

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING September 19, 2016

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, September 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 15, 2016, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

Closed Meeting Session – Property will be added as item #11.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

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. – #216384 through #216493 totaling \$3,016,232.
- Student Activities – #102891 through #102939 totaling \$54,779.
- Payroll – totaling \$1,148,543.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- New Hires:

Anita Perkins	Special Ed Parapro	Middle School
Corey VanSchaik	Title I Interventionist/Parapro	Intermediate School
Samantha Douglass	Instructional Parapro	Holmes Elementary
Tori Petterson	Instructional Parapro	Jeffers Elementary

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SLHS BAND TRIP

Curt Theune moved, supported by Lisa Ashcraft, to approve the SLHS band trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls, Canada from Thursday, March 30, 2017 to Saturday, April 1, 2017. The band will hold fundraisers to assist in covering the cost of the trip. Superintendent Furton noted that the band department does a very nice job of planning their trips and making sure everything is put in place according to the District's policy.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

MATERNITY LEAVE

Curt Theune moved, supported by Rob Davidson, to approve Sarah Gray's maternity leave request for approximately six weeks beginning on or about October 12, 2016.

Vote: Yes - Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- Bond Project Updates – Superintendent Furton reported the following:
 - Holmes, Jeffers and the Intermediate buildings are in punch list mode which should last for approximately two months and includes everything from furniture to finishes. There is a pretty long list as expected and the Board will be updated on a regular basis.
 - Discussion of bond budget with the bond committee will be held in the near future regarding the surplus and the ability to tackle additional projects. It is possible there will be some determination on projects for the Board's consideration as early as the October Board meeting. The project ideas will be brought before the Board for final determination.
 - Board President, Paul Aldridge, noted that the open house at Holmes was very well attended and he heard positive comments, from teachers, former staff and community members.
- Unofficial Enrollment – Unofficial enrollment sits at 2,490. When adding St. Mary's students, it will bring the District to about 2503, which is a solid number for the budget. The resident number was a little lower than expected with non-residents remaining steady.
- SLHS Special Education Programs – Patty Keller, Jen Boodt and Alison Klynstra spoke about 2 programs that have been developed for additional services to be offered to special education high school students, which number about 72 at the high school level:
 - The first is a M.E.R.I.T Program for students who desire an alternative education style with the main emphasis of independent living after high school. Students receive ELA and math instruction through the M.E.R.I.T curriculum in place of traditional Common Core state standards. It further encourages independent living, successful employment, community experience and building relationships. Students earn a Certificate of Completion versus a Diploma after four years but still participate in graduation. The high school special ed teachers have developed a curriculum with the help of Scott Ely and Adrian Breting that meets their needs and goals for the program. There are currently 8 to 10 students enrolled in this program. Certain standards need to be met to qualify for this personal curriculum.

- The second is a Community Work Based Learning Program that involves community businesses for job site placement and training to get the participating students ready for the workforce after high school. It is designed to teach job and employability skills including punctuality/attendance, social interaction and adaptable behavior. There are currently about 5 students enrolled in this program, and the job placements change every trimester for the students. Special ed staff from the high school oversee the program and perform site visits for support and feedback. The community businesses that have been approached for this program have been very supportive and have responded positively towards this program.
- SLHS Whole Child Program – Laurie Draeger and Jen Boedt provided the following on this program:
 - Laurie and Jen have identified some very similar issues relating to one of the current Board goal – “Student Mental Health/Demographic Shift” and students feeling ignored, depressed, alone, scared, not fitting in, bullied or teased for various reasons, and they wanted to do something about it. They have created something called “Face to Face Time” which encourages students to talk to students they would not normally interact with to help create a caring atmosphere. The activity began with a group of 30 students who really did not know each other. The group of students spent 2 minutes with each other asking questions and then rotated around the group. After this activity, the group of 30 wanted to bring this to the entire high school student body. There has been great feedback from students, with 96% of students talking with someone they had not talked to before and 80% of students wanting similar activities to encourage a more caring and welcoming place for every single student. In addition to that, they have conducted a school wide 35 minute event where teachers shared a common statement and the students viewed a video on bullying and being respectful and caring towards each other in every classroom, hallway, gym, lunchroom, etc. At end of activity, another survey was taken, 750 students of 860 responded. 80% said they would like to continue with these activities. IB students have come forward and volunteered to host a program on stress management with other activities in the works. Laurie and Jen further invited the Board to attend the future activities and will provide the information to them when dates are scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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

- WMBI Issue – West Michigan Band Instrument (“WMBI”) filed a lawsuit last week seeking a temporary restraining order for a parent band night meeting set for September 15 that was not open to WMBI to attend but was open to Meyer Music to attend. The request was denied by the Judge. The band directors decided it would be in everyone’s best interest in light of this lawsuit not to have any music vendors present at the meeting. However, WMBI came to the meeting anyway. They were asked to leave and they did. Meyer Music has been a long time

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provider of band instrument services to the District, they are closest in proximity to SLPS, provide the best service with fair and comparable prices to WMBI and the District does not receive any special services or receive any kickbacks from Meyer Music. Band parents have always been informed that they don't need to purchase from Meyer Music and that they are free to go elsewhere. WMBI has filed similar lawsuits in other Districts, and Superintendent Furton does not plan to spend District dollars to defend this lawsuit. He has contacted the District's insurance carrier and policy provider for defense of this litigation.

- Additional Bond Projects – Anticipating a list in October; however, no work expected to be put out to bid until after the New Year.
- Youth Assessment Results – Scott Ely will be presenting the Youth Assessment Survey results on Wednesday, September 21, all are invited to attend.
- Contact has been made with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to develop a mentoring program with them for students in the District, more information will be provided at future meetings.
- Retirements – Cindy Brondyke is retiring after 29 years of service to the District effective October 7, 2016. Tamara Lesneski, St. Mary's teacher, has also announced her retirement in January of 2017.
- Schedule:
 - MASA Conference – September 21-23
 - Jeffers Dedication & Open House – September 25, 2-4 p.m.
 - Finance Committee Meeting – September 29, 7:00 a.m.
 - Homecoming – September 30, 7:00 p.m.
 - EA/BOE Finance Committee/Auditors – October 17, 6:15 p.m.
 - Policy meeting, upcoming date to be determined.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – October 17, 2016, MS Media Center, 7:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY

Curt Theune motioned, supported by Keith Frifeldt, to move to a closed session at 8:15 p.m.

Vote: Yes- Unanimous

The Board returned to open session at 8:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Paul Aldridge adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date

Board Secretary