

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 20, 2020

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 20, 2020 via electronic video conferencing using www.zoom.us, Meeting #781 6761 8021, as permitted by Executive Order 2020-48 and due to the COVID-19 emergency. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Dennis Devlin, Katie Pigott and Jeff Lauinger. Absent: None

Remote meeting protocol was given by Superintendent Furton and the public comment process was explained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2020 and the Special Meeting of April 2, 2020, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Jen Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Dennis Devlin, Katie Pigott, Jeff Lauinger No: None

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRINTED AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – #224256 through #224366 totaling \$601,557.
- Payroll – totaling \$1,823,405.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Jeff Lauinger, Katie Pigott, Dennis Devlin, Bruce Callen, Curt Theune, Kathy Breen, Jen Nicles No: None

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- Retirements – Sandy Clark, HS English teacher, and Mary Cotterall, Elementary Reading Specialist, have provided their official letters of retirement effective at the end of the

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19-20 school year. Sandy has been with the district for 50 years, and Mary has been with the district for 28 years, they will both be greatly missed by staff, students and parents. Their resignations are accepted with regrets and best wishes to both.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Jen Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Jeff Lauinger, Dennis Devlin No: None

CURRICULUM – 7TH & 8TH GRADE MATH

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kathy Breen to approve the purchase of Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life, as the 7th and 8th grade math resource for a cost not to exceed \$47,058.18, as presented.

Scott Ely provided that Big Ideas Math is a product that the district currently uses and was recommended for the 6th grade math curriculum as well at last month's meeting. This recommendation comes after a review of math resources during the regularly scheduled curriculum review process.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Jen Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Jeff Lauinger, Dennis Devlin No: None

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

REMOTE LEARNING PLAN

Dennis Furton provided background on Executive Order 2020-35 and the approval process for plans of local districts who will attempt to provide remote learning. The plan is published on the district's website. While not fancy, the plan is functional and provides for a combination of online learning and printed materials related to student course(s). Mr. Furton asked the admin team to provide elements of how each building/department is handling the transition and welcomed the Board to ask questions:

Scott Ely, Curriculum Director, provided:

- Phase 1 – From March 16 to spring break – the goal was to maintain learning and have connectedness with students – not take any steps back.
- Phase 2 – After spring break through May 1 – shift to essential learning of 4 core principles – what students need to know in order to be successful at the next level.
- Phase 2 may never become phase 3, but the door is open if a phase 3 is needed.
- On the technology side, it is expected that the district will meet 100% of the student device and Wi-Fi needs by the end of this week.

Amy Kendall, Director of Special Education, provided:

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- Contingency Learning Plans (CLPs) are being developed for students with IEPs for remote learning which can be streamlined to reflect the needs of each student and family situation.
- Staff will hold virtual IEPs via Zoom or Google Groups or over the phone, whichever works best for the families, as the state requires the district to continue to hold IEP meetings.

Shelley Peets, Jeffers Elementary Principal, provided:

- All grade levels will focus on reading, math and writing and what students need to know to move to the next grade level.
- Staff are using online platforms such as Seesaw and Schoology to push curriculum content, as well as video conferencing for daily or weekly meetings.
- All staff at both Holmes and Jeffers are following the same curriculum plan but the delivery of that curriculum is up to the individual teacher – all using similar templates and platforms and reaching out to families and making sure it is reasonable for students and families.

Sandra Smits, Holmes Elementary Principal, provided:

- Focus is on student relationships and engaging students in meaningful work and providing social emotional support as needed.
- Teachers are tracking participation and reaching out to support students and families as needed.
- Staff collecting feedback from families so as not to overwhelm them and being cognizant of different home situations.
- Intentionally and supportively utilizing as many staff members as possible (parapros, secretaries, other hourly) as the process unfolds.

Ben Lewakowski, Intermediate School Principal, provided:

- Essential standards were identified with the focus on math and language arts and embedding science and social study topics into those 2 core curriculums.
- Goal is to not overload the students and parents.
- Main platforms of communication are Schoology, Google Hangout and Google Meet.
- Students can schedule appointments with teachers and staff for one-on-one instruction via video conferencing or phone.
- Two parapros or encore staff are available between 9 and 3 each day, with a rotating schedule, for student assistance.
- Band and other encore teaching continues.
- School counselor is available for both individual and group sessions.
- Staff will meet via a video conferencing platform with each student and parent at the end of the year to review progress and readiness for the next school year.

Aaron West, Middle School Principal, provided:

- Staff push out new material to students at the beginning of each week.

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- Due dates and deadlines are flexible.
- Grading scale has been modified and is the same as the high school modified module.
- Paraprofessionals are available to support students that need it.
- School counselor is doing a great job getting individual counseling opportunities for students and families as well as group counseling.

Mike Gilchrist, High School Principal, provided

- Staff asked to re-write syllabuses for the remainder of the year based on essential standards addressed by Scott Ely.
- Any missed curriculum will be moved into the following school year.
- Virtual mentor teams made up of guidance counselors and other staff have been established to address academic, social emotional and disconnected learners, and make sure they have the support they need to be successful.
- Modified grading scale has been established.
- Communications continues with parents to make sure they know what expectations of students are.
- Senior events such as awards banquet will be rescheduled as allowed.
- Two tentative alternate graduation dates have been established.

Board member Kathy Breen commented that in discussions with her family members who have children in the district, they felt like things were more streamlined and cohesive with this Phase 2 rollout and the time and effort staff put into preparing appears to be paying off.

Mr. Furton provided that this transition is like a practice in building a shelter during a storm. The staff has done a really remarkable job by focusing on the most important pieces of the puzzle. He indicated that a focus beyond academics during this time needs to continue as being home can be an anxious and difficult time for some students; continued support and guidance for those students is crucial.

He further noted that Food Service provided nearly 500 students (7,000 meals) last week with the Tuesday food distribution service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative update – There is a push for the governor to loosen the current restrictions. A tiered approach by regions or counties is one recommendation being made. This will not impact schools in terms of reconvening before the end of the school year; the district will not reconvene before the end of this school year.

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- Personnel – There are fewer than normal applicants for the currently posted positions which is in part exacerbated by the COVID19 situation. The numbers are historically low. However, there are some high quality applicants. Expect interviews within the next few weeks.
- Finance Committee meeting to be held within the next month, prior to May board meeting. Amended budget and 2020-21 budget to be discussed.

UPCOMING MEETING

- Regular Board Meeting – May 18, 2020, tentatively scheduled for SL High School Media Center – Spotlight on SL High School

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION – NEGOTIATIONS

Curt Theune moved, support by Jeff Lauinger, to move to a closed session at 7:54 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Jen Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Jeff Lauinger, Dennis Devlin No: None

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to return to open session at 8:18 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Jen Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Jeff Lauinger, Dennis Devlin No: None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Jen Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Jeff Lauinger, Dennis Devlin No: None

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary