

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JULY 17, 2023

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, July 17, 2023 in person at the SLIS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Bruce Callen, Curt Theune, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Katie Pigott, Paul Aldridge and Courtney Holmes. Absent: None

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION

David Theune presented on the SL/Alkmaar Netherlands Student Exchange, which was approved by the Board last fall and taken in June of 2023. Eight students who participated spoke about their experience, what they learned or what the trip meant to them. Lauren Thompson, HS Science teacher, also participated in the trip and provided some highlights on their experience.

Mr. Theune wrapped up with these points relating to the value of this program to the SLPS community:

- Inspires a spirit of adventure and development of future programs
- Enhances a global mindset surrounding education and educational programming
- Puts West Michigan on the minds of many
- Is education at its best!

He concluded by thanking the Board for approving the trip and for his hopes that they get to do it again.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Minutes of the Budget Hearing, Regular Meeting and Closed Session of June 19, 2023, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRINTED AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Obits, 740 Winter St, SL – commented she felt energized by what she heard about the Netherlands trip and provided her support to the student's comment that conversations are key and concurred that this is education at its best.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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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 \$734,782.
- Payroll – totaling \$2,903,035.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

NEW HIRE

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the hiring of Moira Gray as a 4th grade teacher at Holmes Elementary to replace Mary VandenBosch.

Dennis Furton provided that Mary VandenBosch is moving into the literacy coach position and Ms. Gray will fill her 4th grade position. Further, Ms. Gray, formerly Moira Smith, graduated from SL, and has been teaching in the state of Washington for the last 10 or 11 years.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

RESIGNATION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the resignation of Michiko Chattulani, IS Special Education teacher, effective June 9, 2023.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

MASB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the renewal of the district's MASB annual membership for 2023-2024 for a cost not to exceed \$5,232.98 as presented.

Mr. Furton provided that the Board and district have not been MASB members for about five years and the reasoning behind it. A couple of members have who are or would like to participate in classes have inquired about membership and training opportunities to grow and improve as a Board member. He noted the importance of using the membership if the district is to renew it.

Courtney Holmes asked if participation as non-member for classes and training, an "a la carte" approach, would be more cost effective. Mr. Furton stated that there are some other services available, such as legal assistance in certain cases and assistance with the superintendent's evaluation tool, but that he didn't currently have the specific cost breakdown. Ms. Holmes asked for more details regarding the costs so the Board could compare.

After further discussion, the Board concluded it would like more information comparing the membership cost to the cost of non-membership classes on a per participation basis and would like to table this action item to gather that information.

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It was noted that a motion to approve the MASB membership renewal was open and needed a vote before proceeding with tabling this item.

Jenifer Nicles called for a vote on the open motion.

Vote: Opposed – Unanimous

Courtney Holmes moved to table this item to the August 2023 meeting in order to gather more information on the programs available and associated costs, and Paul Aldridge supported that motion.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY FOR SCHOOL FUNDS RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the Official Depository for School Funds Resolution as presented. No changes reported to accounts since last approved.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

NETHERLANDS STUDENT EXCHANGE TRIP APPROVAL

Chris Beck moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the Netherlands Student Exchange trip for June 2024 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISTRICT PROVIDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the August 23 and 24, 2023, October 26, 2023 and January 26, 2024 scheduled PD days as student instructional time for the 2023-24 school year as presented.

Mr. Furton provided that this Board action is required for pupil accounting purposes and allows the district to count those PD days as student instructional time, which is a negotiated item by the SLEA. He noted that the total instructional hours are not affected by this and still exceed the state requirement of 1,098.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

SCHOOL LOAN REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL LOAN APPLICATION RESOLUTION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to approve the School Loan Revolving Fund Annual Loan Application resolution as presented.

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Brad VanDeVusse provided this is a precautionary measure as participation in the School Loan Revolving Fund was originally part of the bond proposal but it is not anticipated that the district will need to participate in it this year due to the recent strong bond sale.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

IS/MS CAFETERIA TABLES PURCHASE APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to approve the purchase of 12 lightweight cafeteria tables from Grand River Office for a cost not to exceed \$29,139.48 as presented.

Liz Boeve provided that this purchase was slated for the May 2023 Bond and, once funds become available, it is advantageous to move forward with the purchase before costs increased. This will complete the purchase of tables for the IS/MS cafeteria table replacement project.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

HS CHILLER PURCHASE APPROVAL

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to award the HS chiller replacement labor and materials to VanDyken Mechanical for a cost not to exceed \$212,000, and to award the additional engineering services associated with the project to Peter Basso Associates for a cost not to exceed \$4,950 as presented.

Liz Boeve provided that HS Chiller #1 was slated for replacement as a part of the May 2023 bond. HS Chiller #2 was approved for replacement by the Board in May. Ms. Boeve was able to get an addendum to that project and add HS Chiller #1 so both projects can be done at the same time. It was noted there is a lengthy lead time once the chillers are ordered. The initial prep work will begin during Spring Break 2024 with the full installation occurring once school is out of session in June of 2024.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

POLICY FIRST READINGS

A high-level overview of the policies changes was reviewed by Mr. Furton.

- Bylaw 167.3, Public Participation at Board Meeting – one change to reflect the current practice of limiting public comment to three minutes.
- Policy 2623, Student Assessment – changes to clean up outdated language; add a code of ethics for administering student assessments; add written procedures to make sure testing materials are kept secure; establish staff training and oversight process.
- Policy 6325, Federal Grants/Funds – federal program legislation language to comply with the David- Bacon prevailing wage requirement for contracts in excess of \$2,000.
- Policy 8390, Animals on District Property – provides updated language for service animals on district property and a definition for therapy dogs; adds language for non-service animals on district property.

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- Policy 8400, School Safety Information – spells out what is required for threat assessments and what reporting is required by the Superintendent to the Board related to threats made in the school setting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Obits, 740 Winter St., SL – urged the Board to think carefully before not renewing the MASB membership and only considering the cost as the criterion for renewal. She further stated she believes it would be good for all Board members to take advantage of the courses offered.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Furton reported on the following:

- Legislative Update – none.
- Bond Update – committees met this afternoon. The two-story option was elected for the HS administrative offices and the two-story/mezzanine option was elected for the fieldhouse. A number of small changes are expected between now and August when final schematics should be ready for approval.
- Personnel – two vacancies are currently open: HS French teacher and IS/MS Special Education teacher.
- Calendar/Events:
 - July 18-20: Superintendent WMHIP Summer Retreat
 - July 25-27: Superintendent PTO
 - August 4: Policy Committee Meeting, 1:00 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

- Regular Board Meeting – August 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m., IS/MS Media Center

CLOSED SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT MID-YEAR EVALUATION

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to move to closed session at 7:48 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Curt Theune moved, supported by Chris Beck, to return to open session at 8:30 p.m.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Paul Aldridge, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary