

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, MAY 5, 2023

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a work session on Friday, May 5, 2023, in the Spring Lake Middle School Conference Room. Jennifer Nicles called the session to order at 9:01 a.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Paul Aldridge, Christopher Beck, Katie Pigott and Courtney Holmes. Absent: None

Dennis Furton provided the layout for the session, reminded the Board the purpose is for discussion only and no action would be taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION

Elementary Spanish

Scott Ely provided the history of where the district has been with Spanish curriculum and the previous review of and discussions surrounding adding Spanish as an elective in grades K-6. He provided fact-based data from other districts in Ottawa County who either currently have or have had Spanish as an elective at the elementary level. He indicated that a common issue for districts was finding qualified staff to teach the elective at the elementary level.

Discussion followed and included:

- Directives from the state
- Parent inquiry
- Pushing Spanish down to 5-6 grades first
- Adding Spanish 1 in 7th grade
- Taking a broad-view look at all elective offerings
- Surveying students/parents
- Scheduling
- Involving staff in the decision making
- Defining a clear goal with an end target

Addition of Literacy Coach

Scott Ely provided the history and scope of what a Literacy Coach does and the need for staffing the position for 5th – 8th grade teachers, due in part to the district's part-time Literacy Coach, Mary Cotterall, retiring. Mr. Ely recommends adding a full-time coach to work with 4th-8th grade teaching staff. The current full-time Literacy Coach, Katie VanSingel, would continue working with K-3rd teaching staff.

Mr. Ely provide that the funds for the extra .5 FTE would come from the state grant funds (Section 31a) and can be sustained via the grant budget for at least 3-5 years.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, MAY 5, 2023 (Cont.)

Bond

The bond kickoff meeting is scheduled for May 24. Dennis Furton provided an overview of who would be involved and the preliminary schedule. The first areas of focus (Series 1) will be the high school secure entryway, administrative offices and the fieldhouse.

Property purchases around the high school were reviewed and discussed.

Mr. Furton noted that regular communication/updates on the progress of the bond will be made to the board and provided on the website for the community.

Strategic Planning

Dennis Furton provided the strategic planning proposal submitted by Hanover Research, the cost of their services and reasons to consider. Other strategic planning resources were discussed that would be less costly along with what the district has done in the past for strategic planning.

The Curriculum Director interview process was provided by Mr. Furton.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 11:29 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary