

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2016**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 8, 2016 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.

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 6:14 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All of the above, as well as Mr. James 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.

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 board meeting were approved with a motion by Mr. Galloway, and second by Mrs. Shipman. The motion passed 6-0-1, with Mr. Allstott abstaining.

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

Mrs. Allstott advised that per State Board of Accounts' guidelines, Mrs. Brenda Wyman has voided 17 checks from 2013 that remained outstanding and unpaid in the high school extra-curricular account. The check amounts totaling \$243.55 have been receipted back into the originating funds. (see attachment)

A Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement was signed by board member Mr. Allstott.

Mr. Whitaker congratulated the varsity girls' basketball team on their outstanding season and tournament play. The team has a record of 24-0, won the Patoka Lake Athletic Conference title, and won their second consecutive sectional championship. Springs Valley will play Orleans in the second game of the Springs Valley regional, with the championship game set for 7:00.

Mr. Whitaker recognized our spelling bee winners, who have qualified for the county spelling bee to be held on February 27th. Elementary representatives will be Karson Dalton, Cole Hall, Landon Farris, and Landon Harvey. Ana Condra, Brooklyn Dixon, and Payton Watson will represent the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. He stated the county winner will be awarded a trip to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Whitaker thanked Mrs. Lori Chestnut, first grade students, and teachers for singing the national anthem at a recent ballgame.

Mr. Whitaker stated that several Springs Valley band students participated in the ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival in Jasper this past Saturday. Students were awarded 24 gold medals, three silver medals, and four perfect scores. Students Brian Elkins and Brendan Hughes advanced to state solo & ensemble contest. Other student participants were Kyla Tarr, Payton Watson, Aidan Aylsworth, Reese Qualkenbush, Matthew Burton, Emily Weisensteiner, Emma McCormick, Yesnia Gilmore, Sam Parsons, Kayla Estrada, Hattie Moffitt, Brooklyn Dixon, KatLynn Burton, Riley Spencer, John Scott, Gabby Chesser, Caleb Wolfington, Olivia Burton, Amber Kendall, Amber Scott, Harley Shipman, and Addie George.

The boys' basketball team will compete in the Tecumseh sectional on March 1, 4, and 5. The tournament draw is set for Sunday, February 21st.

Mr. Purkhiser stated the 6th grade boys won their basketball tournament this past weekend, defeating Bedford North Lawrence for the title. The team has one loss on the season.

No one from the public addressed the board.

As recommended by Mr. Mark Hammond, Mr. Whitaker presented the following spring coaching positions for approval: Baseball – Bob Greger/ varsity coach, Matt Pierce/varsity assistant, Seth Dickey/junior high, Zeke Allstott/volunteer assistant, and Henry Cruz/volunteer assistant, Softball – Joe Crow/varsity coach, Jaima Emmons/varsity assistant, and Sara Robbins/junior high, Track – Jack Hinkle/head boys coach, Derek Freeman/head girls coach, Daniel Wolford/junior high boys, Monica Wolford/junior high girls, Tim Weisenberger/volunteer assistant, and Natasha Resenbeck/volunteer assistant, Boys Golf – Brent Harner/varsity coach and Damon Tarr/junior high, and Volleyball – Kari Buchanan/6th grade, and Gina Webster/5th grade. Mrs. Carnes motioned to approve the coaches as presented. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker stated that he has met recently with Stenftenagel Group and architects, along with John Carnes and Wes McNeely to discuss ongoing and future building projects. The gym HVAC VRF installation project is proceeding at a good pace, with the condensing units to be installed within the next couple of weeks. Materials for the bus barn roofing project should be delivered this Wednesday, and installation will begin Thursday, as weather and temperatures permit. The contractor plans to work on weekends, except this Saturday, in order to complete the project in a timely manner.

