

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 9, 2015**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2015 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 Mrs. Jennifer Shipman. Mr. Tony Whitaker was also in attendance, as well as Mr. Jim Bush and Mr. Mark Hammond.

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 6:15 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All board members and Mr. Whitaker, as well as 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 February 9, 2015 board meeting were approved with a motion by Mr. Galloway, and second by Mrs. Shipman. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Purkhiser made a motion to approve vouchers and claims as presented. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker congratulated the Elementary Math Bowl team on their recent performance, placing second after the tiebreaker.

Mr. Whitaker also recognized Coach Kelly Schmitt and members of the Girls Varsity Basketball team for their sectional championship, adding that they were also the first girls' team to win a regional game. Coach Schmitt thanked the board and community for their support this year.

Parent Mr. David Watts addressed the board and Mr. Whitaker regarding upcoming changes in the special education program. Mrs. Lynch replied, and discussion was held. Mr. Whitaker invited Mr. Watts to meet with him to discuss this issue further, and also asked Mr. Watts to attend the special education cooperative board meeting to be held on March 18th. Mr. Purkhiser stated that Mr. Watts was referring to decisions made by the special education board of trustees, and changes that Springs Valley will have to make due to those decisions.

Mr. Whitaker stated that this is a sad moment as he read the retirement letter of Mrs. Edith Pinnick, corporation deputy treasurer with 45 years of employment at Springs Valley Schools. Mrs. Carnes made a motion to accept Mrs. Pinnick's retirement notice effective June 30, 2015. Mr. Purkhiser seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0. Mr. Whitaker advised that he will start the process for replacing Mrs. Pinnick.

The school's new bus arrived today, and Mr. Whitaker stated it will be used on route 14 when ready. A bid on the 2000 freightliner bus had previously been awarded to Mr. Ron Kellams.

Mr. Whitaker reported that a police walkthrough in the high school was conducted recently, with no evidence of drugs detected. He stated that he appreciates all police agencies for their help in this effort.

Mr. Whitaker advised that he recently met with Mr. Doug Muntz from AMERSCO and consultant Mr. Tim Garver, and will meet with them again on March 17th to further

discuss energy savings options and project costs. Mr. Whitaker has asked Dr. Carnes and Mr. Galloway to also attend the meeting.

Guidelines for hiring both certified and non-certified staff had been distributed to board members. Mr. Whitaker stated that these are only guidelines, not policy, and will be a working document to be used as guidance for a uniform hiring process in all job openings. Fundraiser guidelines will also be discussed further and finalized at a future meeting.

Mr. Whitaker advised that Springs Valley students have missed six days at this time due to inclement weather. He was advised by Dr. George Frampton of the Indiana Department of Education that they are conducting a survey with schools concerning missed days, but no decision has been made to allow waiver of missed days or extending the school day. Without a waiver or extension, the students' last day would be May 22nd and graduation could possibly have to be delayed. Mr. Whitaker requested permission to develop a schedule if extension of the school day is allowed, so that this matter could be handled in a timely manner prior to the April 13rd board meeting, stating that he would keep board members and parents informed of any developments. Mr. Allstott so moved, and Mr. Galloway seconded the motion. Discussion was held, and the motion was then approved 7-0.

School bus inspections will be held at Springs Valley on Thursday and Friday, March 12th and 13th.

The 2015 Indiana School Boards Association Spring Board Member Academy will be held on April 9th and 10th. Any board member wishing to attend should contact Mrs. Allstott for registration.

Mr. Whitaker recommended approval of the summer school category 1 course offerings, including the traditional high school courses and grades 1-3 reading courses as offered in the past, which have been funded by the DOE. Mrs. Carnes motioned as requested. Mr. Allstott seconded, and the motion was passed 7-0.

Several board members and Mr. Whitaker attended a meeting hosted recently by the French Lick Resort and Casino, where Mr. Steve Ferguson and Mr. Chris Leininger addressed local officials concerning casino revenue and how the upcoming casino legislation would affect the casino and local entities. The adoption of current legislative bills will result in significant loss of casino revenue for Springs Valley Schools, as well as other local entities.

Mr. Whitaker advised that ISTEP testing is scheduled to wrap up this week, and IREAD testing for third graders will start on Thursday.

A work session for board members will be held on March 30th, with the time to be announced after review of scheduling conflicts.

With no other business before the board, Mr. Allstott motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

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