staff to understand the district's needs and challenges, as well as the importance of a collaborative and transparent governance approach to improve district outcomes.

Director Brew supported the proposed changes, highlighting the importance of board members being able to schedule visits directly with building leadership rather than going through multiple layers of administration.

Director De Graff raised concerns about board members publicly admonishing staff and the need for administrators to follow district protocols without fear of repercussions.

Director Langworthy shared personal experiences of being blocked from visiting schools and expressed a desire for a policy that works for all board members.

Director De Graff questioned the consistency of Director Langworthy's complaints, suggesting a need for board roles and responsibilities training.

Chair Light clarified that the proposed changes do not restrict current practices and emphasized the importance of defining informal visits.

Director Kohl was not in support of the policy change, emphasizing the importance of a good working relationship with the superintendent.

Acting Superintendent O'Mara suggested tabling the discussion and seeking advice from OSBA on potential policy changes.

F. Springfield Education Association (SEA) Ability to Comment at Board Meetings

Director Langworthy proposed allowing the SEA to have a dedicated space to share updates at board meetings, similar to public comment.

Director De Graff questioned the necessity of a special space for the SEA, suggesting that public comment already provides an opportunity to share and that it was not a good idea for political or advocacy groups to be provided a special space.

Chair Light supported the idea of providing a dedicated slot for the SEA.

Director Brew suggested a six-month trial period to see if a dedicated space for SEA would work effectively.

Director Kohl stated he would support it as long as the board was only listening to their report and not veering into negotiation issues.

7. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. OSBA Summer School Session

Acting Superintendent O'Mara

Acting Superintendent O'Mara mentioned the importance of board members attending the OSBA Summer School Session in Eugene on July 16th. Board members were encouraged to register. June 1st - The deadline for registration.

B. Superintendent Communication

Acting Superintendent O'Mara

The superintendent is addressing concerns raised publicly about board members not being given opportunities to visit schools. School visits for the superintendent were prioritized because the board emphasized the need for a visible leader focused on rebuilding trust, healing the district, and putting students first. Board member visits had been postponed since November due to bargaining and later mid-year layoffs, with schools needing time to adjust. The superintendent states there has been no intentional preferential treatment or effort to exclude board members.

Since starting March 2, the superintendent has also had to take on responsibilities beyond the superintendent role, requiring significant support from district leadership. This has increased Martie's workload as well, particularly because of two monthly board meetings and additional duties related to the interim superintendent search. The superintendent recognizes and appreciates Martie's flexibility and work during this transition.

C. Board Communication and Comments

Chair Light

Director De Graff provided various Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) updates, including the SEF Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) grant application review, mentioning the upcoming grant awards announcement and a grant giving tour to be held in late May. A series of fundraisers at Public House called Toasted Teachers, was also highlighted, which will benefit different schools each month.

Director Langworthy did not share communications or comments.

Director Light shared his experience at the Celebration of Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage event, praising the staff and volunteers for their efforts and suggested more community and family activities. Light proposed a board retreat to revisit board goals and missions to ensure they are still relevant and effective.

Director Kohl shared that he had attended an LCOG meeting, where they updated a revised budget.

Director Brew emphasized the complexity of delivering a balanced budget, selecting a superintendent, and adopting policies. Brew proposed having an attorney present at board

meetings, conducting a family exit survey, and presenting an anti-bullying and harassment policy.

8. NEXT MEETINGS:

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.

Chair Light thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all business, Chair Light adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Treenay Ryan, LCOG)