

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, September 14, 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. Mr. Trevor Apple was present for a portion of the meeting.

A second Executive Session was held following the Regular Session, and concluded at 8:39 PM. All board members and Mr. Whitaker were present.

During the Executive Sessions, the Board discussed prospective employees, job performance evaluations, collective bargaining, personnel, and litigation. No subject matters were discussed in the Executive Sessions other than the subject matters specified in the public notice.

Regular Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Regular Session at 6:08 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All of the above, as well as Mr. Jim Bush, Mrs. Kathy Allstott and Mrs. Peggy Simmons were present.

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

A public hearing was held on the 2016 School Budget as prescribed by the Department of Local Government and Finance. Mr. Whitaker stated that with permission granted at the August 10th board meeting, the budget forms were advertised per DLGF regulations, and the purpose of this hearing is to allow the public to ask questions or make comments regarding the proposed budget. He added that board members have been provided a copy of the entire budget including the resolutions and documents requiring signatures. He also stated that the 2016 budget was built on a \$190 million assessed valuation with a proposed maximum levy of \$3,143,116, similar to last year's budget. He added that the advertised tax rate is 1.6543, while the 2015 tax rate was advertised at 1.7219. All of these budget numbers are inflated to obtain the maximum amount of funding available. Again this year, a portion of the retirement/severance debt will be neutralized from the bus replacement fund, with the tax neutrality resolution and all other resolutions to be presented for approval and adoption at the October 12th meeting. Mr. Whitaker stated that due to an error in posting the Capital Projects Fund Hearing Notice to Taxpayers, the Capital Projects Hearing will be held at the October 12th board meeting. He has been assured by Dr. Tom Miller, financial consultant, and our local DLGF representative, that compliance will not be an issue.

Mrs. Lynch then opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Justin Winger addressed the board and superintendent, questioning the 2016 projected deficit of the General Fund. He also inquired about the 2014 deficit, stating the amount reflected on the Department of Education website is lower than the amount discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Whitaker stated the General Fund projected deficit for 2016 is \$330,000. Discussion was held regarding the expenditure of items that were actual General Fund expenses but were paid from Rainy Day or Casino Revenue Fund, and those expenses were included as part of the deficit amount. The General Fund Task Force was also discussed, and Mr. Jason Russell added that the task force needs to continue working toward cutting General Fund expenses. With no other discussion, the budget hearing was closed.

Minutes of the August 10th, 2015 board meeting was approved with a motion by Mr. Purkhiser, and second by Mrs. Shipman. The motion passed 7-0.

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

Mr. Whitaker advised the girls' golf team will be competing in Sectional play at Otis Park in Bedford this Saturday, September 19th. He congratulated the Blackhawk Brigade for winning their class as well as being named Grand Champion at the Salem Invitational, and the Varsity football team for their victory in the Orange Bowl, defeating county rival Paoli.

Mr. Bush announced that Memorial Hospital conducted the "Save a Life" program for our middle and high school students recently. Our school was one of 15 area schools selected to host the convocation, which featured four stories on the danger of texting while driving.

Mr. Russell addressed the board, stating that while we are in the midst of the bargaining season with the September 30th deadline approaching, we have a great staff that has worked hard to be ahead of the game with the Chromebooks. He feels the teachers need to be rewarded for their hard work.

Under Personnel matters, Mr. Whitaker stated that Kristina Allen has requested the use of her own sick days as family illness days, as allowed in the master contract, to extend her adoption leave due to complications. Mrs. Carnes so moved, and Mrs. Shipman seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker informed board members that Charlene Brown, whose resignation as cafeteria worker was accepted at the August 10th board meeting, has informed him that she does not wish to fulfill her contract as driver of the afternoon route 9. He recommended the contract be awarded to Richard Stackhouse, who is currently driving the morning route 9, at the same rate of \$50.00. Mr. Allstott motioned as requested. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker recommended Stella Lowe be employed as junior high cross country volunteer coach, so that she can assist with driving responsibilities. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mrs. Shipman seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

As recommended by Mrs. Kelly Weisenberger, Mr. Whitaker requested that Cindy Hinkle be employed to fill the cafeteria vacancy created with Charlene Brown's resignation, and requested permission to post the high school ala carte position currently held by Ms. Hinkle. Mrs. Weisenberger had indicated she would hope to hire someone at the October 12th meeting for that position. Mrs. Shipman motioned as requested. Mr. Purkhiser seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker stated that Mr. Mark Hammond has requested Mr. James Marshall and Miss Alex Land be employed as volunteer coaches for the 5th and 6th grade girls basketball teams. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mrs. Shipman seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

To clarify a matter from the August 10th board meeting, Mr. Purkhiser made the motion for Amanda Dalton to be paid \$17.00 per hour as high school library aide, with this position being a 29-hour per week non-certified position. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

There was no old and unfinished business for discussion.

Mr. Whitaker informed board members that a water leak has been discovered in the boiler lines between the boiler room and high school. Replacement of those lines and a hot water line began after they were uncovered and found to be in deteriorating condition.

Stenftenagel Group representative Scott Stenftenagel presented information on some facility projects. His group and Schmitt Associates have been on campus looking at our facilities with Wes McNeely, John Carnes, and Mr. Whitaker. Mr. Stenftenagel recommended re-roofing the bus garage, exterior improvements to the bus garage, and replacement of HVAC system in the front areas of the high school gymnasium. He stated that the bus garage roof is currently leaking, and areas have rotted due to on-going leakage and humidity issues. The estimated cost for this project is \$78,500. The exterior improvements to the bus garage would include replacement of guttering and downspouts, waterproof and seal exterior blocks, and replace door jams. The exterior improvements proposal would cost approximately \$24,125, with bids not required for this project. Upon review of the HVAC system in the main gymnasium, Mr. Stenftenagel stated the most economical way to apply heat and air conditioning is with a VRF (heat pump type) system. His recommendation is to utilize wall-mounted VRF units in the main entrance, concession area, and maintenance, locker, and rest rooms located on the south end of the building, while replacing the exhaust fans. The estimated cost for this project is \$135,000. Discussion was held, and Mr. Stenftenagel advised that the HVAC project does not include the main area of the gymnasium. He presented the timeline to advertise starting next week, conduct a pre-bid meeting on October 7th, bids due by 2:00 on October 22nd, with bids presented at the November 9th meeting for approval. The proposed projects have an installation time of two months. Further discussion was held regarding the availability of the gym while the work is being completed. Mr. Whitaker then asked the board for permission to advertise to receive bids on the bus garage re-roofing and HVAC main gymnasium projects. Mr. Galloway motioned to allow Stenftenagel Group to advertise and receive bids for said projects. Mr. Purkhiser seconded. With no other discussion, the motion passed 7-0. The priority of future projects was then discussed.

Mr. Whitaker advised that as a member of the Southern Wellness Trust, the health insurance for school employees has been through a fully-insured plan with coverage by United Healthcare. The trust has considered the possibility of becoming self-insured for some time as a way to provide savings for members and participating schools. With United Healthcare's projection of a 9% rate increase in 2016, member schools feel that now is the right time to become a self-funded plan, therefore eliminating the premium increase at this time and have more control of rates in the future. The trust's insurance consultant, JA Benefits, hired a third-party consultant to analyze the trust's medical plans cost, funding, and coverage level. Based on their findings, Milliman Inc. has recommended a self-insured arrangement for Southern Wellness Trust with the trust obtaining stop-loss insurance coverage to provide the appropriate level of risk protection. With this proposed change to a self-insured plan, Mr. Whitaker advised there would be no changes in the United Healthcare coverage and employees of member schools will not notice any difference. Mr. Whitaker invited Mr. Russell to add to the discussion. Mr. Russell stated that he and other members of the Southern Wellness Trust board met with the state's insurance board this summer, and they felt we are in a good position to make this change to a self-insured plan. He also said that Jim Hamilton, attorney representing several self-insured trusts in Indiana, recommended the change as well. With no other discussion on the matter, Mrs. Shipman made the motion to allow Springs Valley Community Schools' health plan, as a member of the Southern Wellness Trust, to move to a self-funded plan. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Lynch advised that board members and Mr. Whitaker would be returning to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. With no other business before the board, Mr. Allstott motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.
