

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, JULY 14, 2023

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a work session on Friday, July 14, 2023, in the Spring Lake Middle School Conference Room. Jennifer Nicles called the session to order at 10:01 a.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Paul Aldridge, Christopher Beck, Katie Pigott and Courtney Holmes. Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION

Dennis Furton asked Kate Drake, new Curriculum Director, to introduce herself to the Board.

Bond

Mr. Furton provided an update on the bond progress that included the background on the assumptions of the bond funds and percentages allocated for specific projects when the bond proposal was put out to the public in the spring. He noted that if the district takes over the management of certain projects, this will save money and allows funds allocated for management to be spent on other projects. He further noted that the district has already invested the bond funds received and interest is accruing at 6%, 4.14% of which the district is able to keep.

HS Secure Entryway

Mr. Furton provided the two floor plan concepts for the HS secure entryway and administrative offices as follows:

- Secure Entry Way Concept A – 6,000 square foot one-story option floor plan, with office space, outside elevation and welcome center views shared
- Concept A Cost - \$3,429,011, estimated breakdown of costs shared
- Secure Entry Way Concept B – 6,000 square foot two-story option floor plan, with counselors offices on the second floor, outside elevation and welcome center views shared
- Concept B Cost - \$4,053,674, estimated breakdown of costs shared

Ben Armey provided the thinking behind the two different concepts and stated that the guidance offices upstairs brings additional privacy and separation for counseling purposes and the second story allows for more outside windows and natural light.

Board discussion followed and included:

- There is no difference in the secure entry between the two options
- Concept B appears to provide more space in the welcome center and a better flow for students
- Movement of athletics offices to this space allows athletic staff better visibility of students coming and going and will provide a window for viewing weather conditions
- No plan for adding additional structural space down the road with either concept

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, JULY 14, 2023 (Cont.)

Mr. Furton asked that the Board provide any additional feedback to the three Board members who sit on the Bond Committee prior to Monday's meeting.

Fieldhouse

Mr. Furton provided the two floor plan concepts for the Fieldhouse as follows:

- Concept A - a one-story floor plan option with a total of 65,000 square feet
- Concept A costs – \$16,428,469, higher than what was originally anticipated
- Concept B - a two-story/mezzanine floor plan option with a total of 68,765 square feet
- Concept B cost – \$16,785,126
- Options for usage of the multipurpose room were shared by JT Hogan, Athletic Director

Board discussion over each floor plan followed and included:

- The cost to widen the mezzanine
- The preference to adding a mezzanine at this time, structurally the only time to do it
- The forecasted savings based on prior bond experience and knowledge gained with the management of certain projects
- The preliminary series one timeline

Mr. Furton asked that the Board provide any additional feedback to the three Board members who sit on the Bond Committee prior to Monday's meeting.

Racial Harassment

Mr. Furton provided the beginning steps/action plan to the Board to address the increase in harassing incidents, racial and other, that occurred over the last few months of the 2022-23 school year. He shared details of the incidents and that a thorough investigation was done by Scott Ely.

Discussion followed and included:

- The climate and culture survey will be available for parents to review before it is sent out to students
- The survey should be done on an annual basis and include a variety of harassment types
- The importance of communicating to students and parents on how the district protects the reporting student/s identity and a safe way for students to report harassment
- Training of staff
- The need to communicate to parents the reason why specific consequences relating to harassment are not provided in district policy or in the student handbooks
- A third-party consultant will be hired to audit policies and provide training and support
- The superintendent will keep the Board updated if/when there are upticks on harassment claims

Strategic Planning

A proposed strategic planning timeline was provided to the Board. Mr. Furton noted his preference is to go with MLI, with a cost between \$7,000 and \$8,000, versus Hanover Research, which came in at a much higher cost. The expected services provided by MLI for outside assistance with the planning were provided. The Board will be involved in reviewing the district's mission and visions statements and work alongside the

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, JULY 14, 2023 (Cont.)

administrative team to identify main areas for the strategic planning process which the stakeholders will then use to provide feedback. The timeline and process will be rolled out to the administrative team in August. This will be a three-year strategic plan from 2024-2027.

Superintendent's Goal, 2023-2024

Mr. Furton provided his 2022-2023 priorities list and how those priorities were handled.

He shared the following priority list draft for 2023-2024:

- Administrative support for newly hired administrators
- Strategic planning/climate and culture
- Human resources – evaluate and improve
- Harassment – shift from reactionary to proactive; elevate awareness; build trust and confidence

Discussion followed and the Board added the following items to consider:

- Contract negotiations with SLEA
- Succession planning
- Improve enrollment numbers; Gain an understanding why enrollment has not rebounded since COVID
- Grow social emotional support at the middle level
- Enhance website

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary