

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2013**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:30 PM on Monday, December 9, 2013 in the Learning Center Board Room. The following were present: Mr. Ralph Purkhiser, Dr. Ryan Carnes, Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, Mr. Kevin Allstott, Mrs. Linda Carnes, Mr. Tony Galloway, and Mr. Larry Kalb. Dr. Jerrill Vandeventer and Mr. Tony Whitaker were also in attendance.

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed strategy with respect to collective bargaining, received information about prospective employees, and discussed individuals over whom the governing body has jurisdiction including job performance evaluations. 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 6:01 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All of the above, as well as Mr. Troy Pritchett, Mrs. Kathy Allstott, and Mrs. Edith Pinnick were present.

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

Mr. Galloway made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11th, November 14th, and December 2nd, 2013 board meetings. Mr. Allstott seconded. Discussion was held, and Mr. Galloway and Mr. Allstott then rescinded their motion and second.

Mr. Galloway motioned to approve the minutes of the November 11th and November 14th, 2013 board meetings, and Mr. Allstott seconded. The motion was carried 7-0.

Minutes of the December 2nd, 2013 board meeting were approved, with a motion by Mr. Galloway and second by Mr. Allstott. The motion passed with the vote of 6-0-1, with Mrs. Lynch abstaining since she was absent from that meeting.

Vouchers and claims were approved as presented, with a motion by Mr. Galloway. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the motion was carried 7-0.

Dr. Vandeventer congratulated the following students and staff: Kade Hinkle for being chosen as the Orange County DAR Good Citizen; Mr. Justin Scheller – complimentary e-mail from a parent; Mr. Pritchett had received a letter from a girls' basketball game official who commended the athletes on their politeness and work ethics and the respectful coaching staff; the FFA District Forestry team for their success in recent competition; PLAC All-Conference awards to Hannah Pendley, Rebecca Pierce, Justice Breedlove, Logan Bruner, and Keegan Ingle; and Rebecca Pierce for being named to the First Team All-State Volleyball Team.

Mrs. Carnes recognized our first grade students for placing first in the French Lick Christmas Spirit Light Parade held recently.

Patron Mr. Justin Wininger addressed the board, stating that with the upcoming superintendent appointment from an in-house candidate, he was curious as to how the vacant administration position would be filled. Mr. Purkhiser stated that position would be filled following the new superintendent's recommendation.

The 2014 contract for legal services from Tucker and Tucker, PC was presented for consideration. Dr. Vandeventer stated the current hourly rate of \$120 will remain in effect for next year. Mr. Galloway made the motion to approve the contract of Tucker and Tucker, PC. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Vandeventer advised that Mr. Kevin Knies has requested permission for the FFA Forestry team to attend the State FFA Forestry Career Development Event at Purdue, with an overnight stay on Friday, December 13th. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mrs. Carnes seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

Dr. Vandeventer presented a copy of the bid from the French Lick Redevelopment Commission for street improvements on Larry Bird Boulevard at a total cost of \$684,800 by Hughes Paving Company, including work on school property, for which the Town of French Lick has requested reimbursement in the amount of \$32,910. Mr. Galloway made a motion to repay the Town of French Lick upon completion of the project for the \$32,910. Mr. Allstott seconded the motion. Mr. Galloway then stated that the improvements included a stone stack wall down the boulevard, with the wall continuing in front of the high school gym and street lights. Dr. Vandeventer added

that the payment for this project would be from Casino Revenue dollars. The motion was then passed 7-0.

Dr. Vandeventer requested special permission for Mrs. Allstott to pay bills as needed through the 2013 year-end, and permission for the superintendent to do emergency hiring as needed prior to the January 20th, 2014 board meeting. Mrs. Carnes so moved, and Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Mark Hammond has requested the Board to declare some universal weight machines as surplus equipment because the machines are no longer functional and are non-repairable. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mr. Allstott seconded. Mr. Pritchett stated that the surplus equipment will be traded in, with the school receiving a discount on new equipment while the vendor has agreed to remove the old equipment. The motion then passed 7-0.

Dr. Vandeventer reminded board members that the regular board meeting in January is scheduled for the third Monday, which will be January 20th, 2014.

Mr. Galloway made a motion to accept the resignation of Mrs. Sharon Burton as Title I teaching assistant. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.

In preparation for naming the new superintendent, Dr. Vandeventer detailed the superintendent search process, stating that board members had met in executive session with Mr. Michael Adamson of the Indiana School Boards Association, posted the vacancy in September on the school website and various other sites, informational flyers were developed and mailed with applications to all Indiana schools, applications were accepted and then reviewed with Dr. Terry McDaniels of Indiana State University, with the field being narrowed to four candidates, for which interviews were conducted.

Mr. Purkhiser entertained a motion to employ Mr. Tony Whitaker as superintendent of Springs Valley Schools. Mr. Kalb made the motion as stated, and Mr. Allstott seconded. Dr. Carnes stated that he would be voting in the negative due to the superintendent contract language as he felt this was the time to make some cost reduction, adding this was not a personal issue. Mrs. Carnes stated that she shared some of the same points as Dr. Carnes with the contract issues since we are currently running in the deficit, stating the no vote is not about the candidate. Mrs. Lynch stated that she will support Mr. Whitaker fully, but she will be voting against the contract itself. The motion to employ Mr. Tony Whitaker as superintendent was then passed by the vote of 4-3, with Mrs. Carnes, Dr. Carnes, and Mrs. Lynch voting against the motion.

Dr. Vandeventer stated that Mr. Hammond and Mr. Pritchett have recommended hiring Mr. Justin Scheller as Head Football coach. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mrs. Carnes seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Vandeventer recommended employing Mrs. Leann Fromme as teaching assistant to replace Mrs. Sharon Burton. Mr. Allstott so moved, and Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Vandeventer thanked board members, teachers, students, and staff, stating Springs Valley is a great place to be a student, teacher, and administrator. He added that all small schools are struggling with the continuing reduction of state funding and declining enrollment, while being expected to do more with less. Springs Valley's September ADM count was down 20½ students from the previous count, resulting in a monthly loss of \$9,524 in state funding. With the revenue and expenditure projections, he estimated that the General Fund will be overspent approximately \$225,000 at the end of 2013. He stated that now is the time and we have the opportunity to make changes over the next year or two, and suggested that strategy for a team-approach from all stakeholders be developed immediately so that difficult decisions can be made, with all decisions made in the best interest of the students. Dr. Vandeventer stated that he would always have a little Blackhawk blood in him.

Mr. Purkhiser thanked Dr. Vandeventer for his service to Springs Valley Schools, stating that his work was above and beyond anything expected, adding that he appreciated Dr. Vandeventer's guidance. Mr. Purkhiser remarked that he had received nothing but good comments from the community in regard to Dr. Vandeventer's presence at Springs Valley.

With no other business before the board, Mrs. Carnes motioned to adjourn. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

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