

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 10, 2014 in the Learning Center Board Room. The following were present: Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, Dr. Ryan Carnes, Mr. Ralph Purkhiser, Mr. Kevin Allstott, Mrs. Linda Carnes, Mr. Tony Galloway, and Mr. Larry Kalb. Mr. Tony Whitaker was also in attendance.

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 6:02 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All board members, Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Troy Pritchett, Mrs. Julie Woolsey, Mrs. Kathy Allstott, and Mrs. Edith Pinnick were present.

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

Minutes of the January 20th, 2014 board meeting were approved with a motion by Mr. Galloway. Mr. Purkhiser seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Galloway then motioned to approve minutes for the February 6th, 2014 board meeting, and Mr. Allstott seconded. The motion was carried 6-0-1, with Dr. Carnes abstaining as he was absent from that meeting.

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

Mr. Whitaker congratulated the following students who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society: Kristen Tomlinson, Bailey Crowder, Noah Hinkley, Rebecca Pierce, Megan Greger, Chloe Carnes, Hannah Long, Keyly Ragains, Joely Ridenour, Elizabeth Orr, and Mikayla Campbell.

Mr. Whitaker also informed the board that 34 students on 11 teams have recently competed in Sea Perch competition at Springs Valley and Mount Vernon. One team consisting of Nathan Apple, Kade Hinkle, Kyler McNeely, and Tristan Parnsley has advanced to national competition to be held at the University of Southern Mississippi May 17 to 19.

The girls' basketball sectional will begin tomorrow night, and Springs Valley will play West Washington in the second game.

Congratulations to the 8th grade boys' basketball team for winning their home tourney on Saturday. This is the second tourney championship of the season for this group.

No one from the public addressed the board.

Mr. Whitaker presented Mrs. Aletha Cooper with a plaque in recognition of her 28½ years of service as cafeteria worker and manager. Mrs. Cooper thanked Mr. Whitaker and board members for allowing her the opportunity, and stated that she loved all phases of her job.

Upon the recommendation of cafeteria manager Mrs. Kelly Weisenberger and Mr. Pritchett, Mr. Whitaker recommended that Mrs. Judy Edwards be promoted to cafeteria cook, contingent upon successful completion of the ServSafe course and certification, and to employ Ms. Cindy Hinkle to fill the a la carte cashier vacancy created with the

transfer of Mrs. Edwards. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mrs. Carnes seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker advised that he will be posting the opening of the grant writer/test coordinator/title one coordinator position that was vacated when Mrs. Woolsey was named elementary principal. He stated that he and Mrs. Woolsey would then conduct interviews for filling the position.

Mr. Whitaker informed the board that Mrs. Tara Allstott has started her maternity leave earlier than requested per doctor's orders. He requested permission for a substitute teacher to be named as recommended by Mrs. Woolsey, and then presented at the March 10th board meeting. Mrs. Carnes so moved, and Dr. Carnes seconded. The motion was carried 7-0.

The Indiana Department of Education has granted a waiver for school missed on January 6th and 7th, as requested by Mr. Whitaker. He stated that a total of nine days have been missed so far this school year. With the two waiver days and one day that has already been made up, students will be attending school March 31st through April 4th and May 27th.

Ms. Karen York from the Department of Education was at Springs Valley last week, and shared information with staff members, patrons, and board members regarding the state's school grade system. Mr. Pritchett then addressed the board, stating that the junior high/high school grade of a C was not reflective of the students' performance, which has been solid. He added that growth in test scoring is the issue, as deductions were taken due to lack of overall improvement. He advised that teachers are continuing to break down students' strengths and weaknesses, and implement all tools available. Teacher Mrs. Chris Rowland also spoke to the board regarding the grade system, adding that no credit was given for one category where seven out of seven students passed, as the state requires a minimum of ten students per category. Discussion was held, and Dr. Carnes stated that he felt the graduation grade and college & career readiness grade, both 4.0, were the important factors. Mrs. Woolsey stated that the elementary school scored an A, and will maintain the current direction, with focus on students at the top and low ends of the test scores to target their improvement. She added that under the new grading system to be implemented after next year, a student's test scores will be compared to his/her own previous scores, with additional categories in the three levels, and on a 100 point scale as opposed to the 4.0 grade scale. More discussion followed, and Mrs. Woolsey replied that she felt the Saxon Math and Accelerated Math programs were both very helpful to the elementary students.

Mr. Whitaker advised that state testing windows have been changed and extended, with ISTEP+ now being conducted March 3rd to March 21st. The IREAD3 test window will be March 17th to the 21st.

The Indiana Department of Education has offered some options for school corporations to use in making up the lost instructional days, including adding time to the school day to equal days missed, Saturdays/holidays, along with pre-established snow make-up days, and adding days at the end of the school year.

Mr. Whitaker requested adoption of the 2014-15 school year calendar as presented, stating that he had met with Mr. Jason Russell and teacher representatives to develop said calendar. Mr. Allstott made a motion to adopt the 2014-15 school calendar, and Mr. Galloway seconded. The motion carried 7-0. (copy attached)

Hoosier Hills PACT has again requested contribution in the amount of \$25,000 for funding of their school-based prevention programs for the 2014-15 school year. Mr. Whitaker recommended approval of this request, adding that Mr. Pritchett and he both believe this is a good program that benefits our students, with funding from the Casino Revenue Fund. Mr. Galloway motioned as requested, and Mr. Allstott seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker provided an enrollment update on the ADM count that is used for state funding purposes. The second ADM count day was conducted on February 3rd, and the preliminary numbers show an ADM count of 872.5 (Kindergarten students count as ½), which is down 26 students from the September ADM count of 898.5 students. After the final count is established on February 21st, the loss of students will result in a significant

reduction of tuition support. Discussion was held regarding the reason for the declining enrollment.

Mr. Galloway made a motion to approve the resolution approving refunding of the Series 2005 Building Bond. Mr. Purkhiser seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. (copy attached)

Mr. Purkhiser then motioned to adopt the resolution to approve amendment to lease agreement, and Mr. Galloway seconded. The motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Purkhiser signed the necessary documents. (copy attached)

Mr. Whitaker requested approval of the Springs Valley Bank & Trust corporate resolution for the high school extra-curricular account adding his name as signer on the account. Mrs. Carnes so moved, and Mr. Galloway seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Purkhiser signed the document.

Mr. Whitaker advised that the biannual State Board of Accounts audit has been completed for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013. The audit report will include one finding on the preparation of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) report, and a corrective action plan has been implemented.

The SADD chapter has requested money for after-prom activities up to the amount of \$8,000, less money raised through the annual strawberry sales. Mr. Whitaker recommended funding of said request from the Casino Revenue Fund. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Dr. Carnes seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

With no other business before the board, Mr. Kalb motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

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