

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING December 19, 2016

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 19, 2016, at the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. President Paul Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Board members present: Paul Aldridge, Jeff Lauinger, Curt Theune, Keith Frifeldt, Rob Davidson, Lisa Ashcraft and Dennis Devlin. Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ben Lewakowski, Principal of SL Intermediate School, welcomed the Board and gave a brief update on the great start to the school year including M-Step scores (either 1st or 2nd in the county for each category); Walk-a-Thon; Rachel's Challenge; upcoming review of vision and mission statement; and looking to add a playground behind the Intermediate School building. He further thanked Lisa Ashcraft and Paul Aldridge for the years of support they provided to him, the Intermediate School and the District while serving on the school Board.
- Sarah Lewakowski, Executive Director of TCM Counseling, gave an overview of the direct counseling services they offer to any child in the District, at no cost and for any reason. They are currently servicing every school in Spring Lake, as well as schools in Grand Haven and Holland. Sarah gave a "report card" on what types of services they provided in 2016-17 to Spring Lake students. Further, she briefed the Board on QPR – Question Persuade Refer- free suicide prevention training that TCM has provided to every teacher, bus driver and administrator in the District as well as to some Intermediate School parents and will provide to other parents in the near future. She further shared TCM's vision for increasing school outreach and adding therapists; adding parent training at the elementary level; increasing individual counseling; adding QPR training for parents and adding QPR training for 8th graders and further QPR training for all staff and students together at the high school level. Sarah indicated that these services are made possible by a grant from the Spring Lake Schools Foundation and donations from Men Who Care; Tri-Cities Kiwanis; Greater Ottawa County United Way; and various TCM fundraisers. Lisa Ashcraft inquired about how the students would be referred for TCM services and Sarah advised that they could be referred through teachers, school counselors, principals or parents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Rob Davidson, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2016, and Minutes of Closed Session Meetings of November 21, 2016, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Sinn, 335 Rachael's Way, Spring Lake, commented on the intended use of surplus/excess bond money and the list of proposed ideas that was brought before the Board at the November 21 meeting. On behalf of the SLEA, Mr. Sinn respectfully implored the Board to consider using the funds for student learning versus using it for a parking lot or administrative severances. He further commented that it has been 6 years since the teachers have had any kind of a measureable pay raise and further encouraged the Board to make wise spending choices such as increases to teacher wages and spending in direct relation to student learning.

Deb Burkhardt, 16558 Van Wagoner Road, Spring Lake, commented on the work that TCM has done at the elementary level with their Bats, Butterflies and Bears program and stated how important it is for all the children to have access to these kinds of programs so they can be more emotionally secure. She expressed her hope that programs like these keep increasing and getting bigger and better.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Keith Frifeldt moved, supported by Curt Theune, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

Accounts Payable – Check Listings

- Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, etc. – #217196 through #217400 totaling \$1,336,806.
- Student Activities – #103129 through #103221 totaling \$33,770.
- Payroll – totaling \$1,376,717.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Curt Theune moved, supported by Rob Davidson, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- New Hires:
Jennifer Bytwerk Instructional Parapro ASD/AI Preschool Program

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

RESOLUTION TO RATIFY PROPERTY PURCHASE

Keith Frifeldt moved, supported by Dennis Devlin, to approve the Resolution to Ratify Property Purchase.

Paul Aldridge indicated that this property is adjacent to the High School on 148th Street and that the Resolution would ratify the actions taken on behalf of the Board to approve the option to purchase said property, to exercise the option to purchase said property and to further authorize moving forward to closing on the property. The purchase of this property will provide additional parking space that will

benefit both the High School and the Fitness and Aquatic Center (“FAC”). The cost of purchasing said property will be split between the FAC surplus fund and the District’s General Fund surplus. Rob Davidson expressed his concerns about spending General Fund money on non-instructional needs.

Vote: 6 to 1: Yes – Aldridge, Ashcraft, Theune, Frifeldt, Devlin, Lauinger; No – Davidson

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT MEMORIAL FUND AWARDS

Curt Theune moved, supported by Lisa Ashcraft, to approve the Resolution to Accept Memorial Fund Awards.

