

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2016**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 in the Learning Center Board Room. The following were present: Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, Dr. Ryan Carnes, Mr. Ralph Purkhiser, Mrs. Linda Carnes, and Mr. Tony Galloway. Mr. Tony Whitaker was also in attendance. Board members Mr. Kevin Allstott and Mrs. Jennifer Shipman were absent from the meeting. Prospective employees were present for portions of the executive sessions.

A second Executive Session was held following the Regular Session, and dismissed at 7:36 PM.

During the Executive Sessions, 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 Sessions other than the subject matters specified in the public notice.

Regular Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Regular Session at 5:11 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. Mrs. Lynch, Dr. Carnes, Mr. Purkhiser, Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Galloway, and Mr. Whitaker were present, along with Mrs. Kathy Allstott and Mrs. Peggy Simmons.

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

Mr. Whitaker congratulated the 7th grade football team for their undefeated season of 7-0. He also recognized the 8th grade football team which had a season record of 5-2.

Mr. Whitaker stated the Blackhawk Brigade has qualified for the school's 27th trip to the ISSMA State Finals. This is the 11th consecutive appearance at state for the Brigade, which will perform at 5:48 PM on Saturday, October 29th at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Parent Ms. Heidi Harkins addressed the board regarding a recent incident involving her child, and expressed concerns about school policies. Mr. Whitaker stated that he would investigate the situation, and then talk with Ms. Harkins.

Teacher Mrs. Amanda Dalton advised that she had conducted a fundraiser to assist with the cost of a Scholastic Scope subscription for her classroom, and requested funding to cover the shortfall. Mr. Whitaker instructed her to contact Mr. Jim Bush regarding this matter.

Patron Mr. Justin Wininger had signed up to speak to the board, but he asked to speak later in the meeting.

There were no personnel matters to bring before the board.

As discussed at the October 10th board meeting, no bids were received for the 1995 Ford Semi Truck. After consulting JC Tucker for guidance on the next steps, Mr. Whitaker stated that he contacted those individuals who had expressed interest in the truck and recommends accepting the highest offer of \$1,251.13 submitted by Ben Reynolds. Mr. Galloway so moved, and Mr. Purkhiser seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Whitaker advised the new band trailer was delivered last Wednesday, and was used by the Brigade for Saturday's contest.

Following settlement of the teachers' master contract and after having conversation with the school board, Mr. Whitaker recommended approval of stipends for non-certified staff members as presented. He stated the non-certified staff will receive the same insurance payment increases as our certified staff members. Non-certified staff members hired

before August 1, 2015 will also receive a stipend of \$1,800 for full time employees and a \$1,000 stipend for part time employees. Mr. Whitaker added that our non-certified support staff continue to work hard and this package is a reflection of the board's commitment to do what they can to reward staff members for their work. These stipends will be paid from the Rainy Day Fund without adding recurring costs, and the stipend and insurance compensation are one year agreements. Mr. Galloway made the motion as recommended. Mrs. Carnes seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Whitaker spoke on the financial state of Springs Valley Community Schools Corporation. He advised that even before he became superintendent, the board was concerned about the financial situation. As a whole, our corporation is financially sound but the General Fund is our concern. There have been many changes within educational finance the past several years, specifically with the General Fund which is the main source for instruction and support services. With changes to the school funding formula and our source of financial support being tied to student enrollment, Mr. Whitaker stated that we have not kept up with our General Fund spending due to declining enrollment. Working with Dr. Michael Adamson, we began meeting with stakeholders at the beginning of 2015 to share ideas on how to overcome this deficit financing without hurting student achievement. Steps have been taken to help this deficit but the continued decrease in student enrollment continues to hinder us. In spite of this, we feel we have made gains in cutting our corporation's budget.

Dr. Carnes then spoke to share some of the progress made by the General Fund Task Force in meeting the goal of becoming solvent in our General Fund by January 2019. He stated that Mrs. Lynch, Mr. Whitaker, and he, along with others, have been working for more than a year on this project, and plan to meet again in the near future. He stated that progress has been made in cutting costs, but those savings have been eaten away by the declining enrollment. Some of the actions to date include forming the General Fund Task Force team, reduction of administrative costs, reducing personnel costs through attrition and consolidation of support staff, refinancing of bonds, and retainage of 45% split of Casino Revenue money. He advised that we are not in a situation where we need to ask for a General Fund Referendum, as rumored. The biggest issue in moving forward is that our corporation wants to be sure to not balance the General Fund at the cost of breaking another area. Previous boards had set money aside in the Rainy Day Fund as a cushion. As labor continues to increase and health insurance costs rise, the General Fund Task Force team has not moved as quickly as he would have liked. In spite of the financial issues, we have been able to make building and technology improvements, absorbed the preschool program (which is a potential money generator), added resources for students, and continue to invest in students with athletic passes, textbook rentals, after school programs, and funding scholarship funds. In moving forward, Dr. Carnes stated we need to understand the proper amount of reserves that the corporation should have, and work with the community to address the declining enrollment.

Mr. Justin Wininger addressed the board with his concerns on the General Fund budget matters, stating that Springs Valley has made the obvious cuts but we need to look elsewhere. Discussion continued, with Dr. Carnes adding that we have tried to address the situation the best that we could without breaking anything else and said that we can not cut our way out of this problem, but rather need to highlight the good points of our school system to increase enrollment.

With no other business before the board, Mrs. Carnes motioned to adjourn. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

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