

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, January 16, 2017

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 16, 2017, at the Spring Lake Intermediate/Middle School Media Center. Jeff Lauinger called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. 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.
- Jeff Lauinger welcomed new board members, Kathy Breen and Jennifer Nicles.
- Board Appreciation Month, i.e. "Pie Month". Superintendent Furton thanked the Board members, on behalf of the District and himself, for the time and effort they put in year round and as the District's connection to the community. He further presented each of them with a pie

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Dennis Devlin nominated Jeff Lauinger as the 2017 President, supported by Keith Frifeldt. Dennis Devlin moved to close the nominations.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Vice President – Keith Frifeldt nominated Dennis Devlin as the 2017 Vice President, supported Rob Davidson. Rob Davidson moved to close the nominations.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Treasurer – Rob Davidson nominated Keith Frifeldt as the 2017 Treasurer, supported by Jeff Lauinger. Dennis Devlin moved to close the nominations.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Secretary – Dennis Devlin nominated Rob Davidson as the 2017 Secretary, supported by Jeff Lauinger. Dennis Devlin moved to close the nominations.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

CONSENT AGENDA

Curt Theune moved, supported by Dennis Devlin, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- Identify the District's legal status and District's official name – The School District Legal Reference Note also reflects the Board member terms.
- Check Signature Authorization – The accounts are unchanged from January, 2016.
- Establish 2017 Meeting Dates – Regular Board Meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 7:15 pm in the SLIS/SLMS Media Center, 345 Hammond St. (unless noted).

February 20, 2017 – Holmes	August 21, 2017
March 20, 2017 – Jeffers	September 18, 2017
April 17, 2017– SLMS	October 16, 2017
May 15, 2017 – SLHS	November 20, 2017
June 19, 2017	December 18, 2017 – SLIS
July 17, 2017	

- Designation of Member of Election Coordinating Committee – Authorizes the Board Secretary to designate the Superintendent of Schools to serve on the District’s Election Coordinating Committee. The Superintendent will then designate Kim Conroy to serve on the District’s Coordinating Committee in place of the Board Secretary and Superintendent.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Keith Frifeldt proposed to look at next year’s calendar in advance and avoid scheduling a Board meeting on Martin Luther King Day for 2018. Duly noted.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Board members will review the 2016 Board Committee assignments and will notify Jeff Lauinger, Board President, and Dennis Furton, Superintendent, of any changes. Superintendent Furton provided brief descriptions of the spots that needed to be filled and history as to who served last year. Assignments will be completed by the February Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Rob Davidson, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2016 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

8B -Cross Data Analysis Findings and 8C - Weapons Free Policy have been added below to Discussion and Information Items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Kipling 15246 South Scenic, Spring Lake, expressed concern about a change in the District’s weapons policy. He and his wife are teachers in the District and they have 3 children currently attending SLPS. Mr. Kipling provided statistics on the dangers of firearms both in the home and in the community, indicated arming teachers is a dangerous and counter-productive idea, and urged the Board to consider very carefully any change in the District’s weapons policy.

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. – #217401 through #217668 totaling \$1,146,905.
 - Student Activities –#103222 through #103305 totaling \$72,436.
- Payroll – totaling \$2,053,097.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

POLICY APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Rob Davidson, to approve policy numbers 100, 1619, 1619.01, 1619.02, 1619.03, 2628, 3142, 3419, 3419.01, 3419.02, 3419.03, 3420, 4419, 4419.01, 4419.02, 4419.03, 4420, 5830, 6424, 6605, 7540 7540.01, 7540.02, 8321 and 9700, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

BOND PROJECT UPDATE

Liz Boeve provided the following bond project update:

- The punch list is 95% complete overall on Bid Packs 2 and 3;
- The majority of the remaining items require either the students to be out of the buildings for safety reasons or warmer weather to complete;
- Bid Pack 4 is something that the Board will begin to hear as Barton Malow and TMP are working on the auxiliary gym proposal at the Middle School, and the addition of athletic restrooms and additional parking at the High School. TMP is expected to have drawings completed for Barton Malow by the end of January. The bid pack will go out mid-February and the bids should be finalized in early March and brought before the Board at the March meeting for approval;
- Energy efficiency rebates from the District’s utility providers due to the bond construction have been finalized, and the District can expect to receive about \$75,000 in rebates through these programs. These funds have already been reflected in the surplus bond projections.

Superintendent Furton commended Ms. Boeve for her diligent work in making sure the District received these rebates.

- Keith Frifeldt inquired about a comparison of utility expenses from last year to this year. Ms. Boeve advised that while systems are much improved, it would be difficult to compare the costs apples to apples due to the increase in square footage of the buildings, the addition of air conditioning in the buildings, and other factors.

CROSS DATA ANALYSIS FINDINGS

Superintendent Furton provided the following information:

- The Michigan Department of Education (“MDE”) has provided notification to the District that in 2013-14, one IEP for one student in the District was not completed on time;
- There is a time limit for all steps of the special education process. This particular IEP in 2013-14 was, in fact, completed one day late;
- The MDE asked the District to perform cross data analysis on the IEP process so that the problem can be identified and avoided in the future;
- The Special Education Department has met with all SE providers on staff, provided them with a timeline to complete the IEPs, less one day, to help facilitate compliance with the deadline. Further, the SE Department provides a listing to all SE teachers of IEP dates that are due within the next three months. The SE Department also double checks all IEP dates to be sure that this error does not occur in the future.

Curt Theune inquired about a presentation on the District’s special education program and Superintendent Furton indicated Adrian Breting, Director of Special Education, is working on putting a presentation together for the Board and will be presented to the Board in the coming months. Superintendent Furton is also looking to provide the Board with a more insightful look at the District’s alternative education program as well, and is hopeful that it will happen at a spring meeting.

WEAPONS FREE POLICY

Superintendent Furton provided a summary of recent court findings regarding a school district’s ability to create a “weapons free” policy. The Michigan Court of Appeals recently upheld two Michigan school districts’ board-approved policy banning the open carry of firearms on school property by anyone other than law enforcement personnel, even if the individual has a concealed weapons permit (“CPL”).

Superintendent Furton stated that this opens the door for our District to consider a similar prohibition. He provided the Board with the District’s current weapons policy - Policy 7217 - along with the Clio School District’s policy, which was written by NEOLA who is also our District’s policy writer. Clio’s policy prohibits visitors from open carrying of a weapon by any visitor on school property with the exception of law enforcement personnel.

Superintendent Furton inquired of the Board if it would prefer to act on a policy change now or wait to see what happens with other school districts across Michigan or wait on any other court decisions or legislation.

Rob Davidson, after getting clarification on what the court upheld from Superintendent Furton, expressed that he would like to have policy against open carry but is concerned about public challenges to that policy and being named as a defendant in a lawsuit.

Curt Theune expressed concern about public feedback as well and becoming a potential “test case”. Superintendent Furton advised that if NEOLA provides the policy language for the District, they would defend the policy against any challenges as well. He also reported that there is talk among other West Michigan schools, and he will find out more at the upcoming OASBA Superintendents meeting set for Friday, January 20.

Keith Frifeldt summarized how the District currently handles visitors with an open carry weapon - that an officer is called to come and escort the individual, after confirming the individual has a valid CPL - and that policy will be brought back before the Board at a future meeting when something from NEOLA has been drafted for review. He expressed concern about the District’s current policy and why it allows open carry in a parking lot.

Superintendent Furton will continue to gather more information as the Board seems interested in looking at new policy language in a way that it would feel comfortable defending the policy, and he will request more guidance from NEOLA on policy language.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Update from West Michigan Triangle – highlighting the expected repeal and overhaul of the Failing Schools Law and the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference with the indications that revenue is up in the general fund for the state as well as the School Aid Fund. More will be known in May or June on the per pupil dollars the District may see from this increase.
- School Calendar – a meeting with the SLEA regarding the 2017-18 school calendar will be held next week.
- Budget Amendment – Scott Powers is working with Superintendent Furton on the amendment, and it will be brought before the Board at the February meeting. Expect to see a negative variance with the amended budget, first and foremost because of the recent

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purchase of property, but also due to the fact that enrollment projections were off by about five students and the need for additional special education staffing.

- Resignations – Linda Olsen, Community Child Care, is retiring after 40 years in the District. In the Transportation Department, Robert Tebelman, bus driver, is resigning as well as bus aide Penni Hartness, as she has found more gainful employment. All positions will be filled.
- Dates to Note:
 - Hosting Leadership Connect – January 18, 2017 – visiting Holmes for a tour;
 - MASA Mid-Winter Conference – January 25 – 27, 2017 – Superintendent Furton attending all three days;

Curt Theune inquired about what appears to be a bus driver shortage in the District, and Superintendent Furton indicated that there is in fact a county wide shortage, and spots are difficult to fill due to the low unemployment rate, and other factors.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – February 20, 2017 – Jeffers Elementary – 7:15 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Rob Davidson moved, supported by Curt Theune, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jeff Lauinger adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary