

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 in person at the IS/MS Media Center and via electronic video conferencing using Zoom Webinar, Webinar ID: 819 6439 0322, as permitted by Open Meetings Act amendments. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Dennis Devlin, Kathy Breen, Katie Pigott, Jeff Lauinger and Bruce Callen.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Furton provided remote meeting protocol for public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kathy Breen, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2020 and Special Meeting of November 2, 2020, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Curt Theune moved, supported to 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 \$619,885
- Payroll - totaling \$2,625,737

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- *New Hires* –
LaPrea AnthonyGSRP Lead Teacher Jeffers Elementary

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2020 CONT.

- *Winter Coaching Assignments*
- *Resignation/Retirement* – Ben Lewakowski has provided his official letter of retirement that will become effective at end of December. Mr. Furton noted that Mr. Lewakowski has been the only principal of the SL Intermediate School, and he will be sorely missed by staff, students and parents. It is anticipated the position will not be filled permanently until summer and that an interim principal will be assigned from January to June.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

EXTENDED CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kathy Breen, to approve the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan as presented.

Mr. Furton provided a summary of the information from the MDDHS on the additional emergency order:

- High schools placed in remote learning through December 8
- All sports suspended
- K-8 instruction may be in person
- Food distribution is allowed (The district will be providing seven breakfasts and seven lunches for any student on November 17 and November 24.)
- Face masks in schools are required with limited exceptions

Mr. Furton further shared the increase in Ottawa County cases (891 new cases over the weekend and a 14.6% positivity rate), along with the COVID Dashboard information for the district through November 13 with a comparison from the previous week. He noted that there was a significant jump within the past week. Two-way interaction numbers were provided to the Board.

Mr. Furton recommended that the district continue remote learning for PK-8 through December 4, an extension of one additional week from what was previously communicated. This will allow time for the Board to review the local data after Thanksgiving break and consider the learning plan for all grades prior to the return of grades PK-8 on December 7. Per the current MDDHS emergency order, grades 9-12 would not be allowed to return until December 9.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

Scott Ely and Mike Gilchrist reviewed the evolution, progress and current challenges of the IB program. Although they believe the IB program has educated those students who have enrolled very well and the IB teaching staff have done a wonderful job, the deficits substantially outweigh the advantages and the high school team recommends the elimination of the IB program after the current junior diploma candidates complete their required courses during the 2021-22 school year. A

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2020 CONT.

recommendation will be processed through the district's Curriculum Advisory Council before it is brought back to the Board as an action item. The main reasons for the recommendation are as follows:

- Enrollment in the program remains lower than original projected, which impacts classes sizes in all other courses at the high school
- The IB program is costly to sustain
- SLHS must run IB as a Diploma Program, is not allowed to offer individual, high enrollment courses only, and has several courses with as few as four students enrolled
- The individual IB courses do not allow for college credit-bearing exams, which is in direct contrast to Advanced Placement courses.
- There has been a significant growth in Dual Enrollment courses, which is believed to have some effect on enrollment in IB courses.

Mr. Ely provided he believes the district can still meet the original goals of the IB program by adding the equivalence of Advanced Placement courses that reflect the IB course topics such as AP Psychology, AP English, AP World History, Advanced Art, and something similar to IB Theory of Knowledge, which are all well-received by students.

Questions from the Board were answered, and Mr. Gilchrist encouraged anyone else with questions to contact him or Scott Ely.

Board member Dennis Devlin commented that he does not feel this is a failure, it was well worth the try, and that the district may be able to take the better things from the IB program and implement them into other classes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

The evaluation tool to be utilized at the December Board meeting was provided to each Board member and the process discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rob Davidson, (no address provided) – encouraged the Board to look at the more than the numbers for the IB program before accepting a recommendation, and asked that the district prepare parents that remote learning may be kept in place through Christmas break due to his perception that COVID cases and hospitalizations will greatly increase in the upcoming weeks.

Paul Aldridge, 750 Fall St, Spring Lake – provided that he is looking forward to joining the Board in January and working with all. He also inquired if the COVID Dashboard will be kept up to date during the remote learning phase.

Mr. Furton affirmed that the COVID Dashboard would be updated with the best information that we have at the time.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2020 CONT.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- MDDHS Emergency Order Briefing – the slides will be posted on the website tomorrow.
- COVID Dashboard - will be updated in the next 24 hours or so.

UPCOMING MEETING

- Special Meeting – TBD, December 2 or 3
- Regular Board Meeting scheduled for December 14, 7:00 p.m. (Please note this meeting is the second Monday in December.)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date

Board Secretary