Paul Aldridge noted that funds in three forms are being presented to the District from the Martin-Beverly-Todd Bomers estate as follows: \$50,000 for Band, \$200,000 for memorial scholarship fund and \$25,000 for the Fitness and Aquatic Center. These funds will be disbursed to Spring Lake Public Schools by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (“GHACF”). Attorney Ed Grafton was present along with family members of the estate, Eileen and Drew Sauer, and expressed the reason why the Bomers wanted to leave this money for SLPS and how impressed the Bomers were when they met with High School Principal, Mike Gilchrist. Holly Johnson was present as well on behalf of the GHACF and commented on how the money is expected to be used and further on what a wonderful donation this is from the Bomers family.

Curt Theune and the other Board members thanked the family and stated their appreciation on behalf of SLPS for these substantial memorial donations.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- Bond Project Update – deferred to Superintendent’s Report;
- Policy – First readings – Superintendent Furton met with the policy committee last week to review the assorted policy updates, many of which are repetitive. These policy updates will be recommended to the Board at the January meeting, and he encouraged all Board members to review the changes before that meeting.
- Curt Theune inquired about the recent guns in schools ruling by the Michigan Court of Appeals and what impact that may have on the District’s policy. Superintendent Furton recommended reviewing the information from Ann Arbor and Clio school districts and then making a decision at that point on whether it is better to wait until it goes through the Supreme Court on appeal, which it most likely will, or act on a policy change now.
- Central Office Holiday Hours –
 - Central office will be closed December 23, 26, 30 and January 2.
 - Office hours for December 27, 28 and 29 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deb Mertz-Hulverson, 15292 North Scenic Drive, Spring Lake, inquired about the potential bond project list that was discussed at the last Board meeting and is now going to be put out for bid. She questioned if the Intermediate School playground was on the list to be bid out. She further inquired if once the bids are received for the items on the list, if they would be brought before the Board at a public meeting to be discussed. Superintendent Furton addressed her questions and indicated that the Intermediate School playground is not on the list, and that if any bond projects from the list need to be revisited due to cost or a reduction in the scope of the project as originally approved, they would be brought back before the Board. He further indicated that the award of the bids will be formally approved by the Board at a public meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton provided his report to the Board and commented on the following:

- Legislative update was provided to the Board and highlights were given on the Lame Duck session. Rob Davidson inquired about SLPS becoming more politically vocal and informing parents of what is happening in legislature. Superintendent Furton indicated that it could become a function of the Board if there is a willingness to commit to it and he indicated he would be in favor of pursuing putting something in place, such as a separate Board committee for that purpose;
- Two discovery sessions have been held with the Image Group regarding the branding and website design and something is expected from them within the next few weeks. A full web audit by the technology team will also be completed in the coming weeks;
- A tentative closing on the Jackson/148th Ave. property is scheduled for next week;
- The initial sharing of Bid Pack 4 with stakeholder groups for the MS multi-purpose room and track restrooms is scheduled for early January;
- Superintendent Furton has a conference call scheduled next week with attorneys regarding the WMBI lawsuit and possible settlement;
- The Shindig is moving forward and the Athletic Department has a wish list put together and has shared that with the Spring Lake Schools Foundation (SLSF). The list was well received by the SLSF, and they are very excited to be moving forward with the fundraising efforts for this project;
- The SLPS website will be updated in the coming weeks to be compliant on FOIA policy and evaluation framing;
- Orientation with the two new board members will take place on Wednesday, December 21 with Superintendent Furton, Scott Powers and Scott Ely;
- Superintendent Furton has accepted the resignations of Gail Berkobien, a bus driver for 20 years, and Jackie Kelso, a food service employee for 4.5 years;
- Superintendent Furton presented pies to Paul Aldridge and Lisa Ashcraft and gave his thoughts on their years of service since he has been Superintendent. He commented that he has learned a lot from both; has nothing but respect and admiration for both; thanked and expressed deep appreciation for their service; and that he and the District have been lucky to have Lisa for 20 years and Paul for 10 years.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – January 16, 2017.
- Tentative 2017 Dates: February 20 (Holmes); March 20 (Jeffers); April 17 (SLMS); May 15 (SLHS); June 19

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Paul Aldridge adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date

Board Secretary