

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 17, 2022

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 17, 2022, in person at the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Kathy Breen, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Paul Aldridge and Christopher Beck. Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Board Appreciation Month, i.e. "Pie Month". Dennis Furton expressed his deep appreciation for the dedication to the district and time spent by all the Board members. He commented that every member does an excellent job making sure students and staff are supported.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Paul Aldridge moved, supported by Kathy Breen, to suspend the rules and present a slate of officers.

Vote: Yes - Unanimous

Paul Aldridge nominated the following officers:

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Paul Aldridge moved, supported by Curt Theune, to return to regular order.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Identify the District's legal status and District's official name – The School District Legal Reference Note reflects the Board member terms.
- Check Signature Authorization and Investment Accounts.
- Establish 2022 Meeting Dates – Regular Board Meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the SLIS/SLMS Media Center, 345 Hammond St. unless noted, with the exception of the meeting in December scheduled for the second Monday of the month.

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| February 21, 2022 | June 20, 2022 | October 17, 2022 |
| March 21, 2022 | July 18, 2022 | November 21, 2022 |
| April 18, 2022 | August 15, 2022 | December 12, 2022* |
| May 16, 2022 | September 19, 2022 | January 16, 2023 |
| | | *Second Monday |

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Jennifer Nicles indicated committee assignments have been confirmed and thanked the Board members for their willingness to be flexible and help where needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2021 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Julie Norkoli, 17168 Burkshire Dr., Grand Haven – stated her children attend GHAPS, the mask worn at the meeting by the Board prevented her from seeing who is speaking and that masks are in violation of the school code as they restrain breathing. She further commented about sexually explicit books in the school library, with potentially 300 inappropriate books, and said she was shocked by what she has read. She suggested the district preform a general review, remove the books and that books should be rated. She concluded by reading an excerpt from one of the books.

Sandy Betten, 2805 Judson Rd, SL – provided she is speaking on behalf of Ottawa Impact and explained they are about defending the constitutionally protected rights of parents to make health and education decisions for their children. She welcomed all to visit their webpage.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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Accounts Payable – Check Listings

- Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. totaling \$520,176.
- Payroll – totaling \$1,935,691.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve and adopt the 2021-22 General Appropriation Resolution Amendment as presented.

Scott Powers, CFO, provided details on the revenue and expenditure assumptions in the amended 2021-22 budget. He advised the amendment was reviewed in detail with the finance committee last week and touched on the highlights:

- Revenues are up due to larger than usual state aid funding of approximately \$554,000, one-time state and federal funding resources of \$994,000 and a one-time period adjustment of \$508,000.
- Expenditures have increased by employee compensation approximately \$600,000 over estimate, Reliant contract increase, one-time and recurring capital expenses of approximately \$470,000 above the original budget and a one-time transfer to the capital projects fund of \$508,000.
- Conservative estimate of the ending fund balance at approximately \$5.1 million, which is 16.4% of annual expenditures.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- New Hires –
 Kyle Karczewski..... Assistant Director SLCFAC
 Jamie Maxson Title I Parapro..... Jeffers Elementary

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Schmuker, 18393 Country Ave., SL – commented she is a nurse working with COVID patients and believes the masks we are wearing on our faces are not effective against COVID. She believes district

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funds should be used for N95 masks and proper ventilation that cleans the air. She stated masks in schools impede communication and air exchange, and stated when are we going to say enough is enough as people are getting COVID while wearing masks or not. She accused Mr. Furton of virtue signaling by wearing a mask at Board meetings but not, as she has seen, at basketball games.

AJ Morrison, 17579 Winged Foot Ct, SL – commented that there is a lot of passion here, SLPS is an excellent district, not built on apathy, and asked how we can work together as good things are going on here.

Mike Hodgins, 11639 State Rd, Nunica – stated he is new to the district having recently moved from Texas and the mask thing is baffling to him. He questioned if the district was getting money to keep the mask thing going on, if the district loses money if we lose the masks, and if the dollar bills are what is speaking to the Board, they should all be fired.

Chris Beck went on the record stating that none of the Board members are being compensated by the government and they are volunteers. Mr. Furton provided that not a single federal dollar is associated with mask wearing.

Shauna Stalec, 15889 Leonard Rd, SL – asked the Board to please make masks optional and provided that surrounding schools are letting parents make their own choice. She believes masks are ridiculous as students are at low risk for serious illness, and they only wear the masks during school hours and are exposed outside of school anyway. She stated she believes it is all about control and money and has nothing to do with protecting the community or kids' health. She stated it should be left up to the parents, this has gone on long enough, there is no way to stop the spread of germs and no one should ever be made to wear a mask, ever.

Becki Deater, 331 S Lake Ave., SL – provided that since last spring, she has been talking at every board meeting requesting to remove masks, that more students and others want to speak but are afraid of backlash and it is falling on deaf ears. She commented about cases in Fruitport, the need for speech paths and interventionist with the youngest students being most affected with struggles hearing their teachers. She stated it is a struggle hearing the Board at the meeting. She feels that the choice is being made by one person and inquired why the board did not discuss or vote on it. She ended by asking the Board to consider removing the masks or making them optional as numbers do not support it and kids are going to suffer for years to come.

Courtney Holmes, 11422 Leonard Rd, Nunica – provided she has had great pride being a Laker but is struggling with the mask decisions and not letting parents decide what is best. She provided she understands that masks lessen quarantine, but stated COVID isn't going away and more fear and anxiety are being placed on children which affects their mental status and asked to remove the masks.

Kathleen Kasnowicz, 11485 Cleveland St., Nunica – Asked to remove the masks from our children as COVID is not a problem with the kids, masks are not making a difference, they are having trouble learning words, pronunciation, spelling. She advised she pulled one of her students to go to another district, and they are thriving. She believes poor decisions are being made here as other districts have removed mandates they had in place. She is asking again to please remove the masks from our kids as more harm than good is being done.

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Kelly Johnson, 109 Mason St., SL – provided she is a speech therapist in Muskegon, thanked the Board for the option to quarantine or not, commented she has huge guilt with her kids having to mask but that she does not have to mask where she works, expressed her appreciation that she is surrounded by brave people, appreciates the Board for volunteering and thanked the Board for the opportunity to show the heroes.

Carla Segaar, 18690 N. Shore Dr., SL – stated that she is a critical thinker and asked the Board to look around and see what she sees. She said it doesn't make any sense that wrestlers wear a mask in school but not for wrestling. She believes the Board are really smart people, but questioned how that makes any sense.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update –
 - House Bill 4239 allows for greater flexibility in placing substitute teachers through June 30 of this year. Current school employees no longer need 60 credits to serve as a substitute teacher.
 - Seat-time requirements are a big advocacy issue at this time. With COVID, school threats and inclement weather, this issue may get some attention.
- COVID – Updated COVID dashboard and guidelines were provided to the Board. In general terms, focusing on the right numbers is something that we should be doing with discussion and sharing of thoughts with the Board to happen soon.
- ETS – The Emergency Temporary Standard issued by OSHA is essentially dead in the water. It has been stayed at the Supreme Court level and is not expected to move forward.
- Chalkboard Project – The gallery walk activity was held today and was a big success. Credit to Jen Gwinnup and her support team, including student and parent volunteers.
- CREC Update – The Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference was held last Friday. They are anticipating upwards of \$4.5 billion in the School Aid Fund at the end of the 22-23 fiscal year. A few ideas on how the funds may be allocated were provided to the Board.
- Masks – In response to one of the public comments, Mr. Furton addressed the topic of when and why he wears a mask and indicated that you will see him at basketball games, local establishments and about town not wearing a mask. He advised he wears a masks during the school day and at Board meetings, not to be seen as “virtue signaling”, but by choice and in support of students and staff wearing masks during the school day.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – February 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Thune moved, supported by Kathy Breen, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary