

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 11, 2013**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 11, 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. Mr. Todd Pritchett and Mr. Troy Pritchett were also in attendance.

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed strategy with respect to collective bargaining, initiation of/pending litigation, implementation of security systems, purchase or lease of real property, received information about prospective employees, discussed individuals over whom the governing body has jurisdiction including job performance evaluations, and interviewed industrial or commercial prospects. 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 6:13 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All of the above, as well as Mr. Tony Whitaker, 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 February 11th and March 6th, 2013 meetings, and Mr. Allstott seconded. Following discussion, Mr. Galloway and Mr. Allstott retracted the motion and second. Mr. Galloway then motioned to approve the minutes of the February 11th meeting. Mr. Allstott seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. Mr. Galloway made the motion to approve the March 6th board meeting minutes, and Mr. Allstott seconded. The motion carried 5-0-2, with Mr. Kalb and Mrs. Lynch abstaining.

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

Mrs. Allstott requested special permission to pay School Bus Parts the amount of \$542.56 for purchase order #1114. Mrs. Lynch motioned to approve the request. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the motion was passed 7-0.

Mr. Troy Pritchett recognized the following band and choir members for their recent performances at the ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Contest: Elizabeth Orr, Noah Hinkley, Jacob Stout, and David Allbright. He also congratulated the high school academic teams for placing first in three out of five categories at the Crawford County academic meet. He announced that students Lauren Goodman, Levi Weddle, and Sebastian Baggatt were named to the PLAC All-Conference teams. Although the final standings have not been received, Mr. Chad Goldman reported to Mr. Troy Pritchett that the SeaPerch teams performed very well in recent competition.

Mr. Whitaker advised that the first round of ISTEP testing has occurred, with make-up tests being completed shortly. Other activities at the elementary school have included Read Across America to celebrate the birthday of author Dr. Seuss and a visit from "Abraham Lincoln". Staff security training and the second grade musical have been rescheduled since being postponed due to recent inclement weather.

No patrons addressed the board.

Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that he has received retirement letters from Mr. Richard Stackhouse, custodian/bus driver, effective May 31, 2013, and Mrs. Barbara Campbell, cafeteria worker, effective July 31, 2013. He recommended acceptance of the notices, and requested not filling the custodian/bus driver position due to budget constraints, but

advised that he would like to advertise the cafeteria position as the Cafeteria Fund is self-sustaining. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mr. Kalb seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Todd Pritchett reported that Mrs. Glenda Ritz, the new state school superintendent, has a different approach to the evaluation system for educators. Following discussion with the local teachers' association, he recommended that the RISE program remain unchanged, except the evaluation requirements be changed from five per year to a minimum of two (one formal and one informal) with teachers new to Springs Valley Community Schools Corporation to be evaluated four times (two formal and two informal) per year, effective immediately. Mrs. Lynch so moved. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Regarding the purchase of a new school bus, Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that he received three bids per specifications as follows: Bluebird - \$99,981, International Collins - \$96,611, and Thomas - \$99,545. He recommended accepting the low bid for the International Collins' bus with lift to be used for transporting special needs' students, with appropriations in the Bus Replacement Fund to be utilized and the balance from Casino Revenue. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of adding air conditioning to the bus, and consensus was that it would be worthwhile to do so. Mr. Pritchett then requested permission to purchase the International Collins' bus per specifications to include air conditioning. Mrs. Lynch so moved, and Mr. Allstott seconded. The motion was passed 7-0.

Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that no additional information is available at this time in regards to the 21st Century grant application for our after-school program. However, due to the current sequestration of the federal budget, funding for this grant along with Title I and Special Education could be cut.

Mr. Todd Pritchett stated that funding is available to continue our current After-School Teen Program next year, as money had previously been set aside for the operational and consumable expenses of that program. He advised that contracts and additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

Information was provided regarding summer school, and Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that no funding has been specified for the Summer Advantage program previously held at Springs Valley. He recommended offering category 1 summer school classes as presented and as needed. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mr. Allstott seconded. Discussion followed regarding the cost of adding other reading and math classes, as well as the effectiveness of such classes. Mr. Pritchett advised that the cost would depend on the program size and personnel, and that with real-time remediation as now available, the additional classes would have less impact. The motion passed 7-0. Mr. Purkhiser added that Melton Public Library will be expanding their summer reading program with grant funding.

Mr. Whitaker reported to the board that Springs Valley Elementary has again been selected to host the Kindergarten Readiness Program funded by United Way and Indiana University Health. He added that the four-week half-day program, which is offered to 20 pre-kindergarten students, was very successful last year with the participating students making a great deal of progress. Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of expanding the program in the future. Mr. Allstott made the motion to approve the Kindergarten Readiness Program funded by United Way and IU Health. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Allstott provided information on the cost and implementation of the direct deposit process for payroll. Discussion was held, and it was agreed that discussion would continue at the April meeting.

Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that due to the snow day on Wednesday, March 6th, school will be in session on Friday, April 19th. The last student day is still scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st with the last teachers' day set for May 23rd, and May 25th is the tentative graduation date.

Mr. Troy Pritchett reported that the 2012 graduation rates have been released, and he was pleased to announce that Springs Valley's graduation rate is 94.4%, which exceeds the state average. He added that our graduation rate is the highest compared to other county and conference schools.

Mr. Todd Pritchett commended the building principals and staff on plans for upgrading school security programs. He noted that he was also investigating what resources were available for the funding of security officers.

Discussion was held regarding the potential effect of proposed legislation on the casino revenue funding for our corporation.

Mr. Todd Pritchett provided a financial overview of the corporation's General Fund, stating that expenditures will exceed revenue in 2013 and he plans to use the Rainy Day Fund to offset the difference. He added that the expenditure and revenue projections for 2014 are both less than expected in 2013.

In regards to the health insurance trust, Southern Wellness Trust, Mr. Todd Pritchett reported that since forming the trust in 2011, we have experienced no premium increases and our current claims-to-premium ratio is 68.1%. The trust will receive a premium refund from United HealthCare, which could be used to offset future cost increases.

Mr. Galloway made the motion to change the October meeting date from Monday, the 14th to the 7th, as requested by Mr. Todd Pritchett, in order to avoid conflict with the scheduled Fall Break. Mr. Allstott seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Todd Pritchett requested funding from the Casino Revenue Fund for the following programs: Hoosier Hills Pact in the amount of \$25,000.00 for supplemental student programs, partnership with Hoosier Uplands to assist with pre-school program for \$10,000.00, and purchase of athletic passes for students in grades Kindergarten through 12 next school year. Mr. Allstott so moved, and Mrs. Lynch seconded. Discussion followed regarding fund-raising efforts for various school organizations. The motion then passed 7-0.

Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that he has investigated the feasibility of refinancing the school's retirement/severance bond debt and the middle school/kindergarten building project debt. He stated that refinancing of the bonds would not pay off at this time comparing penalties to savings, but will revisit the issue in six months.

Mr. Todd Pritchett reported that the Indiana Department of Education, which manages our lunch reimbursement program, has mandated that our current lunch meal price is nine cents too low at the current \$1.95 rate. He recommended that the price for a student lunch meal be increased to \$2.00 to comply with federal reimbursement guidelines, with no increase in the student breakfast meal price. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mr. Allstott seconded. Discussion was held, and the motion was then approved 7-0.

Mr. Purkhiser stated that he recently attended his first Lost River Career Center meeting as a board member, and reported the possibility of reimbursement to the career center from an insurance policy for missing funds. He also advised that additional courses could possibly be offered in the future, including a firefighter/emergency medical technician course.

With no other business before the board, Mr. Galloway motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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