

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2017**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, October 9, 2017 in the Learning Center Board Room. Board members Mr. Todd Marshall, Mrs. Jennifer Shipman, Mr. Ralph Purkhiser, Mr. Chris Burton, Mr. Dustin Farris, Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, and Mr. Justin Winger were present. Mr. Tony Whitaker was also in attendance. Mr. Kyle Neukam and Mr. Daniel Wolford were present for a portion of the meeting.

During the Executive Session, the Board received information about prospective employees, and discussed job performance evaluation, strategy with respect to collective bargaining, school safety and security, 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 6:31 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All board members and Mr. Whitaker, as well as Mr. Kyle Neukam, Mr. Daniel Wolford, Mr. Trevor Apple, Mrs. Kathy Allstott, and Mrs. Peggy Simmons were present.

Mr. Marshall called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Mr. Purkhiser made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017 board meeting, and vouchers and claims as presented, including an invoice from Lindsey's Construction for the amount of \$7,146.00. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Wolford recognized Keisha Bennett for advancing to the state golf tournament held recently. She placed 56<sup>th</sup> out of 100 in state competition. He also congratulated the boys cross country team for finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the PLAC, and cross country runners Owen Burger, Justin Curtis, Mya Miller, Addi Buffington, and Alanna Nelson for advancing to the regional. The girls' varsity volleyball team had an undefeated season in conference play and were the PLAC conference champions for the third year in a row. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team finished the season with a record of 14 wins and 1 loss, possibly the best record in school history for junior high volleyball. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade football team finished their season undefeated in conference play.

Mr. Wolford advised that a student athlete of the month program has been initiated at the high school, and will culminate with the student athlete of the year award. The athletes of the month for September were Keisha Bennett, who shot a 78 in golf regional competition allowing her to advance to state competition, and Braden Whitaker, who broke the football all-time career record for most passing yards.

Mr. Neukam recognized high school and junior high students for their efforts in fund-raising for victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and the Cruz and McGee families.

Mr. Neukam stated the varsity volleyball team will participate in sectional play on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00, and the football team will begin sectional competition on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Apple thanked parents and community members for their continued support. Recent events at the elementary school include IU Health Day of Service, and the PTSO annual fundraiser. He thanked those assisting with the Blackhawk Blessings program, which provides food to approximately 100 students and their families each week. He also thanked Smithville Telephone employees for their generous donation of school supplies, shoes, and other items, and IU Health for their large donation of school supplies. He stated the Lions Club once again provided dictionaries to all third grade students. Mr.

Apple thanked Misti Nelson for her service as an instructional assistant, and advised that Nicholas Herron has completed the maternity leave position for Mrs. Vanessa Masden.

Mr. Wininger stated the Blackhawk Brigade participated in the ISSMA Invitational on Saturday. Students persevered through the rain delays, and performed an excellent show. He also recognized students participating in the morning announcements activity under the direction of Chad Goldman.

Mr. Purkhiser congratulated the Springs Valley Youth Football League. The league championships were held Saturday, and it was an all Blackhawk final in both the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions.

Mr. Whitaker stated he is very proud of all the good things happening at Springs Valley.

No patrons addressed the board.

Mr. Whitaker presented his consent agenda for personnel recommendations as follows: 1) Recommend hiring Nicole Warner as special education teaching assistant in Mrs. Hammond's classroom to replace Mary Chism, who resigned September 12<sup>th</sup>. 2) Recommend the transfer of Sasha Dixon to high school library aide at the hourly rate of \$15.00, following Liz Land's resignation. Mrs. Dixon will be working under the direction of Tiffani Stemle. 3) Athletic recommendations for Jill Stephens as Varsity Girls Softball Head Coach, and Sarah Roach – 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade cheerleading coach. Mrs. Lynch so moved, and Mr. Burton seconded. The motion was then approved 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker announced that Misti Nelson has resigned from her position as elementary teaching assistant.

