SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97477 **MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Springfield School District No.19 Board of Education was held on October 12, 2026.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education board meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Light led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Land Acknowledgement:

Chair Light read 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 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 Bob Brew and Director Amber Langworthy. Absent: Director Matthew Brandt.

District staff and community members identified included Interim Superintendent Shawn Stover, Brett Yancey, Martie Steigleder, Jeff Michna, Brian Megert, Mindy LeRoux, Greg Fisher, Kristina Boe, Eric Adams, Michael Wargo, Nicole Nakayama, Eduardo Avalos, Azayla Brade, Teagan Roche, Joyce Douglas, Dortys Diaz, Jeff Fuller, Kenny Weigandt, Hunter Murphy, Sarah Taylor, Joyce Douglas, Courtney Steed, Cliff Schutte, Ingrid Nordstrom, Robert Nordstrom, Greg Fisher, Kimberlee Pelster, Miranda Cyr, Brandon Ferguson, Kate McGuire, Elle Kubiaczyk, Linda Nordstrom, Andy Price, Jose da Silva, Areonna Carey, Reilyn Becker, Patty Sandy, Melissa Bloom, Loretta Halter, and John Osgood.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Light asked for a motion to approve the October 12, 2026, agenda as presented.

MOTION: Director Brew moved, seconded by Director Kohl, to approve the

October 12, 2026, agenda as presented.

Director Kohl requested to:

1. Add 5.B. Take Action on a topic discussed in executive session
2. Add 5.C Add an item to the June 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
3. Pull 5.A.2. June 22, 2026, Special Minutes for discussion
4. Pull 5.A.5. Financial Statement for discussion

Director Langworthy requested to pull 5.A.7. Personnel Report.

Chair Light requested to:

1. Pull 5.A.6. Approval of Financial Institution
2. Pull 5.A.8. Approve ODE Restraint & Seclusion Report

Director Brew requested to:

1. Pull 5.A.3. June 8, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion Incomplete

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Chair Light to approve as amended the October 12, 2026, agenda with the following changes; 5.A.2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are pulled for discussion, add Item 5.B.1. Action on the Executive Session, and add Item 5.C. June 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.

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 amended October 12, 2026, agenda with the following changes; 5.A.2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are pulled for discussion, add 5.B.1. Action on the Executive Session, and add 5.B.2. June 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes: Director Brew – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, Director Light – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

3. PRESENTATIONS
A. Student Board Representative Communication

A3 - Eduardo Avalos described “Headwaters” orientation activities and the upcoming “Confluence” project themed around civil rights. Dates noted include Student Body Conferences on October 22-23 and ACT testing on October 27th.

Gateways Brattain Campus - Azayla Braden provided highlights on new clubs like the Latinx Club and GSA, as well as ongoing cosmetology services provided through their salon.

Springfield High School (SHS) - Areonna Carey discussed SHS’s “85% to Thrive” initiative to improve attendance and mentioned the success of the homecoming dance. The “Trunk orTreat” event is being planned for October 31st.

Thurston High School (THS) - Teagan Roche shared that THS had a 92% average daily attendance rate and noted the successful remodel of the THS greenhouse. Upcoming events include “National Girls Night Out” on October 16th and a fall musical concert on October 22nd.

WLA - Dortys Diaz noted successful cadet promotions and intramural soccer dates such as the Homecoming Dance on November 5th and Veterans Day on November 11th.

B. Springfield DECA

Greg Fisher, accompanied by two students who attended the International Career and Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, highlighted how program connects classroom instruction with real-world business applications through its gold-certified school-based enterprise, Miller Mart.

DECA student Reilyn, shared her personal experience at the conference, noting that despite initial social anxiety, the team building environment helped her build professional connections and gain clarity regarding her future career path via programs like Business Week, through the Oregon Business Academy.

C. Willamalane & City of Springfield

Willamalane’s Executive Director Michael Wargo, introduced a collaboration between Willamalane and Springfield School District to build a native plant nursery at the former youth farm site.

Willamalane Planner & Designer Kristina Boe and Willamalane Financial Resource Supervisor Eric Adams, outlined the technical plan to use established gardening structures to host storage, potting areas, and raised beds. Boe provided a brief slide show featuring natural resource-related projects throughout Springfield.

- The project aims to reduce costs for green infrastructure and restoration projects across 1,000 acres of natural area.
- An estimated $80,000 grant from the EPA Urban Waters Partnership has been secured to initiate the project.
- Potential benefits include improved security for the property due to increased activity and educational STEM opportunities for students via the SPS Farm to School Program.

Willamalane Recreation and Community Services Director Kenny Weigandt, presented data on the successful collaboration between Willamalane Parks and Recreation and Springfield Public Schools (SPS) regarding youth wellness and activity.

- The One Pass Program, funded by SPS, saw record usage with 85,725 total uses this year across 11,000 available passes.
- Youth care initiatives including Kids Club, Winter Blast Camp, and summer camps are being hosted at various school sites, serving hundreds of students.
- Athletic programming such as elementary sports (basketball/track) and middle school sports (volleyball/soccer) utilized school facilities for practices while games occurred at district sites like Hamlin’s Track and the Bob Keefer Center.
- The long-standing 63-year partnership includes fourth-grade swim lessons at the Willamalane Park Swim Center, focusing on water safety for 687 participants from all 12 schools.
- Willamalane has also been very collaborative on student transportation.

- The program allows seniors from the adult activity center to visit cosmetology labs to work with students.
- These collaborations foster intergenerational connections and provide practical experience for cosmetology students.
- Free, One Passes were funded by the school district. Passes are available for purchase or free, depending upon the need and also available to non-SPS students.

Director Kohl asked how much of the site was currently being utilized.

Brett Yancey answered that the total size of the property is 10 acres, split between two parcels: a six-acre parcel and a four-acre parcel. Even with current plans, well over half of the property would still be available for expansion. The youth farm, along with support staff are presently there, but more staff is needed to expand the site.

SPS Farm Manager Joyce Douglas, shared that students visit the farm for work experience and through field trips. The project would enhance their abilities, experience, and educational opportunities for students, which would integrate more STEM and similar projects at the farm.

Chair Light inquired if the One Pass was modeled after another program?

Director Wargo replied that he believed it to be “homegrown.” Willamalane is the first special park district in Oregon.

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 2:00pm. 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.

Kate McGuire - Out of State Field Trip Clarification

Courtney Steed - Change to Bring Homeschooled Kids back to SPS

Ingrid Nordstrom - K-5 Curriculum Modality

Linga Nordstrom - Springfield School Curriculum

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Consent Agenda

1. August 24, 2026, Work Session Minutes
2. June 22, 2026, Special Minutes
3. June 8, 2026, Business Minutes
4. May 11, 2026, Business Minutes
5. Financial Statement, Resolution #26-27.012 — Brett Yancey
6. Approval of Financial Institution, Resolution #26-27.013 — Brett Yancey
7. Personnel Report, Resolution #26-27.014 — Dustin Reese
8. Approve ODE Restraint & Seclusion Report, Resolution #26-27.015 — Nicole Nakayama
9. Approve OSTR THS Cheer & Stunt, Resolution #26-27.016 — Brian Megert
10. Approve OSTR SHS Girls Basketball, Resolution #26-27.017 — Brian Megert

Chair Light asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for October 12, 2026, as presented.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, Director Brew seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda for October 12, 2026, as amended, reflecting changes made in the approval and to include Items 5.A.1, 4, 9, and 10.

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 Consent Agenda for October 12, 2026, as amended, reflecting changes made in the approval and to include Items 5.A.1, 4, 9, and 10.: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

Agenda Item 5.A.2. June 22, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

The June 22, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes were tabled due to possible errors concerning Director Yancey's attendance.

Agenda Item 5.A.3. June 8, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes

The board discussed the confusion between "special meeting minutes" and "business meeting minutes", including how a "conflict of interest" was recorded for Director De Graff.

The June 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes were tabled for further clarification and review on whether they should be separate documents.

Agenda Item 5.A.5. Financial Statement

Director Kohl questioned revenue impacts from lower enrollment, while administration noted funding is based on previous year numbers.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Chair Light to approve Agenda Item 5.A.5. Financial Statement.

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 Item 5.A.5. Financial Statement: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

Agenda Item 5.A.6. Approval of Financial Institution

The board discussed the financial statement and addressed questions regarding how lower enrollment might impact future revenue. Funding is based on the previous year's numbers, making immediate projections difficult.

MOTION: Chair Light moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve Item 5.A.6. Financial Institution, designating Zions Bancorporation as a depository for district funds for the 2026-2027, fiscal year.

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 Consent Agenda Item 5.A.6. Financial Institution, designating Zions Bancorporation as a depository for district funds for the 2026-2027, fiscal year.: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

Agenda Item 5.A.7. Personnel Report

Director Langworthy wondered why the district does not report specific details like names, position, and years of service for departing employees, noting that other districts do.

Interim Superintendent Stover stated that they must avoid violating privacy rules and that he would research how much more information could be shared with the board, while maintaining privacy. Stover described a board report he was preparing on employee retirements and resignations and indicated that he would research what could be shared without violating privacy laws.

MOTION: Director Langworthy moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve the Personnel Report and resolution as presented.

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 Personnel Report and resolution as presented.: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

Agenda Item 5.A.8. Approve ODE Restraint & Seclusion Report

Chair Light requested further clarification of the report.

Brian Megert provided that clarification, emphasizing that restraint and seclusion are strictly for addressing imminent safety concerns and cannot be used for disciplinary purposes. The board will receive Oregon guidance and technical assistance materials on preventing restraint and seclusion.

