

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING, JUNE 21, 2021

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Budget Hearing on Monday, June 21, 2021, in person at the SLIS/MS Media Center and via electronic video conferencing using Zoom Webinar, Webinar ID: 891 3758 1888, as permitted by Open Meetings Act amendments. Jennifer Nicles called the hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Katie Pigott, Kathy Breen, Bruce Callen, Paul Aldridge and Christopher (Chris) Beck. Absent: None

Superintendent Furton provided the public comment process and protocol.

### 2021-22 SLPS GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Scott Powers, Chief Financial Officer, advised that a public budget and truth in taxation hearing was required before the Board can adopt next year's budget or tax levy. No action is taken at this hearing.

Mr. Powers presented the following:

#### **2020-21 Budget**

- Slightly favorable changes from the January 2021 amendment due to increased state funding, both recurring and one-time funding due to the COVID pandemic, workers comp surplus distribution, and staffing adjustments
- Current budget of \$30,590,600 has a proposed amendment of \$30,810,900
- Expected excess revenues of approximately \$850,000
- Expected fund balance percentage of 11.84% - with a significant portion of the growth due to one-time funding sources

#### **2021-22 Budget**

The revenue assumptions take the following into consideration:

- Blended enrollment of 2470, which is 4 less than 2020-21
- Foundation allowance increase of \$300 per pupil
- COVID-related grant funding estimated at \$570,000
- Enhancement millage funding estimated at \$640,000 – year 3 of 10
- Indirect cost subsidies as follows: Food Service, \$45,000 / FAC, \$50,000

The expenditure assumptions take the following into consideration:

- Employee compensation factors, including retirement contribution rate of 28.23% and a state hard cap increase of 3.7%
- Impact of staff retirements/resignations and replacements
- Purchase of one replacement bus, technology device replacements and IS/MS locker replacements
- Portion of year 3 enhancement millage funding earmarked for capital needs

The proposed budget for 2021-22 is \$30,554,000 with a projected ending fund balance of \$4,632,225, which would leave the fund balance at roughly 15.72%.

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**Debt Fund 2021 Proposed Tax Levy**

Voters approved an 18.225-mill levy for operations in November 2020. The .225 mill in excess of the 18-mill cap on operational levies was approved as a hedge against potential Headlee rollbacks. The extra millage was not sufficient to prevent a rollback; hence, the district will be levying 17.7584 mills on non-homestead properties for the upcoming year, resulting in an approximate loss of revenue of \$44,000.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to adjourn the Budget Hearing.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

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

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 21, 2021

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 in person at the SLIS/MS Media Center and via electronic video conferencing using Zoom Webinar, Webinar ID: 891 3758 1888, as permitted by Open Meetings Act amendments. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m., immediately following the Budget Hearing. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Katie Pigott, Kathy Breen, Bruce Callen, Paul Aldridge and Christopher (Chris) Beck. Absent: None

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Furton provided the public comment process and protocol.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the Minutes of the Regular and Special Meetings of May 17, 2021, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRINTED AGENDA**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kathy Kasnowicz, 18415 Cleveland St., Spring Lake, urged the Board to leave the choice of student mask wearing to the parents. She asked the Board to send a survey out to the parents so they can provide feedback on the topic and asked the Board to help parents advocate to the MDHHS against further mandates.

Jeffery Deater, 331 S. Lake Ave., Spring Lake, expressed his concerns about student mask wearing and urged the Board to lift the requirement of masks for all students regardless of vaccine status for the upcoming school year.

Ross Ziegenthaler, 15620 Willows Dr., Spring Lake, provided a prepared statement to the Board and urged the Board to lift the mask mandate and to set an agenda item for the July Board meeting to discuss a policy preventing any form of medical segregation or discrimination of unvaccinated children.

Dan O'Keefe, 211 Mason St., Spring Lake, reiterated what the other commenters have said and stressed that masks and vaccines for students should be left up to the parents and COVID testing should not be required for any student.

Dr. Gregory Stempky, 2921 Judson Rd, Spring Lake, provided his views on the unknown risks of the COVID vaccine, especially in children, the low risk of serious complications for children who contract COVID, and the social anxiety and peer pressure students may feel regarding mask wearing and vaccination status.

Sandy Betten, 2805 Judson Rd, Spring Lake, provided that parents are very serious about the school code and the district should be listening to parents.

Johanna O'Keefe – 211 Mason St., Spring Lake, agreed with other commenters, stated there are many parents thinking along these lines that were not able to attend the meeting, and asked the Board to take the comments seriously.

Nicole Wrona, 16524 Spring Tree Dr., Spring Lake, provided her belief that masks are harmful to children and their wellbeing, and asked the Board that masks and vaccinations be a choice for the parents to make, not mandated by the district.

Brenda Marek, 15456 144<sup>th</sup> Ave., Spring Lake, stated she was speaking on behalf of her son and how he feels mask and vaccine mandates are like racial segregation (Jim Crow laws).

Courtney Holmes, 14422 Leonard Rd, Spring Lake, commented that students call mask wearing and other COVID protocols "suicide in a box" and advocated against student mask wearing and mandated COVID vaccines for the upcoming school year.

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Amy Kleppe, 306 Visser, Spring Lake, stated she does not believe cloth masks prevent the spread of the COVID virus and is not in favor of student vaccine mandates.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – totaling \$369,976.
- Payroll – totaling \$1,850,016.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kathy Breen, to approve the 2020-21 General Appropriation Resolution Amendment as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**ACTION ITEMS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- New Hires –  
Meredith Miller ..... Special Ed Teacher .....Jeffers Elementary  
Amanda Norkus .....1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher .....Jeffers Elementary  
Mary Schuitema .....1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher .....Jeffers Elementary  
Tina Himebaugh .....Kindergarten Teacher .....Holmes Elementary  
Ashley Hamilton .....Kindergarten Teacher .....Holmes Elementary  
Heather Akers .....1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher .....Holmes Elementary  
Ben Armye.....Asst Principal .....High School
- Resignations/Retirements –  
Michael Stephan, 7-12 PE teacher, has provided a letter of resignation effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Stephan was with the district for one year and will be missed by staff, students and parents. Robin Kieft, 7-12 Choir teacher, has provided her official retirement notice effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Kieft has been with the district for 33 years and will be greatly missed by students, staff and parents. It was noted that Mrs. Kieft was one of just two choir directors in the 63-year history of the program!
- MHSAA Membership Resolution

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 21, 2021 (Cont.)

2021-22 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the General Appropriations Resolution for Fiscal Year 2021-22 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

2021-22 TAX LEVY

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the 2021-22 Tax Levy, as presented. This includes 7.0 mills levied against all properties for debt retirement, and 17.7584 mills levied against commercial and non-principal resident properties.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

RATIFYING RESOLUTION FOR 2021 REFUNDING BONDS

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Ratifying Resolution for the 2021 Refunding Bonds, as presented.

This resolution ratifies the Bond Purchase Agreement and the issuance of the 2021 Refunding Bonds approved by the Board on March 15, 2021.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE – MITEL PHONE SERVICE AGREEMENT

Kathy Breen moved, supported by Curt Theune, to approve the purchase of a 5-year Mitel VOIP Service Agreement from Millennia Technologies for a cost not to exceed \$31,065 as presented.

Brent Gustafson, Technology Coordinator, provided that the district's phone system is 5 years old, was purchased through Millennia Technologies, and Millennia has provided the service and support of both hardware and software over the last 5 years. He further indicated there is a significant cost savings by extending the service agreement over the next 5 years.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE – APPLE IPADS AND CASES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the purchase of a 190 iPads and Brenthaven Edge 360 cases from Apple for a cost not to exceed \$62,500.50 as presented.

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Brent Gustafson, Technology Coordinator, provided that this purchase is part of the 1:1 program for student devices and would provide new iPads for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade for the next school year then be rotated down to Kindergarten students the following year. There is an expected five-year life span for these iPads.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

District Office Summer Hours –

- ◇ June 21 through July 30, Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◇ Closed July 5 in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- ◇ Regular hours resume August 2

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Curt Theune, Board Member, provided congratulations to the girls' Soccer and boys' Golf teams for their great accomplishments during this spring season.

Jen Nicles, Board Member, thanked everyone for the amazing support that the girls' Soccer team received during their run for the state title.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Girls' Soccer – has some of the most competitive athletes and a tremendous team culture, and while they are losing some very talented players, the team should continue to see great success.
- Legislative Update – no budget target agreements reached yet and nothing expected until mid-July.
- Personnel – five teaching positions left to fill: MS Math, HS Math, HS English, HS Vocal Music, MS/HS PE
- COVID – Per changes by the MDHHS regarding COVID restrictions, the mask requirement for summer programs will be lifted on June 22. A wait-and-see approach regarding mask wearing this fall is recommended. Mr. Furton noted that patience can be a real virtue when making these types of decisions, and it is likely a decision will not be made until sometime in August.
- Tenure – The following six teachers are eligible for tenure following the 2020-21 school year:
  - ✓ Cassidy Hazekamp
  - ✓ Emily Nieboer
  - ✓ Gretchen Spoelman DeLong
  - ✓ Kyle Jewett
  - ✓ Melissa Keller
  - ✓ DeAnn Carpenter

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 21, 2021 (Cont.)

**UPCOMING MEETING**

- Regular Board Meeting – July 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

**EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION - NEGOTIATIONS**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to move to closed session at 7:47 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to return to open session at 8:42 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**ACTION ITEM**

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH SPRING LAKE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Spring Lake Educational Support Personnel Associations as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

**ADJOURNMENT**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

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