As stated at the September board meeting, requests for proposal were sent to complete replacement of the remainder of our interior lights to LEDs and replace our outside lighting to LEDs. Mr. Patricio Daneri of Energy Harness addressed the board regarding the upcoming LED lighting project. Mr. Whitaker stated that two quotes were received and opened on Friday afternoon. Heat Pump Design Inc (HPDI) submitted a combined labor and materials total bid of \$52,127, with an estimated rebate from Duke Energy for the amount of \$7,999, for a final total project cost after rebate of \$44,128. The second quote was received from Energy Harness, the same company who completed the phase 1 of LED lighting projects. Their total bid was for \$57,392, less an anticipated rebate of \$13,952, for a total cost after rebate of \$43,440. Discussion was held on the matter. Mr. Wininger then motioned to accept the base bids as submitted and accept the rebates as they are, and to approve the HPDI quote. Mr. Purkhiser seconded. With no additional discussion, the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker provided project updates on the security cameras and bus cameras.

Mr. Marshall advised the mixer has been changed out on the high school gym sound system, and additional work will include moving some speakers. Additional discussion was held regarding audio systems in the football, baseball, and softball press boxes.

Mr. Whitaker stated that work is continuing on the baseball and softball fields. The pool project is almost finished, and the punch list is being completed.

Mr. Apple reported on ISTEP test scores for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Third graders exceeded state average in both the English/Language Arts and Math categories. Fourth and fifth grade students exceeded the state average in English/Language Arts but did not meet the state average in Math. The elementary school received an accountability letter grade of C, which Mr. Apple explained is based on 50% test performance and 50% score growth. He stated the improvement plan will include a multi-pronged approach.

Mr. Neukam reported that the high school received an accountability letter grade of B, at 82.3%. In both the English and Math categories, the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students met state average, while the 7<sup>th</sup> graders were below state average. He stated that consistency is needed at the state level with testing, as this is the 4<sup>th</sup> different testing method in six years. Springs Valley's graduation rate was 36.9%, while the state average was 43.5%. He advised that an improvement plan will be introduced at Wednesday's after-school professional development meeting. Federal guidance has not been finalized yet to determine if the general diploma is to be taken out of the graduation rate formula.

Mr. Whitaker advised that the ADM count conducted on September 15<sup>th</sup> revealed a student enrollment count of 858. The February 2017 ADM count was 843, and the September 2016 enrollment was 855. The increased enrollment funding will be reflected on the November basic grant payment.

Mr. Whitaker stated that during the negotiation process, some questions were raised on teachers' contracts and where they were placed on the salary schedule. He added that many changes have occurred the past few years, and advised this would be a good time for an outside party to review all of our teachers' contracts. He has talked to the classroom teachers' association representative about the matter, and requested approval to hire an outside auditing firm to audit our contracts. Mr. Wininger so moved, and Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion was approved 7-0. Mr. Whitaker stated that he would keep the board updated on this process.

Mr. Whitaker advised that Mr. Neukam has requested a change in the Final Exam Exemption policy, recommending that students who are exempt from having to take the semester finals be allowed to not report to school on the final exam days (2 days total). He stated this would be an added incentive for students to not miss school and have longer breaks, and would reduce the number of students requiring supervision while others are taking final exams while eliminating potential discipline problems for students who are on campus and not participating in class. Mr. Whitaker recommended the Final Exam Exemption policy be amended as presented. Mr. Farris motioned as stated, and Mr. Burton seconded. Discussion followed regarding the process for notifying parents of this change. The motion was then approved 7-0. (Copy attached)

Mr. Whitaker provided information on the purchase of an activity bus as defined in the Bus Replacement Plan, stating there are sufficient funds in the Bus Replacement Fund to cover this purchase.

Regarding the ISBA Regional Meeting to be held in Huntingburg on October 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Burton and Mr. Marshall advised that they would be attending the meeting with Mr. Whitaker.

Mr. Whitaker stated that Warren Owens, director of the After School Teen Program, has reported record attendance at his program this fall. He added that the money spent on Warren's program is well-spent, and the community donations and support of his program are appreciated.

With no other business before the board, Mr. Wininger motioned to adjourn. Mr. Burton seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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