

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 13, 2017 in the Learning Center Board Room. Board members Mr. Todd Marshall, Mrs. Jennifer Shipman, Mr. Ralph Purkhiser, Mr. Chris Burton, Mr. Dustin Farris, Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, and Mr. Justin Wininger were present. Mr. Tony Whitaker was also in attendance. Mr. Jim Bush and Mr. Daniel Wolford were present for a portion of the meeting.

During the Executive Session, the Board received information about prospective employees, and discussed job performance evaluation, 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 6:05 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All of the above, as well as Mrs. Julie Woolsey, Mr. Trevor Apple, Mrs. Kathy Allstott, and Mrs. Peggy Simmons were present.

Mr. Marshall called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

The minutes of the January 9, 2017 and February 7, 2017 board meetings were approved, along with the vouchers and claims listings as presented, with a motion by Mr. Wininger. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Allstott advised that high school ECA treasurer, Mrs. Shannon Meehan, has voided six checks totaling \$172.38 that were issued in 2014 and remained outstanding and unpaid as of 12/31/16. As directed by Indiana State Board of Accounts, the voided check amounts were receipted back into the originating funds. (See attachment.)

Mr. Whitaker advised that we lost a dedicated and caring member of our staff recently. Third grade teaching assistant Mrs. Christina Mahan passed away on February 3rd. Mrs. Woolsey thanked the community, especially Rev. Doug Finney, Rev. Wade Allen, Rev. Joe Crow, Father Ben Syberg, and Ms. Jamie Albin of Southern Hills Counseling Center, stating she appreciated the help and guidance during the loss of her niece. Mr. Marshall stated the board appreciated Mrs. Woolsey's leadership at this difficult time. Mr. Bush added that the sixth grade students conducted a bake sale three days last week, and raised \$1,500 for the Mahan family.

Mr. Whitaker congratulated the following spelling bee winners: Kenton Albright, Brooklyn Carnes, alternate Brandon Tennant, Michaela Albury, Lola Pantoja, alternate Kaylee Hall, Sean Baker, Hunter Carnes, Ava Willett, and Josie Dixon. These students will be participating in the 2017 Orange County Spelling Bee to be held on February 25th at the Paoli High School auditorium.

Mr. Whitaker thanked the first grade students, teachers, and Mrs. Chestnut for singing the National Anthem at a recent varsity girls' basketball game. Kindergarten students will be singing at Friday night's ballgame.

The boys' basketball team will compete in the Oakland City sectional on February 28th, March 3rd and 4th. The sectional draw will be held this Sunday, February 19th.

The girls' basketball team lost to Northeast Dubois in recent sectional play.

Our school hosted the girls' basketball regional this past Saturday, and Oakland City Wood Memorial was the winner.

Mr. Whitaker received a thank you note from Mrs. Jennifer Hill, who coordinated the Running Start Program. With lots of community support, haircuts, backpacks, meals, and other items were provided to students at no cost.

Mr. Winger congratulated all students who participated in the ISSMA Solo & Ensemble contest recently. The band received 17 gold ratings and 7 silver ratings. Olivia Burton, Brian Elkins, and the percussion ensemble advanced to the state solo & ensemble competition. Students Aidan Aylsworth and Brian Elkins received gold ratings with perfect scores.

Mr. Whitaker complimented middle school teachers Mrs. Amanda Dalton, Mrs. Jessica Roberts, and Mr. Chad Goldman for a middle school student of the week program.

Mr. Purkhiser congratulated the 7th grade boys' basketball team, which had a very successful season with only one loss and two tourney championships.

Mr. Marshall stated that he would skip ahead on the agenda to allow someone to speak and then leave to attend another meeting. Mr. Whitaker advised that Mr. Scott Stenftenagel of The Stenftenagel Group had alerted him to significant rebates currently available from Duke Energy for 2x4 LED lighting. Mr. Patricio Daneri of Energy Harness was present and also discussed the lighting rebates. His company conducted an audit of our facilities at no cost and recommended proceeding with the LED lighting project, regardless of who is selected to do the work. Mr. Stenftenagel stated this is an excellent opportunity to reduce cost and recommended development of a request for proposal to be submitted to three contractors immediately, seeking bids to be received within seven days which would allow for the work to be completed by the April 1, 2017 deadline. He advised that we could request the bids include performance and payment bonds, and estimated the total project cost of all buildings would be approximately \$140,000, with rebates of about \$70,000. Project costs would be recouped within two years through energy savings. The Learning Center building was not included in the audit but will be added to the bid list. Mr. Whitaker advised that if approved, all work would be done after school hours and during Spring Break. He requested permission to seek proposals and authority to accept the lowest responsible proposal, using Mr. Stenftenagel and Mr. Marshall as resources, so that we can proceed with the project in order to meet the deadline. Mr. Purkhiser so moved with the addition of the Learning Center building to the project list, and Mr. Farris seconded. Mr. Whitaker advised that utilizing the Rainy Day Fund for this project will in fact save on General Fund expenditures in electricity costs. After discussion, Mr. Purkhiser amended his motion to approve the cost of both bonds to be included in the proposals, and Mr. Farris seconded the amended motion. With no other discussion, the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Stenftenagel advised that the pool project is on track, and have a scheduled completion date of July 27th, 2017 excluding demolition of the old unit. The air handler unit has been ordered with delivery expected mid-May, and the contractor is set to start the foundation in March. Outside work will be done while school is in session, and there will be no issues for the SeaPerch program.

Under opportunity for the public to address the board, Ms. Della Chatman had signed up to speak but since left the meeting.

Parent Mr. Harry Bledsoe addressed the board regarding his daughter's recent expulsion, stating that he would like to get her back in school. Mr. Marshall stated that he was not ready to respond to any specifics on this matter, and no action would be taken.

Mr. Eugene Pinnick stated that he had no comment at this time, but might speak at the next meeting.

Mr. Whitaker recommended approval of the following personnel matters: resignation of Mrs. Mary Acuff as cook in the elementary cafeteria, resignation of Mrs. Stella Lowe, teaching assistant, resignation of Mrs. Diana Shipman as teaching assistant, employ Mr. Richard Drake as custodian/bus driver effective January 23rd, employ Mr. James Marshall as custodian/bus driver, approve Miss Angela Epperson as special education teaching assistant, approve Mr. Darren Kerns and Mr. Justin Scheller as driver education instructors at a salary of \$40 per hour, approve transfer of Ms. Melissa Campbell to cook at the elementary school from the high school a la carte cashier position, employ Ms. Barb Hibdon as high school a la carte cashier, approve spring coaches/baseball – Bob Greger (head coach), Rob Denbo (varsity assistant), Henry Cruz (junior high), Seth

Dickey (volunteer assistant), Matt Pierce (volunteer assistant), softball – Joe Crow (head coach), Jill Stephens (varsity assistant), Gail Johnson (junior high), Matt Weisensteiner (volunteer), James Marshall (junior high volunteer), track – Tim Weisenberger (head coach boys), Derek Freeman (head coach girls), Daniel Wolford (junior high boys), Monica Wolford (junior high girls), Ben Syberg (volunteer assistant), Jolynne Cruz (volunteer assistant), boys golf – Taylor Graeter (head coach), Brent Harner (volunteer coach), Damon Tarr (junior high coach), and volleyball – Erin Carnes, Gina Webster, and Kari Buchanan will be dividing responsibilities of coaching the 5th and 6th grade volleyball teams. He also requested authority to hire elementary teaching assistants before the next meeting. Mr. Farris so moved. Mrs. Lynch seconded. Discussion was held regarding exit interview procedures. The motion was then approved 7-0.

There was no old and unfinished business to report.

Mr. Whitaker advised that we will go through the request for proposal process for the security camera project, and will provide more information at a future meeting. Discussion included the capability of additional storage and archive ability, and placement of additional cameras.

Mr. Whitaker requested approval of an application for a credit card to be used for high school extra-curricular purchases to expedite the process when purchase orders are not accepted. Mr. Bush will be the cardholder, and maintain documentation of account activity. Mr. Wininger made the motion to approve the high school extra-curricular credit card. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker recommended approval of the driver's education summer program, with a student fee of \$330.00. Mrs. Lynch so moved, and Mr. Burton seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Springs Valley Community Schools has received a planning grant of \$30,000 under Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Comprehensive Counseling Initiative for Indiana K-12 Students. Mr. Whitaker advised that we will utilize the grant funding to assess and strengthen current counseling programs. Funding will be used to research current best practices in school counseling, as well as to provide professional development opportunities for counseling staff. Our corporation is one of 284 public school corporations and charter schools in Indiana to receive planning grants through the initiative. The planning grant will also help us prepare our implementation grant proposal to fund strategies for improvement of current counseling programs. Proposals for the competitive implementation grant are due to Lilly Endowment by May 19, 2017, and notification of approval is expected by September 30, 2017.

Mrs. Woolsey reported that ISTEP testing will be done the end of February and March. Last year's scores were not the greatest, but we beat the state average in all areas except math. The standards have changed, and we are now writing our own curriculum to meet those needs. There have been no major discipline issues at the elementary. A new student pick-up procedure was implemented this year, and is going well. Upcoming events include the county-wide spelling bee and seaperch competition on February 25th, and she's hoping to hold a SeaPerch preview on Friday afternoon, 2/24. Other events to be held include the annual spring carnival and Kindergarten roundup in April, and the second and third grade musicals. A new project at the elementary school is entitled "391 Reasons to Love Our School", where each student has decorated a heart saying why they love Springs Valley Elementary.

Mr. Wolford distributed information regarding high school discipline matters for the first semester. Discussion was held regarding a discipline matrix, and possible changes to the student handbook.

Mr. Bush updated the board on the DOE school grade, graduation rates, and ISTEP test results.

Teacher Mrs. Lindsay Mendel spoke about a new concept in teaching algebra at the high school. Students receive algebra instruction for a nine-week period, and then move on to a second nine-week curriculum if they pass or receive additional instruction on the first nine-week curriculum if they fail. All algebra students have that class third period, which allows for the success of this pass/fail program. Mr. Whitaker appreciated the effort from all staff involved in this teaching initiative.

Mr. Chad Goldman addressed the board on this year's SeaPerch program. He has 36 elementary students and 63 high school/junior high students participating. The Springs Valley Invitational will be held on February 25th, and will include teams from Owen Valley and the Chicago area. Regional competition will be held at Springs Valley on March 11th, and a second regional will be on April 8th at North Daviess. The National finals are to set for May 19th - 20th at Georgia Tech. Mr. Goldman thanked staff members for their help in making this a successful program.

Mr. Whitaker advised that our February 1st student count of 843 was down 12 students from the September count, resulting in a significant funding loss for the next six months.

Mr. Purkhiser discussed possible legislation regarding general diplomas affecting the graduation rate. Mr. Wininger advised that he plans to discuss this and other legislation with our state representative.

Mr. Whitaker provided information on the 1782 Notice Pay 2017 budget approval as issued recently by the Department of Local Government Finance, adding that the tax rate of .8722 is the lowest in five years. He will plan a finance work session for board members in the near future.

Mr. Wininger motioned to approve a field trip for Mrs. Lisa Wray's Culinary Class to visit Sullivan University on April 7th. Mr. Burton seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Marshall announced that a public work session is tentatively planned for February 27th at 5:30, and will confirm the date/time with board members.

A short recess of the regular session was held, with board members adjourning from 7:55 to 8:00 PM. Mr. Bush, Mr. Wolford, Mrs. Woolsey, Mr. Apple, Mrs. Allstott, and Mrs. Simmons left at that time.

All board members and Mr. Whitaker reconvened to discuss adoption of proposed NEOLA policies. Policy numbers 3120.04, 5335, 5340, 5340.01, 5341, 5350, 5410, 5420, 5421, 5451, 5460, 5461, 5462, 5463, 5464, 5500, 5511, 5512, 5513, 5514, 5514.01, 5516, 5517, 5517.01, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5605, 5610, 5610.02, 5611, 5630, 5710, 5720, 5724, 5730, 5751, 5771, 5772, 5820, 5830, 5850, 5855, 5860, 5870, 5880, and 5895 were approved as presented, with a motion by Mr. Wininger. Mr. Farris seconded, and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker presented the following policies for the first reading: 4120, 4120.04, 5120, 5200, 5722, 6000, 6105, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6116, 6120, 6144, 6145, 6150, 6151, 6152, 6210, 6212, 6220, 6230, 6231, 6320, 6320.01, 6325, 6423, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6475, 6510, 6520, 6550, 6610, 6620, 6621, 6655, 6670, 6680, 6700, 6800, 7000, 7100, 7101, 7217, 7230, 7240, 7250, 7300, 7310, 7410, 7420, 7430, 7434, 7440, 7440.01, 7450, 7455, 7460, 7510.01, 7530, 7530.01V2, 7530.02, 7540, 7540.01, 7540.02, 7540.03, 7540.04, 7541, 7542, 7543, and 7550. These will be recommended for adoption at the March 13th Board Meeting.

With no other business before the board, Mr. Wininger motioned to adjourn. Mr. Burton seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

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