

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 13, 2020

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 at the Spring Lake Intermediate/Middle School Media Center. Jeff Lauinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Board members present: Jeff Lauinger, Curt Theune, Dennis Devlin, Kathy Breen, Jennifer Nicles, Bruce Callen and Katie Pigott. Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Board Appreciation Month, i.e. “Pie Month”. Superintendent Furton presented each Board member with a pie in appreciation for the work they do all year long, and he expressed his thanks for their time commitment on behalf of the students and staff and for their leadership and support for all.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Dennis Devlin nominated, and Bruce Callen seconded, the following slate of officers for 2020:

Jennifer Nicles – President  
Kathy Breen – Vice President  
Curt Theune – Secretary  
Bruce Callen – Treasurer

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, 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 July, 2019.
- Establish 2020 Meeting Dates – Regular Board Meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the SLIS/SLMS Media Center, 345 Hammond St. unless noted.

January 13, 2020*	July 20, 2020
February 17, 2020 – Jeffers	August 17, 2020
March 16, 2020 – Holmes	September 21, 2020
April 20, 2020 – SLMS	October 19, 2020
May 18, 2020 – SLHS	November 16, 2020
June 15, 2020	December 14, 2020*– SLIS
<b>(*Second Monday)</b>	

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 13, 2020 (Cont.)

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Board members reviewed the 2019 Board Committee assignments, and the following assignments were confirmed:

OASBA – Jeff Lauinger  
SLSF- Kathy Breen  
Recreation – Curt Theune  
Needham and Hessmer – Dennis Devlin  
School Improvement – Curt Theune  
Policy – Kathy Breen, Dennis Devlin, Katie Pigott  
Finance – Jeff Lauinger, Kathy Breen, Bruce Callen  
Supt. Contract Review – Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Dennis Devlin  
Bond – Jeff Lauinger, Curt Theune, Jennifer Nicles  
Athletics – Dennis Devlin, Jennifer Nicles, Bruce Callen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2019 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kathy Breen, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

Accounts Payable – Check Listings

- Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – #223729 through #223868 totaling \$356,488.
- Payroll – totaling \$1,799,944.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 13, 2020 (Cont.)

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to approve and adopt the 2019-20 General Appropriation Resolution Amendment as presented.

Dennis Furton and Brad VanDeVusse provided information on the overall favorable adjustments of \$465,000 due to per pupil funding increases over what was originally budgeted, greater student FTE than predicted and additional state aid revenue for special education. It was noted that there will be one-time purchases for bus replacement(s) and MS tennis court elevation and resurfacing coming from the general fund this fiscal year.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- *New Hire*

Nicole A. Hansen .....Instructional Parapro .....Holmes

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN

Mr. Furton provided that opening a Developmental Kindergarten program has been in discussion since the beginning of the school year due to factors experienced at the lower elementary level. It was noted that 2012-13 was last year for the district’s young 5’s program due to concerns over funding and efficacy. Kindergarten has become more complex with a rigorous curriculum and the district has seen a gradual increase in the number of students who would benefit from a two-year kindergarten experience. Mr. Furton provided a profile of students that the program would typically include and an outline of what the program would focus on. Discussion was had and questions from the Board and audience were answered.

Based on the discussion above, a recommendation for two classrooms of full-day Developmental Kindergarten beginning the 2020-21 school year will be brought to the Board as an action item for approval at the February meeting. If approved, staff will begin defining the program and determining processes for structure, screening, curriculum, marketing, etc.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chad Wahlberg, 16751 Bridlepath, SL, read from a prepared statement regarding the elimination of the Young 5's program in 2012/13. He expressed his disappointment regarding the closure, stated there was never a proper explanation given for the change and claimed that it was a fake committee. He further asked the Board when discussing the addition of a Developmental Kindergarten program to allow the same opportunities that Young 5's programs offer students and families and to make sure it is inclusive and serves many not just a small group.

Terry Blanchard, 17150 Arthur Court, SL, stated he finds it difficult to accept the fact that SL schools would discriminate against some of the young people by choosing a Developmental Kindergarten program versus a Young 5's program. He believes that Developmental Kindergarten would be discriminating against district residents who can't afford to send their children to a Young 5's paid program. He asked the Board to take a look at the program and see it through so as not to discriminate.

Amy Kelly, 307 N. Park Street, SL, commented that she has researched the median Spring Lake family income and believes that many residents may not be able to afford the cost of private Young 5's programs. She expressed her curiosity in what the criteria for acceptance into the Developmental Kindergarten program would be. She stated she believes kids flourish when they attend a Developmental Kindergarten or Young 5's program.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative updated provided to the Board.
- A resignation has been accepted with regrets from Diamonique Dickson, bus aide.
- SXI plans are moving ahead and a recommendation for a grades 5-8 SXI program is expected to be made to the Board at next month's meeting. Staff and parents have been made aware of this possible class addition pending Board approval.
- Schedule
  - January 17 – OASA Meeting
  - January 29 – OAITC
  - February 3 & 4 – Midwinter Break
  - February 25-28 – WMHIP Board Retreat (Austin, TX)

Mr. Furton further commented that the district has never in his 12 years had a fake committee. The committee recommending the closure of the Young 5's program in 2013 was comprised of kindergarten teachers, principals and curriculum director. The decision to close the program was based on funding and the efficacy of Young 5's programs. Further, there are no discriminatory practices with the discussion of the Developmental Kindergarten program and

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 13, 2020 (Cont.)

the criteria for acceptance would not be based on any socioeconomic factors or discriminate against any class.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Regular Board Meeting – February 17, 2020 – Jeffers Elementary – 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Board Secretary