

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 10, 2020

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020, via electronic video conferencing using Zoom Webinar, Webinar ID: 833 4933 4531, as permitted by Executive Order 2020-129 and due to the COVID-19 emergency. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Dennis Devlin, Kathy Breen, Katie Pigott and Jeff Lauinger. Absent: None

Remote meeting protocol was given by Superintendent Furton and the public comment process was explained. Public comment is available 2 times, 14 people filled out form in advance, and will be taken in order. Choose first or second time or utilize the chat function on Zoom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2020, and Special Meeting of August 3, 2020, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None; however, moving the second action item - Return to School Roadmap – to item #7, Discussion, of the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michelle Wahlberg, 16751 Bridlepath, SL – Thanked the Board and administration for listening and responding to her calls, texts and emails and for the change in the Return to Learning Plan.

Debi Hulverson, 15292 N. Scenic Dr., SL – Thanked the Board for finding solutions for students to return to school during the pandemic and is glad to see hybrid option. Urged SLPS to consider IB student needs and a specific online option for them, and proposed that IB teachers live stream and record their classes so that absent students, or students not wanting an in-person option, don't miss lecture discussion, the opportunity to participate and receive the full curriculum content as if they were in the classroom.

Brandon Cough, 14572 Hickory St., SL – Supports the return to full day in-person instruction and believes that is what is best for students and allows parents get back to work.

Kathleen Kasnowicz, 11485 Cleveland St., Nunica – Supports the return to full day in-person instruction; believes it difficult for parents and student to keep alternating or half days straight, especially for parents who work.

Kelly Goetzinger, 16698 152nd Ave., SL – Expressed appreciation for a hybrid plan but would have preferred full online with SLPS teachers teaching as it would allow for complete safety of students and staff. Asked to be provided with as many details as possible about what hybrid plan will include so she can make a decision for her daughter.

Kim Andres, 16075 Surrey Way, SL – Thanked the administration for thinking about best options and providing additional choices and hopeful that her students would be on the same daily schedule.

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Kelly Graftema, 15146 Wildfield Dr., SL – Supports the full in-person learning plan and believes it is best for her 3 students. Questioned how the decision was changed to the hybrid plan in such a short time and what evidence was used to make the decision.

Jamie Maxon, 15227 Edgewood Ct, SL – Concerns were addressed above and thanked the Board for making the change to a hybrid plan and for hard work of all involved.

Andrea Goosen, 16911 Birchview Dr., Nunica – Her questions were asked above. Frustrated that her students won't have the option to attend fulltime in-person and indicated it is a stresser for families with 2 parents working full-time. She encouraged all to think about essential workers when defining the hybrid plan.

Mary Blaicher, 18080 Hidden Trail, SL – Believes the district gave two reasonable options with the first plan, is upset to see the change and urged the Board to reconsider the full in-person learning plan as she believes students need face to face instruction.

Jessie VanDonkelaar, 12615 State Road, SL – Believes social structure that students get with in-person learning is so vital to their growth and urged to reconsider a return to full in-person learning, and if 50/50 option approved, to not split the day between student groups. She further thanked all for working through this to make the best decision.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Check Listings

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – wires, EFTs and checks totaling \$830,547.
- Payroll - totaling \$1,408,097.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- *New Hires* –
Courtney Callaghan.....SXI TeacherIS/MS
Jaime Wierenga.....1st Grade Teacher Jeffers Elementary
- *Fall Coaching Assignments*

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

RETURN TO SCHOOL ROADMAP

Dennis Furton provided an apology for some of the pieces of communication that were sent before Board action, and indicated he has heard from a great many parents on their thoughts and preferences of the SLPS Return to Learning Plan (RTLP), so much that the volume of emails are too great to reply to everyone. He has spent time talking with administrators, teachers, parents and the Board, and indicated there is merit to more than one approach and to finding balance for the safe return of students.

The RTLP discussion started with fulltime face-to-face instruction, then shifted to a hybrid plan. Mr. Furton is now proposing a meld of the two options with an ease into the school year with safety as the preeminent concern. This would give teachers the opportunity to teach proper use of PPE and hygiene, establish safe routines, assess students and find out where they are after 5 months of little instruction, connect with students on a social emotional level, assess who is at risk due to environmental or isolation issues, and connect students with counselors and/or social workers as needed. Mr. Furton believes this approach strikes the right balance between safety and learning but noted that it will not make everyone happy and understands it is very difficult to please all.

The proposed plan is as follows:

- 50% of students attend in-person on an alternating daily schedule with the other 50% of students learning remotely on an alternating daily schedule, for the first 3 weeks of school, 4 days per week, for a total of 12 days, with masks required, appropriate social distancing, and all other safety measures provided in the original Return to Learning Plan
- Students put in two groups based on last name: Red Group A-K / Grey Group L-Z
- K-6 would be cohorted and 7-12 would have a bell schedule
- Beginning September 14, K-6 students would return to fulltime in-person cohorted learning and 7-12 would return with modified block schedules, with the exception of those who choose online learning
- Distance learning as provided in the original Return to Learning Plan will be the alternate option to the above

Mr. Furton opened discussion up to the Board and answered questions based on what is known at this time. All Board members expressed that they want what is best for students with returning to in-person learning as safely as possible for students and staff. Board members indicated that this plan would provide some flexibility to make changes as needed, and could move to a remote learning platform at any time if conditions warrant. They further expressed the importance of receiving feedback from parents, staff and students during the 3 weeks period, and to continue to be mindful of community safety as well. It was also noted that other models of success should be reviewed.

Mr. Furton indicated that approximately 91% of parents who replied to first survey had indicated a choice of in-person learning. If this plan is approved, another survey would be sent to parents giving them the option of moving to a virtual learning platform or not enrolling their student(s).

Mr. Furton advised that he would need to know what direction the Board would like to head at this meeting so he can prepare the details for final approval and submission to the OAISD by August 15.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 10, 2020 CONT.

Curt Theune motioned, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the recommended hybrid plan presented by Dennis Furton above.

Vote: Yes – 6; Nicles, Theune, Lauinger, Callen, Devlin, Breen No – 1; Piggott

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rob Davidson – 15524 Oakridge, SL – Encouraged Board to decide if chat is an option for future virtual meeting attendees prior to the next meeting in order to clear up any misinformation by attendees; further indicated that since kids have been sheltered away we just don't know how return to school will affect the spread of COVID; and agreed with Debi Hulverson's comment about IB instruction. He thanked the Board, Superintendent Furton, the teachers on the task force for all of their work to keep the balance between safety and learning and trying to do what is right.

Kelly Graftema, 15146 Wildfield Dr., SL – still very concerned that 91% of parents want face-to-face instruction and questioned what data other schools used to plan reopening and what data did SLPS use to decide not to. Further inquired as to what resources will be available for those parents who work and don't have someone to watch students on days off.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported the following:

- Much of his time over the last few weeks has been spent planning for the safe return of students. He is hopeful this will be a successful plan and hopes every other district has tremendous success with their plans. The three weeks of hybrid will allow SLPS staff and students to establish routines after having been out for five month and will help balance what is needed to achieve success with students, and he thanked the Board for supporting it.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – September 21, 2020, tentatively set for IS/MS Media Center, 7:00 pm.
- Special board meeting – Thursday, August 13, time to be determined, to approve Return to School Roadmap to be submitted to OAISD.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NEGOTIATIONS

Curt Theune moved, support by Bruce Callen, to move to a closed session at 8:47 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Curt Theune moved, supported by Jeff Lauinger, to return to open session at 9:08 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

APPROVED:

Date

Board Secretary