

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2023

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023, 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, Bruce Callen, Katie Pigott, Paul Aldridge, Christopher Beck and Courtney Holmes. Absent: None

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Board Appreciation Month, i.e. "Pie Month". Dennis Furton, on behalf of all staff, expressed his deep appreciation for the Board's dedication and time committed to the district.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Paul Aldridge nominated the following officers:

Jennifer Nicles – President
Bruce Callen – Vice President
Curt Theune – Secretary
Chris Beck – Treasurer

Chris Beck clarified the slate.

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 2023 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 January 2024 scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month.

February 20, 2023	June 19, 2023	October 16, 2023
March 20, 2023	July 17, 2023	November 20, 2023
April 17, 2023	August 21, 2023	December 18, 2023
May 15, 2023	September 18, 2023	January 22, 2024*
		*4 th Monday

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Jen Nicles will accept assignment requests from the Board and will assign a chair for each committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of December 19, 2022 as presented.

Vote: Yes–Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Accounts Payable – Food Service, SLCFAC, General Fund, Student Activity, etc. totaling \$772,949.
- Payroll – totaling \$2,378,900.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve and adopt the 2022-23 General Appropriation Resolution Amendment as presented.

Scott Powers, CFO, provided details on the revenue and expenditure assumptions in the amended 2022-23 budget. He advised the amendment was reviewed in detail with the finance committee and touched on the following highlights:

- Revenues are up due to larger than anticipated state aid funding and one-time state and federal funding related to COVID. It was noted that the one-time funding is scheduled to end after next school year.
- Expenditures increased from the original budget due to adding additional staffing, school safety and SXI/special education costs.

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- Estimate of the ending fund balance at approximately \$6.8 million conservatively.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

NEW HIRES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the the hiring of Hannah Sova to fill the vacant food service position, Jaiden Hill to fill the vacant child care aide position and Matt VanStrate to fill the vacant part-time maintenance position as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

RESIGNATION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the resignation of Elizabeth (Lisa) Schanhals at the end of the 2022-23 school year as presented.

Ms. Schanhals was present and commented she felt lucky to have had a teaching career in Spring Lake and expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Board, parents, administration, teachers, support staff, SLS Foundation and community for their support.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

CURRICULUM APPROVAL – 2 HS COURSES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Katie Pigott, to approve the approve the additions of AP Environmental Science and Forensic Science course offerings at the high school, both beginning with the 2023-24 school year, as presented.

Scott Ely provided that the Curriculum Advisory Committee has reviewed the courses and are excited to make these offerings available to students. He further provided that these offerings came about at the request of high school teachers and students inquiring about different science offerings. It was noted that the number of AP courses now offered is nearly equivalent to the number of courses previously offered under IB. Mr. Ely also explained the process for determining the number of sections to offer for each course.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

RESOLUTION FOR CALL OF MAY 2023 BOND ELECTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the Resolution for the call of the May 2023 bond election and approve the ballot language as presented.

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Dennis Furton provided the background on how and when the bond process was started and the evaluation of the district programs and building needs by the Bond Study Committee. It was noted that MI Dept of Treasury approved the submitted bond application last week. The next step is to call the election, approve the ballot proposal language, which has been prepared by legal counsel, and submit that to the Ottawa County Clerk for the May 2 special election if approved.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the creation of a Director of Communications position and to authorize the Superintendent to immediately seek qualified applicants for such position as presented.

Mr. Furton provided the details on why the position is recommended at this time and what the expectation of the initial outcomes will be upon hiring a dedicated professional:

- Better district communication
- Improved social media, website and print presence
- Sharing of the many success stories staff are involved in everyday, getting information out to parents and community about what we are accomplishing and problems we are solving
- Possible increase in enrollment with better communication of the district's success to our community

Mr. Furton answered questions from the Board, stated he expected a strong applicant pool and that he will continue to communicate with staff with shared communication efforts to parents. He further spoke to the positive effects other districts have reported with having a dedicated professional for communications and that staff feedback has been positive thus far.

If approved, the position would be posted Tuesday with the hope of being filled sometime in March.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Julie Highhill Norkoli (address not provided) – suggested the Board provide the bond proposal language, committee assignments and budget amendment information to members of the audience in the future.

Nichole Wrona, 16524 Spring Tree Drive, SL – suggested the district hire a strength and agility trainer for high school athletes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – provided to the Board. Mr. Furton noted that it has been 40 years since the Democrats controlled both the legislature and the Governor's office and he expects a relatively aggressive partisan approach.
- Bond Update – the 15-week countdown to the May 2 election has begun. The informational FAQ document should be completed this week and will be shared/posted on the website when ready.
- Calendar/Events –
 - January 27: District-wide PD
 - February 21-24: Health Insurance Pool Winter Work Session
- Resignation – Susan Martin, Holmes Elementary media parapro, has submitted her resignation for the end of the school year. She has been with the district for 23+ years. Her resignation has been accepted with regrets.
- Staff thank yous to the Board have been received from many staff offering appreciation for the free FAC membership.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting – February 20, 2023, 7:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

CLOSED SESSION – CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board went into closed session at 7:47p.m.

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board returned to open session at 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Thune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary