

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2023

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 20, 2023, in person at the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of January 23, 2023 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 \$740,906.
- Payroll – totaling \$2,140,265.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### **RESIGNATION**

Curt Theune moved, supported by Katie Pigott, to approve, with regrets, the resignation of Norm Greene at the end of the 2022-23 school year as presented.

Mr. Furton spoke of Mr. Greene’s unique character and noted he has been with the district for 25 years. He will be greatly missed by students, staff and parents.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 (Cont.)

### BUS PURCHASE APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the purchase of two (2) International CE 77 passenger size buses, each including an extended engine warranty, fiberglass luggage compartments, mirror mounted back up camera, and LED first light safety stop arm, from Midwest Transit Equipment for a price of \$127,568 per bus, for a total cost not to exceed \$255,136 as presented.

Liz Boeve, Director of Operations, provided that this is the routine annual request for replacement buses and that these buses would replace two the district no longer has.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

#### IS/MS SPOTLIGHT AND THE STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

##### **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT**

Jon Fitzpatrick, Intermediate School Principal, recognized how wonderful staff, students and parents are at the Intermediate School and noted it has been his privilege to work with them. He provided the Board with the following highlights of this school year thus far:

- Staff organized a last-minute gathering with former SLPS students/MSU alumni in the wake of the tragedy at MSU last week
- Two students who finished first and second in the recent spelling bee will move on to the regional competition in Holland
- Coming off of COVID, now have 25 to 30 students participating in the Chess Club once per week
- Student Council organized national speaker Kelley Perotti who spoke to students and staff on kindness and resilience and challenged students to 5,000 acts of kindness in 15 days
- Student Council has organized activity nights with about 250 students attending
- Parents are coming in and engaging with students during lunch and recess with positive outcomes
- SLIS Parents Club has been engaged in the school setting, supporting teachers and raising funds
- The Walkathon raised \$48,550 this year, which is the largest amount since the inception of the fundraiser
- Walkathon funds will pay for 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp fees and an outing for 6<sup>th</sup> graders yet to be determined, along with upgrades to the playground
- The newly formed 5-8 Student Support Team has had a positive impact using a proactive versus reactive approach with students who may be struggling

##### **STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM SPOTLIGHT**

Amanda Walker, Social Worker, Sarah O'Brien, School Counselor, and Matt Augustin, Student Support Specialist, form the 5-8 Student Support Team for the Intermediate and Middle schools. They provided the following information on what they are doing collectively to help students in those buildings:

- Supporting students struggling academically, at least weekly, depending on need
- Connecting with parents via weekly communications
- Addressing mental health and behavioral concerns and providing academic classroom support
- Consulting with teaching staff, parents and administrators

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 (Cont.)

- Proactive interventions and check-ins with students
- Connecting families to mental health resources
- MTSS, Multitiered Systems of Support, approach used to target academic, behavior and social needs for students with 3 tiers
- Team based approach has made a positive impact on students
- 58 students at the IS have or are receiving Tier 2 support with 98% of students responding positively; of 47 students at the MS, 95% of students are responding positively
- Failure rates reduced by 47% at the MS since last year, based on Trimester 1 information

Questions from the Board were answered.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT**

Aaron West, Middle School Principal, provided the Board with the following highlights of this school year thus far:

- Great deal of excitement with the Student Support Team and what they are doing to improve student success
- Kindness is Contagious campaign in progress
- Math Counts competition team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Muskegon Community College with two students eligible to move on to the state competition in March

Kelli Adrian, MS Math teacher, brought forward the students who are part of the MS Math Club and provided details of the recent competition. Each student provided their favorite part of being involved with the Math Club.

### PLAYGROUND PROJECTS

Liz Boeve provided that two playground projects are in the works at the Intermediate School and Jeffers Elementary.

The Intermediate School playground will get two 9 Square courts and two new Gaga pits. The total cost of both projects is \$28,780 and will be paid by funds raised through the SL Parent Club.

Jeffers playground will receive a zipline. The total cost of the project is \$36,815, \$17,000 of which will be paid by the funds raised through the Jeffers Parent Club and the Turkey Trot, with the balance paid by the district.

It was noted that both playground projects are expected to be completed in the spring, dependent on weather.

Questions from the Board were answered.

### K-6 SPANISH AS A SPECIAL

Courtney Holmes provided her thoughts why she feels it would be beneficial to add K-6 Spanish curriculum as a special and noted the following in support of her opinion:

- Would help the district stay competitive by providing diverse curriculum
- Spanish immersion or Spanish as a special is provided in other local districts at the elementary level
- Wouldn't take away from current specials, but be added to the weekly rotation

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 (Cont.)

- Spanish is the second highest spoken language in the world behind Mandarin
- Helps with literacy and English
- Ease of learning another language at a young age
- With migrant farms in the area, Spanish is more prominent in Ottawa County
- Easier to learn other languages if you know Spanish

Discussion was had by the Board.

It was noted that the current K-4 rotation of specials is as follows: PE, Art, STEM and Music on a 4-day rotation, each session is 45 minutes long.

Mr. Furton and Scott Ely, Curriculum Director, provided the history, as they could recall, on the research that had been done in the past on Spanish immersion and pushing down Spanish and other foreign languages to the lower grades.

Curt Theune suggested that the discussion be tabled and recommended that it be forwarded to the Curriculum Advisory Committee for review and let that team of experts be a part of the decision-making process.

Mr. Furton advised to take it a step at a time and start by gathering more current information. He suggested a March or April Board work session for further discussion after some research has been done. He noted that the earliest this could be brought into fruition would be the fall of 2024 and that it would be critical to have someone on staff to champion it.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joyce Aldridge, 750 Fall St., SL – commented that she likes the idea of Spanish being added, spoke of her daughter's experience with learning Spanish, and suggested that an after-school Spanish club or program could be an alternative.

Becky Gray, SLPS Foreign Language teacher – commented that discussion has been had a few times in the past with the foreign language department about adding the curriculum for lower grades. She provided her own experience with learning Spanish at a younger age and that she would support both French and Spanish curriculum for the lower grades.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – provided to the Board. Mr. Furton noted that the Board can expect this legislative session to be a busy one.
- Bond Update – the website will be updated regularly with content. Mr. Furton will give presentations to the community on March 14, April 11 & 25. A copy of the direct mail flyer expected to go out in early to mid-March was provided to Board. Video content will be pushed out in the next few weeks via social media and the school website.
- Director of Communications – 39 applicants were received. After initial screening, they were cut to 16, with 3 being invited for initial interviews on February 28.

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- Calendar/Events –
  - February 21-24: Health Insurance Pool Winter Work Session
  - April 12: OASBA Educational Presentation at the OAISD with Dr. Stephanie Grant presenting

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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