

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 19, 2022

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 19, 2022 at the SLIS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Kathy Breen, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Paul Aldridge and Christopher (Chris) Beck. Absent: None

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Beck moved, supported by Kathy Breen, to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2022, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRINTED AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. – totaling \$1,002,933
- Payroll – totaling \$2,417,731

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

NEW HIRE

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the hiring of Joe Vanderlinde to fill the vacant maintenance position as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY QUALIFICATION OF BONDS APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds as presented.

Mr. Furton provided the details of the 57-page document that is required to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury in order for the district to proceed with the bond plans approved at the November 21 meeting. Upon approval of the Application, the Board can call the election for May, 2023. It is anticipated that the Treasury approval should be received before the proposed January 2023 Board meeting.

Discussion and questions were had by the Board. The following was noted:

- There is flexibility on how the funds can be allocated as long as the projects are aligned with the bond ballot language as costs may go up in certain areas and require scaling back in other areas.
- State approval is necessary before the election can be called since these are qualifying bonds and are part of the School Loan Revolving Fund.
- Thirty days is the typical amount of time it takes to receive approval from Treasury, the response is anticipated by January 20, which necessitates the agenda action item to move the January 16 Board meeting to January 23.
- The odds are very, very slim that Treasury would not approve the application due to the prep work that went into drafting the application that included a due diligence call with Treasury last week.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

POLICY APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the NEOLA policy numbers 6108, 6460, 6700 and 9150 and the Board of Education Code of Conduct as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

RESOLUTION RE FOIA FEE DETERMINATION APPEAL

Bruce Callen moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Resolution regarding the FOIA fee determination appeal submitted by Kevin M. Priddy as presented.

Mr. Furton provided that Mr. Priddy filed a FOIA with the district on November 23 seeking records relating to the bond study committee. His request was in part approved and in part denied and Mr. Furton provided details of both. Regarding the question of the fees, legislation provides the district with discretion to establish fees for FOIA requests. Mr. Priddy's request is not large in scope and was estimated at four hours of staff time to fulfill for a total cost of \$131, which includes the cost of a flash drive. Mr. Priddy is appealing the decision of the district to apply a fee for compiling the information.

Discussion and questions by the Board was had and the following was noted:

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- The FOIA fee schedule was established over 2 years ago and costs have not been reviewed or adjusted in over a year. Labor costs have increased and fees may be adjusted accordingly in the future.
- The district does not get a full reimbursement of staff costs who can actually do the work required to fulfill the FOIA requests because hourly pay rates are higher for those employees than what the district charges.
- An itemized estimated fee schedule was provided to Mr. Priddy.
- Due to the increased volume of FOIA requests, the district has consistently charged fees over the last 2.5 to 3 years to fulfill those requests.

It was noted that Mr. Priddy was not in attendance and, therefore, not able to provide any additional comment on his appeal request. Ms. Nicles read the preamble and the resolution aloud before the vote.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE JANAUARY ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING DATE

Curt Theune moved, supported by Kathy Breen , to approve the Resolution to change the January Organizational Board meeting date from January 16, 2023 to January 23, 2023 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Furton provided the following:

- Mr. Furton thanked Kathy Breen for her service to the district, commented that it has been fantastic working with her and that the Board has grown and gotten better because of her strong moral compass. Ms. Breen expressed her thanks, provided that it has been an honor to serve and that she will miss it.
- Legislative Update – None
- Illness Tracking – Contrary to rumors floating around, SLPS will not be cancelling school due to illness at this time. Cold and flu season is in full swing along with an increase in COVID cases. Numbers are tracked on a daily basis and weekly attendance, by building, ranged from 89% to 92% last week compared to an average of 93% to 96% during a comparative week in early November.

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- Central Office Holiday Hours
 - Closed December 23, 26, 30, January 2 and 6
 - Open December 27, 28, 29, January 3, 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. until Noon
- Calendar/Events
 - December 22 – Boys’/Girls’ Basketball at Grand Haven, first game at 6:00 p.m.
 - January 11 – Boys’/Girls’ Wrestling at home at 5:30 p.m.
 - January 17-20 – MASA Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo

UPCOMING MEETING

- Organizational Board Meeting – January 23, 2023, 7:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

CLOSED SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to move to closed session.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board went into closed session at 7:31 p.m.

Curt Theune moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to return to open session.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board returned to open session at 8:52 p.m.

ACTION ITEM

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to adopt the completed year-end Superintendent’s Evaluation for Dennis Furton 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 8:52 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary