

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, February 20, 2017

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 20, 2017, at the Jeffers Elementary, Collaboration Room. Jeff Lauinger called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Board members present: Jeff Lauinger, Curt Theune, Dennis Devlin, Keith Frifeldt, Rob Davidson, Kathy Breen and Jennifer Nicles. Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Shelley Peets, Principal of Jeffers Elementary, introduced Mary Cotterall who is the literacy coach for both Jeffers and Holmes Elementary.
- Mary Cotterall provided the following information: She has been working in the district as a teacher or a reading specialist for 25 years. She has been the literacy coach for the last 2 years. Her main objective is to provide balanced literacy in the classroom and she works with the elementary school teachers on developing the literacy environment in their classrooms. It is a co-teaching approach with co-planning, observing, reflecting and providing feedback. Teachers Sue Coon, Megan Dean and Gretchen Spoelman all gave very positive feedback on how Mary has provided them with the framework and pacing for their literacy plans in their classrooms.
- Mary further provided information on what the Teachers College at Columbia University is all about and the work that Lucy Calkins has done over the last 40 years in developing literacy for elementary teachers. Mary's goal is to have the District's 28 elementary school teachers attend Teachers College and she has raised over \$52,000 via grants to help make this happen. The total cost to have all 28 attend over the next few years is around \$85,000. She has 15 teachers applying to attend Teachers College this summer.
- Board members Rob Davidson and Curt Theune thanked Mary for her work and passion for what she does. Dennis Furton commended the teachers that Mary has worked with for welcoming her into their classrooms and being so willing to learn with her.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Dennis Devlin, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2017 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gina Ramirez, 16381 West Willow Dr., commented that children's safety is her number one priority and that she is an activist for stricter gun legislation. She provided statistics on gun

deaths and injuries of children, provided information on recent school shootings and asked the Board to join Ann Arbor, Clio and Kalamazoo school districts in banning all guns on school property with the exception of law enforcement.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Keith Frifeldt moved, supported by Dennis Devlin, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

Accounts Payable – Check Listings

- Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, etc. – #217669 through #217 totaling \$1,528,826.
- Student Activities - #103306 through #103375 totaling \$59,166.
- Payroll - totaling \$1,328,215.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Scott Powers provided a written summary to the Board of what has changed with the budget that was adopted last June and he touched on the highlights. He noted there was a projected surplus last June, but revenue is down due to fewer students and compensation expenses have increased with the unexpected additional cost of both teachers and paraprofessionals based on the special education needs of new students. Also a contributing factor is the cost of utilities, contracted services and the recent purchase of property adjacent to the high school, which half of the purchase price for the property came from general funds. There will be another budget amendment in June for any adjustments that need to be made and it is anticipated that the District will use roughly \$200,000 of reserve funds this fiscal year to cover those additional expenditures.

Rob Davidson inquired about the increased cost of utilities. Scott indicated it is due to the increased square footage of the buildings and the addition of air conditioning.

Jeff Lauinger inquired about the second student count, and Scott noted the February count was higher than the fall count and that it will affect dollars the District receives for the 2017-18 school year.

Keith Frifeldt inquired about charter schools and their acceptance of students with IEPs, and Dennis Furton indicated that all public schools, including charter schools, are required to take IEP students.

Curt Theune moved, supported by Dennis Devlin, to approve and adopt the 2016-17 General Appropriation Resolution Agreement.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Keith Frifeldt moved, supported by Curt Theune, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- *New Hire:*
Rebecca BrosnanSE Parapro Holmes Elementary
- *Summer Tax Collection Fee* – Spring Lake Township’s rate of \$2.90 and Crockery Township’s rate of \$3.05 remain unchanged from the 2016 rates.
- *Spring Coaching Assignments*
- *Board Committee Assignments*

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

MASB REGION 3 ELECTION

Dennis Devlin moved, supported by Rob Davidson, to vote for candidate John Siemion for the open MASB board seat in Region 3.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

BOND PROJECT UPDATE

Liz Boeve provided the following bond project update:

- Bid packs 1, 2 and 3 will be finalized next month;
- Bid pack 4 goes out for bid Tuesday, February 21.
- The bids will be reviewed March 14 and recommendations with costs will be brought before the Board at the March 20, 2017 meeting.

WEAPONS POLICY – KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Furton anticipated that he would have in hand a revised weapons policy from NEOLA; however, it has been delayed, and NEOLA will be sending it along with the normal recommended policy updates sometime in March. The Policy Committee, consisting of Rob Davidson, Dennis Devlin and Kathy Breen, will then review all of the policy updates and provide recommendations as to any changes. It is anticipated that there will be a first reading of the policy changes at the March 20 meeting.

The Kalamazoo Public Schools weapons policy was provided as a post-litigation reference model for the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- WMTT update was provided to Board, and Dennis provided some additional information on what the Board can expect to see in legislation in the coming months.
- A summary of what the Executive Budget Proposal would look like for the District as the proposal stands right now was provided to the Board which indicates about a 1.3% increase in pupil funding.
- SLSF Shindig – The committee is doing a remarkable job planning for the Shindig and is excited and charging hard after their goal for providing funds raised to the athletic programs provided by the District.
- The Finance Committee is in the midst of exploring privatizing management of the District's food service program. They are not looking to change any of the employees who work in the kitchens, but just the management of the program itself. Management companies can provide greater resources and help maximize dollars. Cheryl Poel would return to a position within the food service program.
- Retirement - Dutch Ringelberg (John) will be retiring at the end of March. He has been a bus driver for 9 years and he will be greatly missed by all.
- Transportation - Dennis is working with Liz Boeve and Marian Karell to devise some strategies to recruit and retain drivers.
- 2017-18 school calendar was provided to the Board as it currently stands. It will be formally approved in the near future and be provided to staff and parents.
- Business Office/CFO Change – Two more Ottawa County districts are looking to join the Business Services Unit provided by the OAISD. If they do join, Scott Powers will be splitting his time between 3 districts, which he has done in the past. Superintendent Furton believes this arrangement will continue to work well for the District and allow the District to control costs for these services.
- February student count was 2,517 – up 14 students over fall count.
- Schedule:
 - February 22 - Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance Meeting
 - February 23 - Recreation Study Presentation
 - February 23 - Special Education Department Mission/Vision/Guiding Principles Meeting
 - March 28 - OASBA Spring Meeting – will be held at the ISD.

Keith Frifeldt questioned the impact of the two sizeable subdivisions being built in Spring Lake and wondered what planning is being put into a potential increase in student population that the District may see over the next couple of years. Dennis Furton noted that a population study by Plante Moran was done for Ottawa County and projected resident student population growth as flat over the next few years. The current plan is to monitor the number of non-resident students the District enrolls and make adjustments as needed.

Jennifer Nicles inquired if there was still a non-resident waiting list. Dennis indicated that due to changes with Fruitport relinquishing its resident district release policy, the District only maintains a waitlist for students residing within the OAISD boundaries and not outlying county districts.

Keith Frifeldt inquired if the District had any marketing plans for the IB program to enhance the enrollment. Dennis indicated that actively marketing of the IB program could be a future consideration but the high school is at or above student capacity at this time which would make it very difficult to do without additional strain and stress on course scheduling and classroom space.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – March 20, 2017 – Holmes Elementary – 7:15 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Dennis Devlin, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jeff Lauinger adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary