

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2015**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, October 12, 2015 in the Learning Center Board Room. The following were present: Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, Dr. Ryan Carnes, Mr. Ralph Purkhiser, Mrs. Linda Carnes, Mr. Tony Galloway, and Mrs. Jennifer Shipman. Mr. Tony Whitaker was also in attendance. Mr. Kevin Allstott arrived for a portion of the Executive Session.

During the Executive Session, the Board received information about prospective employees, and discussed job performance evaluations, strategy with respect to collective bargaining, personnel, and litigation. No subject matters were discussed in the Executive Session other than the subject matters specified in the public notice.

Regular Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Regular Session at 6:09 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All board members and Mr. Whitaker, as well as Mr. Jim Bush, Mrs. Kathy Allstott and Mrs. Peggy Simmons were present.

Mrs. Lynch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

The budget hearing, with the exception of the Capital Projects Fund, was conducted at the September 14th board meeting. As stated then, due to an error in posting of the Capital Projects Hearing Notice to Taxpayers, the CPF hearing was not held at that time. Mr. Whitaker announced that we would now be holding our Capital Projects Hearing in order to be compliant with the Department of Local Government Finance. He asked for any questions or comments from the public regarding the proposed 2016 Capital Projects Fund budget, with no response. He then closed the Capital Projects Fund Hearing.

Minutes of the September 14, 2015 board meeting were approved with a motion by Mr. Galloway, and second by Mrs. Shipman. The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to approve vouchers and claims as presented, as well as special permission to pay Newegg.com the amount of \$524.75 from Capital Projects Fund. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker advised that the Blackhawk Brigade received a gold division rating at the Jasper ISSMA Invitational, and received distinction awards in music, visual, and general effect. Currently ranked at 2nd in the state in Class D by the Indiana Marching.com Director/Staff poll, the brigade will participate in the ISSMA Regional at Evansville this weekend. The Springs Valley Festival of Marching Bands was held last weekend featuring 14 bands, and gratitude was extended to John Carnes and custodial staff, the French Lick Resort for use of a scissor lift, parking area, and providing complimentary rooms for the judges, and band parents Jennifer and Billy Shipman for their assistance in securing field lights. Despite the inclement weather, the event was very successful with over 2,000 people attending. Many positive comments were received about the event and facilities.

Mr. Whitaker congratulated the girls golf team for their second place finish in the Bedford Sectional and advancing to the Washington Regional. Team members included Brooke Parker, Alex Parker, Bethany Cranfield, Emma McCormick, Myranda Burton, Javanna Royer, and Savanna Pendley. The team was coached by Landon Harner.

The varsity cross country team participated in the Jasper sectional on the 10th, and three runners, Justin Curtis, Hannah Greger, and Alaina Purkhiser advanced to regional competition which will be held this Saturday.

The volleyball team will compete in the Wood Memorial Sectional, with games set for October 22nd and 24th. Springs Valley will play Cannelton on the 22nd. The football team will play at North Decatur on October 23rd in the first round of sectional play.

No one from the public addressed the board.

As recommended by cafeteria director Mrs. Kelly Weisenberger, Mr. Whitaker requested the board employ Melissa Campbell as cashier of the ala carte register in the high school cafeteria. Ms. Campbell has substituted in both the elementary and high school kitchens, and will fill the position vacated when the previous cashier accepted a cook's position in the elementary cafeteria on September 28, 2015. Salary for this part-time position will be per the non-certified salary schedule. Mr. Purkhiser so moved, and Mr. Galloway seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker stated repair of the boiler lines has been completed, with lines replaced, and concrete/blacktop repaired. He thanked Mr. David Watts of Land Improvement Solutions and Wes McNeely for their work in completing this project.

A pre-bid meeting for the bus garage re-roofing project and main gymnasium HVAC project was held last week. Plans and specifications have been sent to contractors interested in submitting bids. Bids for both projects are due in the superintendent's office by 2 PM on Thursday, October 22nd, with bids to be opened shortly after that. The Stenftenagel Group and Schmidt Associates will then review the bid documents, research bidder qualifications, and develop a recommendation for the school board's consideration and approval to award contracts for each project at the November 9th meeting. The Stenftenagel Group and Schmidt Associates are also currently researching upcoming needed improvements throughout our facilities.

In regard to the recent state legislation with changes to the casino revenue funding, Mr. Whitaker advised that he and Dr. Carnes have met with representatives from Paoli and Orleans schools. The previous division of funding was 50% for Springs Valley, and 25% for each Paoli and Orleans. At the most recent taskforce meeting, Mr. Whitaker was directed to ask our board to accept a split of 36% for Springs Valley, 34% for Paoli, and 30% for Orleans, stating that all boards have to adopt a resolution accepting the split in order for the funding to be released. He then asked for board members' opinions on this matter. Mr. Purkhiser stated that he felt this was not a fair split, as the other two schools do not have the casino in their towns and we do not receive funding from businesses in those towns. He felt the 50/25/25 split was fair, and taking a 14% drop while the funds will also be decreasing is not fair to the students of Springs Valley. Mrs. Carnes stated that asking us to take a smaller percentage of a smaller pool is inappropriate and not fair to our students, as the resort/casino is the primary employer in our community. Mr. Galloway said that if the matter were to be voted on, his vote would be against the proposal. Mrs. Shipman questioned that all three schools would have to accept the proposed split in order for the matter to be resolved, and Dr. Carnes agreed that if the matter is not voted on, then the taskforce would meet again for further discussion and possibly another proposal. Mr. Whitaker asked for input from Mr. David Watts, who is a member of the redevelopment committee. Mr. Watts advised that the Orange County Development Commission board is fighting this same situation with the Indiana Gaming Commission and Radius, with funds taken from OCDC and turned over to Radius. The groups met last week, and they are waiting for a response from Radius. He added that the situation does not look very promising. Additional discussion was held. Mrs. Lynch said our board has spoken, and we are standing solid for our school. The board's general consensus was that any percentage less than 50% for 20 years due to the casino being located in our community, as indicated in previous legislation, is unfair. No action was taken on the matter, and Mr. Whitaker stated he would advise the other two school corporations that we did not adopt any resolution concerning the casino revenue for schools.

Mr. Whitaker announced that the General Fund Task Force has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd. Dr. Michael Adamson will again facilitate the meeting. Mrs. Lynch, Dr. Carnes, and Mr. Whitaker, along with members of the teaching staff, custodians, secretaries, and all departments will be represented at the meeting.

Mr. Whitaker recommended ratification of the 2015-2016 Master Contract between the Springs Valley Teachers Association and the Springs Valley Community Schools, adding that the tentative contract agreement had been ratified by the teachers association. The total compensation increase of \$67,100 in certified salaries includes a base salary increase along with movement on the placement schedule. He stated that our teachers continue to work hard with the constant demands on education, and this package is a reflection of the board's commitment to do what they can to reward the teachers for their work. Mr. Purkhiser made the motion to ratify the 2015-2016 Master Contract as presented. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and with no discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Shipman made a motion to approve a 2.5% salary increase for non-certified staff, effective August 3, 2015, as requested by Mr. Whitaker. He commented that our non-certified staff also continues to work hard in keeping up with the daily demands of the school and students. Mr. Galloway seconded. Mrs. Carnes noted this was the first salary increase in a number of years. The motion was then carried 6-0-1, with Mr. Allstott abstaining.

Mr. Whitaker provided an enrollment update, stating that our ADM count on September 18th was 876. This count is down from the September 2014 count of 899 and the February 2015 count of 887. With the state's change in now counting kindergarten students as one instead of one-half, he estimated that we would receive an additional \$25,000 in state funding this year; however, the funding would go down if we lose students. The General Fund had been overspent by the amount of \$335,000 in 2014, and Mr. Whitaker stated we should be close to that amount in 2015 as well.

Mr. Galloway moved to purchase a Thomas activity bus for the price of \$50,675. Mr. Whitaker stated that we have \$14,884 in appropriations in the Bus Replacement Fund, with the remainder to be paid from Rainy Day Fund. Mr. Allstott seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker presented the 2016 budget for adoption, and stated that permission to advertise said budget was granted at the August 10th board meeting. The budget was published in the newspaper and on Gateway as required, and the public hearings were conducted. Mr. Whitaker then requested approval of the 2016 budget as advertised and all required resolutions. Mr. Galloway motioned to adopt all required documents and resolutions for the 2016 budget, and Mrs. Carnes seconded. With no discussion, the motion carried 7-0. (copies attached)

Board members were reminded of the ISBA Fall Regional meeting set for October 26th, and instructed anyone wanting to attend to contact Mrs. Allstott for registration.

Mr. Purkhiser spoke to other members of the board, providing information he received at the ISBA Fall Conference. He advised the conference included good breakout sessions, and ideas for education foundations to raise money for schools. He added that our education foundation's primary focus is providing scholarships, with the exception of the Hall of Fame. Inductees into this year's Hall of Fame on November 11th will be the four local young men who lost their lives in Viet Nam. Mr. Purkhiser also stated the guest speaker at the conference spoke on the topic of needing to stop beating up on public schools, as we are doing a good job, and it's time to start pulling for public schools.

Mr. Purkhiser also advised the Orange County Extension annual meeting is scheduled for October 29th at the Orange County Community Building. The guest speaker will be Mr. Kevin Seitz, and the meal will be catered by our culinary arts class.

Mrs. Lynch stated that Mr. Whitaker has received a letter from the French Lick Town Council regarding safety issues on the sidewalks. Board members have reviewed the letter. Mrs. Lynch advised that our number one concern is the safety of our students, we are exploring options and resources, and would welcome any investment by the Town of French Lick for the safety of our students. She added that Mr. Whitaker has drafted a letter, which will be sent to the French Lick Town Council.

Mr. Bush announced that parent-teacher conferences will be held at the junior/senior high school this Thursday evening for students in grades 6 through 12. The elementary will hold parent-teacher conferences on October 21st from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

With no other business before the board, Mrs. Shipman motioned to adjourn. Mr. Allstott seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

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