MOTION: Chair Light moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve the ODE Restraint & Seclusion Report as presented.

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 ODE Restraint & Seclusion Report as presented: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

5.A.9
Agenda Items 5.A.2 June 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes and 5.A.3. June 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Brew to table Action Items 5.A.2. June 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes and 5.A.3. June 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor to table Action Items 5.A.2. June 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes and 5.A.3. June 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

5. **B. Item Discussed in Executive Session**

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Brew to take no further action related to the complaint discussed in executive session and delegate authority to the chair to draft a response to the complaint based on board discussion.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they supported the motion in favor to take no further action related to the complaint discussed in executive session and delegate authority to the chair to draft a response to the complaint based on board discussion.**:** Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

Agenda Item 5.C. Add an item to the June 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

A board discussion occurred regarding the confusion between “special meeting minutes” and “business meeting minutes” for June 8, 2026. The agenda items were tabled for revision.

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Brew to table the approval of the June 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes to allow for revision.

Chair Light called for a roll call vote. Chair Light asked each Board member to indicate if they approve of tabling the approval of the June 8, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes to allow for revision.: Director Brew – Yes, Director Light – Yes, Director Kohl – Yes, and Director Langworthy - Yes.

Motion passed, 4:0.

6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Board Priorities Updates

Interim Superintendent Stover acknowledged Indigenous Peoples Day and Hispanic Heritage Month, highlighting the district’s commitment to cultural safety.

Board Priorities:

- Elementary Curriculum/Assessment
- Student Behavior/Discrimination
- Community Involvement through Surveys
- Establishing a Facilities Committee

Stover provided an update on the one-year action plan, including parent advocacy meetings, school visits, and the progress of the SPS Parent Survey, which has received nearly 700 responses.

School District Updates:

- Work is progressing at Walterville, Centennial, and Two Rivers Dos Rios, with a target completion date around February or March. A repair issue involving a snapped truss was noted at Thurston.
- A new greenhouse was established through a partnership between the facilities department, Springfield Education Foundation (SEF), and the high school.
- Nutrition Services added new menu items based on student feedback.
- SEF is preparing for its 17th annual “Night of 11,000 Stars” gala and auction to be held on October 24th at The Ford Alumni Center, 5 - 9 p.m.
- Funding is partially tied to University of Oregon football touchdowns, with potential earnings ranging from $1,000 to $3,000.

— Agenda Items 6.A. Board Priorities Update and 6.B. Superintendent Report, ran together as one, having no introduction or distinction between the two.

B. Superintendent Report

C. Interim Superintendent Stover shared anecdotal feedback regarding recent instructional discussions and upcoming protocols for principals and staff. Recent ODE academic assessments were highlighted.

Academic Performance:

- Rising three-year growth trends in English Language Arts (ELA) and math.
- Third-grade literacy scores, after four years of focused literacy work, are within one point on the standard of error.
- While math and ELA are strong, science requires more work, leading to the use of fifth-grade science tests as local assessments.

Stover plans to schedule co-teaching lessons with the staff once scheduling allows.

C. Board Communication and Comments Chair Light

Director Kohl shared that he had met with Interim Superintendent Stover at Briggs Middle and was able to meet with the new principal of the school.

Director Brew shared that they would be preparing some evaluation material for Interim Superintendent Stover and instructed board members to make known any particular areas of interest to them.

Director Langworthy shared that she had hoped to hear where the three associations were at in coming forward to give a future board presentation; and hopes to receive an update on the matter during the October 26th board meeting. Langworthy also looks forward to discussing AI, along with the review of its policy.

Director Light shared that he also had been following the issues surrounding AI and believes it is their responsibility to ensure that student instruction and oversight of AI are intentional and not aspirational. Highlights of school events he attended were shared.

D. Superintendent Search Report Brett Yancey

Brett Yancey provided an update on the superintendent search and presented a basic outline of a time frame.

- October 2nd - Request for Proposals (RFPs) Distributed
- October 9th - Responder's Questions Due
- October 12th - Responder's Questions Answered
- October 16th - Proposals Due by 4:00 p.m.
- October 16th - 23rd - Proposal Reviews Conducted by Board Members
- October 23rd - Proposal Reviews Completed by 4:00 p.m.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Experience and Qualifications
2. Their Work Plan (includes plan, timeline, etc.)
3. Board and Community Engagement
4. Budget (cost of their services)
5. References of Past School District Performance (main criteria)

The board has been given some flexibility in determining what further steps of the interview process will be necessary. Candidates will be evaluated by the five board members only. Up to the point that the board makes their decision, the process will remain objective and confidential. Due diligence will be done to ensure everything and everyone are scored and ranked according to the same established criteria.

It is the responsibility of the firms to do background checks on each of the candidates brought forward to the board. The district's HR department will ensure fair and equitable hiring practices.

8. NEXT MEETING:

October 26, 2026 – Work Session at 1:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all business, Chair Light adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)