

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

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017, at Holmes 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.

Sandra Smits, Principal of Holmes Elementary, expressed how thankful she and her staff are for the Board working so hard for the District and presented the following:

- Holmes is a “Reward School” again this year;
- Holmes is using various programs to build positive school culture by promoting respect, responsibility and safety with expectations, rewards and consequences;
- Holmes has partnered with TCM Counseling in various ways, including friendship groups, individual counseling and a new program with Big Brothers, Big Sisters that involves students from the High School teaming up with Holmes Elementary students;
- Sandra has personally worked with all of the elementary students in Growth Mindset training and has taught them about the 5 parts of their brain, how to grow and stretch it, and has worked with the parents to help them understand Growth Mindset and how they can help their children at home.
- Teachers Amy Sheridan and Mathew Keller thanked the Board for coming and shared their work with the Holmes Elementary student council; they are working with the students to develop leaders, a climate of school spirit and to instill a spirit of helping others. The students’ plan a service project each trimester, plan spirit day events and engage in discussion on various topics.
- Teachers Jen Greene and Amy Berry shared information on the Be Nice project at Holmes - which stands for Notice, Invite, Challenge, Empower and is a positive anti-bullying initiative and a proactive way to encourage kindness among kids, parents and staff. The project utilizes assemblies, weekly challenges, t-shirts and the Watch DOGS group to help spread the message.
- Teacher Kathy Britton provided information on the new School Pride Project which empowers students to take pride and ownership of the new building and grounds by performing a checklist of school areas to be sure that students are taking care of those areas. The project also encourages students to notice if other students seems to be left out or alone while on the playground or in the lunchroom, and how to ask for help from a staff member if needed when they come across things that may need adult attention.

Kathy Breen commended the work that Holmes is doing to promote their mission statement of instilling a helping heart.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Keith Frifeldt, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 20, 2017 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joanne Koratich, 16789 Bridle Path Drive, parent of four students who attend SLPS, expressed her appreciation for Aaron West, Marissa Doane and Bree DeWeerd for allowing her to observe in the Middle School math classrooms as she works toward earning her teaching certificate.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Accounts Payable – Check Listings

- Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, etc. – #217867 through #218108 totaling \$897,335.
- Student Activities - #103376 through #103461 totaling \$34,777.
- Payroll - totaling \$1,320,679.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Adrian Breting, Special Education Director, provided the Board with information on the increasing growth of special education needs of students in the District, on the specific student needs and the challenging circumstances the Department faces in providing these services and managing the work load, even after the addition of the special education staff hired this school year.

Specifically, there has been a significant increase in families moving into the district with students who have current IEPs (Individualized Education Program) and are in need of special services, an increase in referrals of students to the District’s ECSE (Early Childhood Special

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Education) and the ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) programs, along with an increase in referrals from either teachers or parents of students seeking 504 plan accommodations.

Further, Adrian indicated there is a slow, steady growth of speech and language caseloads that is taxing the current providers, an increasing number of students with ADHD interferences and varying levels of anxiety, an increasing number of 5-12 year olds who are unable to manage the learning frustrations and curricular expectations of the classroom setting resulting in out of control, extreme emotional reactions, which have resulted in the need for the IRR (Intensive Resource Room) program at Holmes, and a growing population of older students showing signs of depression, suicidal thinking, and other social and emotional issues.

Curt Theune thanked Adrian and his staff for the amount of work they do “behind the scenes”. It was noted that Adrian has been working in the District for 39 years and will be retiring at the end of this year but is expected to continue work at SLPS under a separate contract next year.

Rob Davidson inquired if the recent QPR training is proving helpful, and Adrian believes that it has been.

While not directly mentioned by the special education presentation, Superintendent Furton pointed out that there may be a real need to add a social worker to the District if the budget for that position can be worked out.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- *New Hires:*
Calvin VorkBus Driver Transportation
Gynell SchanerInstructional Parapro Jeffers Elementary

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SPRING LAKE RECREATION COMMISSION 2017 BUDGET

Curt Theune moved, supported by Dennis Devlin, to approve the SL Recreation Commission Budget District contribution of \$6,545 for 2017, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

BOND PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Furton provided the following bond project update:

- The Bond Committee met prior to this Board meeting to review the bids received for the proposed remaining bond projects. The bids were higher than anticipated. There are some good alternative options, but more time is needed to think through the options before they can be brought before the Board. The need for a special Board meeting to act on some of the proposal before Spring Break may be necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- WMTT - Update addressing school accountability changes, the Massachusetts Standard Bill stall and the Michigan Merit Curriculum flexibility bill proposal was provided to the Board.
- Shindig - Sponsorship dollars and auction items are coming in with roughly \$30,000 collected so far and the planning for the event is going very well.
- Resignation - Rose Bleich's resignation as a Transportation bus aide was accepted effective March 17.
- Policy - Superintendent Furton is meeting with the NEOLA rep on March 22 and plans for a Policy Committee meeting before spring break are forthcoming.
- Budget - Scott Powers and Brad VanDe Vusse are working on the first draft of the 2017-18 budget, and a Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled for late April or early May for review of that draft.
- Cyber School – After a great response from staff, a review of Michigan Virtual Education Foundation's FY14 and FY15 financial audits, and the concern that they don't employ their own teachers, the District has elected to decline the opportunity to serve as an authorizer for the Michigan Virtual Education Foundation. Superintendent Furton will be meeting with Representatives Lilly and Garcia in the near future to discuss related cyber school public policy.
- WMBI Lawsuit – It appears that a settlement has been reached which aligns with what the District's current policy provides: no vendors attending the meeting and no preferential treatment to vendors during the school year.

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- Preschool – Talks are proceeding with the YMCA to work out a preschool program to be housed at Holmes Elementary. The YMCA is a not-for-profit preschool and their mission is in line with SLPS. It is anticipated that there will be partial tuition based/partial scholarship based placement for 3 to 5 year old students.
- Schedule:
 - March 22 – Boys’ quarterfinal basketball game @Caledonia, 7 p.m.
 - March 28 – NHS induction
 - March 28 – OASBA General Membership Meeting
 - March 31 through April 7 – Spring Break

Central Office Hours:
April 3-6: 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
March 31 and April 7 – Closed

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – April 17, 2017 – SL Middle School, Media Center – 7:15 pm – focus on Spring Lake Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jeff Lauinger adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary