

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 22, 2023

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 in person at the SLIS/MS Media Center. President Jennifer Nicles chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Bruce Callen, Curt Theune, Christopher (Chris) Beck, Paul Aldridge and Courtney Holmes. Absent: None

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PROCEDURE**

Mr. Furton explained the procedure for the interview process, and the Board divided up the nine questions to be asked. Candidates will wait outside of the meeting room until called for their interview. Following the interviews, the Board will deliberate on the candidates in the order they were interviewed. Jennifer Nicles provided that after discussion, each Board member will be polled to select a preferred candidate. If a majority is reached after polling, a motion to nominate and vote will follow. If no majority is reached, then discussion and polling will continue until a majority is reached.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Matt Isard, 15001 Boom Rd, SL – inquired about what the Board is looking for in a candidate.

Ms. Nicles provided that it will become clear what the Board is seeking through the questions asked during the interview process and the discussion following the interviews.

### **BOARD TRUSTEE INTERVIEWS**

The following candidates were interviewed:

- Dustin Brown
- Jeff Leech
- Kelly VanderHoek

Each candidate was asked the same questions relating to:

- Personal introduction
- Past volunteer service within public schools
- Their view of the role of a school board member
- What led them to apply
- How they manage differing opinions
- Personal concerns about being a school board member
- View of parental rights in schools, specifically relating to parent classroom involvement
- What they see as the biggest challenge facing public education
- How they view the relationship between the BOE and school administration and staff, and what it would mean to them to have to make decision that would put aside what's best for themselves or their families

Each candidate was also given an opportunity to ask questions of the Board.

## SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 22, 2023 Cont.

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, for a five-minute recess.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

The Board returned to open session at 8:29 p.m.

### **BOARD TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT**

Board members noted that it will be a difficult decision to choose one candidate and expressed appreciation for all 17 of the candidates who applied. Each Board member made favorable comments about each candidate and shared what they liked about each candidate's statements.

The Board was polled for their first candidate choice as follows:

Paul Aldridge – Dustin Brown  
Courtney Holmes – Dustin Brown  
Bruce Callen – Kelly VanderHoek  
Jennifer Nicles – Dustin Brown  
Curt Theune – Kelly VanderHoek  
Chris Beck – Kelly VanderHoek

Based on the polling, Jeff Leech was eliminated. More discussion was had regarding candidates Brown and VanderHoek and what they both could offer during the 18-month appointment time based on their work and volunteer experiences.

A second poll was taken as follows:

Chris Beck – Kelly VanderHoek  
Curt Theune – Kelly VanderHoek  
Jennifer Nicles – Kelly VanderHoek  
Bruce Callen – Kelly VanderHoek  
Courtney Holmes – Dustin Brown  
Paul Aldridge – Kelly VanderHoek

Bruce Callen moved, supported by Curt Theune, to appoint Kelly VanderHoek to fill the vacant Board Trustee position.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 22, 2023 Cont.

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