Bids are due by 2:00 on Wednesday, March 9th for the main gymnasium HVAC improvements – installation of HVAC VRF system to heat and cool gymnasium, and the main gymnasium lighting improvements with alternate bids for additional lighting improvements. The bids will be opened at the superintendent's office at that time, and then presented to the board at the March 14th meeting. Successful bidders will be notified on March 15th. On-site construction activities will begin on May 31st.

Discussion was held regarding the high school gym sound system, and possible improvements that could be made. Mr. Whitaker stated that several efforts have been made to improve the acoustics in the gym with no success. Mr. Bush commented that the sound was perfect when Miss Elizabeth Orr sang the national anthem at Saturday night's sectional championship game.

Mr. Whitaker stated that in the continuing discussion with the other county schools concerning the gaming money, a proposal has been made for adoption of a resolution with a split of 50% to Springs Valley and 25% to Orleans and Paoli for the time period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, thus permitting the schools to receive money currently being held while allowing more time for further discussion. Consensus of board members was that this proposal is only a temporary fix, and that a permanent solution needs to be reached. No action was taken by the board.

Mr. Whitaker announced that four school days have been missed at this time due to inclement weather. One day was made up as scheduled on Monday, January 18th, and the other three days will be made up on Monday, February 15th, and Friday, May 20th, with Monday, May 23rd as the last scheduled student day.

Mr. Whitaker stated that we have received our school letter grades from the Indiana Department of Education. The elementary school received a B, the junior/senior high school received a C, and the corporation received a C. Legislation recently passed which holds schools and teachers harmless from the 2015 school grades, and thus, our grades will be reported as they were last year: elementary school – A, junior/senior high school – C, and corporation – C.

The second student count day of the 2015-16 school year was conducted on February 1st. Our overall unofficial count was 875, as compared to the September count of 873. Mr. Whitaker provided data which showed our student count had gone down significantly the last couple of years, but we held our own this time.

Mr. Whitaker reported that a minor bus incident occurred this morning, where bus number 10 slid off the road. There were no major injuries, personnel handled the matter well, and students did an outstanding job of following instructions during this situation. The bus was cleared by an Indiana State Police inspection and approved to run the afternoon route. As stated at the previous board meeting, Mr. Whitaker commented that we have a good fleet of bus drivers at Springs Valley Schools.

Mr. Whitaker provided a financial update for board members, and advised that the 2016 budget has been approved. Mr. Whitaker stated the 2015 end of year report reflected that our General Fund had a beginning balance of negative \$5,060.73 on January 1, 2015 and ending balance on December 31, 2015 of negative \$5,059.22, with more than \$420,000 spent from the Rainy Day Fund to supplement the General Fund expenditures. He added that we have not increased expenditures but continue to lose funding from declining enrollment and changes in the state funding process. The General Fund Task Force has scheduled a meeting for March 16th at 1:00 in the Learning Center Board Room, with Dr. Michael Adamson of the Indiana School Boards Association to be present. All funds are solid except the General Fund, and Mr. Whitaker commended the board and previous superintendents for their efforts. The task force remains committed to having the General Fund in check by January, 2019. Information will be provided to the task force at the March 16th meeting, and they will then move forward with proposals, making changes from then until August.

Dr. Carnes asked about the status of the walkway from the kindergarten area to the playground. Mr. Whitaker advised the gates have been installed, but inclement weather has delayed the completion of this project.

Discussion was held regarding safety issues at the elementary student drop-off/pick-up area. Mr. Whitaker stated that he will look into those problems and possibly talk with French Lick Police Chief Tom McCracken.

Dr. Carnes asked Mr. Whitaker to review the non-certified salary positions that are underpaid with high turnover, and propose changes to keep the proper services but yet manage the debt. Discussion was held regarding the teacher's aides, who spend more actual time with students next to teachers. Mrs. Shipman asked for information on the competitive salary ranges in our area.

A long-term placement for the moderate special education classroom was discussed, thereby allowing the fourth kindergarten classroom to be located near the other kindergarten rooms.

With no other business before the board, Mr. Allstott motioned to adjourn. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

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