

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MAY 14, 2018**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 14, 2018 in the Learning Center Board Room. Board members Mr. Justin Wininger, Mrs. Jennifer Shipman, Mr. Dustin Farris, Mr. Todd Marshall, Mr. Chris Burton, Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, and Mr. Ralph Purkhiser were present. Mr. Tony Whitaker, Mr. Kyle Neukam, and Dr. Trevor Apple were also in attendance. Mr. Mark Hammond was 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 6:27 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All of the above were present for the regular session, along with Mrs. Kathy Allstott, Mrs. Peggy Simmons, and Mr. Chad Goldman.

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

Mrs. Shipman made the motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes for the April 9 and April 30, 2018 meetings, and the vouchers and claims as presented. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the items were approved 7-0.

Dr. Apple recognized teachers Kim Pendley, Kris Tarr, and their students who participated in the Unified Champions Special Olympics Day, stating the students had outstanding performances and behavior, and represented Springs Valley very well. He thanked our teachers and staff for their consistent professionalism and dedication to the students of Springs Valley Elementary School, adding that Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated last week. He congratulated Lori Chestnut, Camille Rathfon, and members of the elementary choir and violin strings program on their recent performance. Students of Mrs. Chestnut also competed at Kentucky Kingdom last Saturday, and the choir received a superior rating. Grade 5 students took a field trip to the Louisville Zoo today. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade musical will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Apple also thanked the PTSO for their outstanding job in supporting our teachers.

Mr. Neukam expressed his appreciation for teachers and assistants for their hard work and dedication, adding that all were treated to good food last week prepared by Lisa Wray's culinary arts students. The students appreciated the opportunity to give something back to their teachers. He recognized the high school students who participated in the United Champions Day at Paoli High School. The prom and post-prom were very successful, and Mr. Neukam commented that a mock crash and presentation were conducted prior to the prom by Jadon Hinkle, Logan Laswell, and Ben Bosley. The second window of ISTEP testing has concluded and he thanked Amanda Dalton, Connie Reed, and Julie Woolsey for their assistance proctoring. He also thanked special education teachers and other teachers for their assistance and Erin Carnes as testing coordinator. Senior final exams will start on May 21<sup>st</sup>, with the senior trip on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Semester finals for all other students will begin on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, and the awards night will be held on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Springs Valley High School has received the ISSMA All Music Award, and Mr. Neukam extended congratulations to Luke Aylsworth and the entire music department for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Chad Goldman addressed the board, and stated that he will be taking a group of students to Dartmouth University in Massachusetts on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the International SeaPerch Challenge. The boys have been working hard in preparation for the competition. He thanked the board and administration for their continued support in the SeaPerch program.

Mr. Whitaker reminded board members to meet at the high school gym tunnel by 5:40 on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for the graduation ceremony.

Mrs. Shipman questioned why the date for the Awards Night program had been changed. Mr. Neukam advised that the change was necessary due to scheduling conflicts, and all extra-curricular schedules were considered in making the change so that the least amount of students were affected. In preparing next year's schedule, Mr. Neukam advised that he and Mr. Jason Russell will establish a date for the Awards Night at the start of the school year to hopefully avoid any conflicts.

Mr. Purkhiser congratulated the high school boys' and girls' track teams for their victories at the PLAC Conference and Orange County meets, and Garon Gadau who was named the PLAC Runner of the Year.

Mr. Mark Hammond announced that three of his varsity football players were recently named to the Academic All-State team – Wyatt Purkhiser, Ryan Tow, and Braden Whitaker.

Mr. Wininger then opened the floor for the public to address the board.

Mr. Kerry Lueken thanked those who assisted with Teacher Appreciation Week last week, adding that he has felt appreciated this entire school year and greatly appreciated everybody that has helped contribute to the success of this school year.

Mr. Bill Harris addressed the board about the need for additional football coaches, and stated we have the opportunity to add a qualified young man to the coaching staff tonight.

Mr. Jeremy Reynolds spoke in support of a coaching applicant, and thanked Mr. Neukam for the cookies last week.

Mr. Kyle Chase had signed up to address the board, but had no comments at this time.

Mrs. Rhonda Orr stated that she supports a potential coaching candidate.

Mr. Randy Chaplin added that he also supports the coaching applicant.

Mr. Whitaker announced that he has accepted the resignation of Larry Burton as 2/7 social studies teacher effective at the end of the 2017-18 school year, with Mr. Burton continuing as a full-time custodian/bus driver. He has also accepted the resignation from Martha Niehaus as 3/7 social studies teacher effective at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Mr. Whitaker recommended approval for the elementary library aide position be changed to a certified position, and move Monica Wolford to elementary librarian. He added that this move will strengthen our academic offerings encompassing the high ability coordinator for the elementary school, RTI (Response to Intervention), small group interventions, STEM education, and e-coaching, and would be a huge benefit for our students and staff. Mr. Whitaker stated that Mrs. Wolford would continue on the current salary schedule. Mr. Burton made the motion as recommended, and Mr. Purkhiser seconded. Mr. Wininger stated that as we make this move to a certified position, he feels the person should be certified to teach library, and although he knows that Mrs. Wolford will do a great job, he cannot support the motion as Mrs. Wolford is not certified to teach library at this time. Other discussion was held on the matter. The motion was then carried by the vote of 6-1, with Mr. Wininger voting in the negative.

Mr. Whitaker presented the following consent items for elementary personnel, with these positions to be effective at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year and benefits per the master contract: Erin Carnes to fill our swimming instructor position, to teach swimming 2/7 each day with appropriate licensure, and then continue to work in Title I and serve as corporation test coordinator; Virginia Neukam to be employed at level J on the master's pay scale with a salary of \$52,225; Jennifer Gossett – level A at the bachelor's salary amount of \$36,725; Marci Payton at level D on the bachelor's pay scale for the salary of \$41,225; and post the elementary art position as art assistant with Abby Laux as teacher of record for that position. Mrs. Shipman so moved, and Mr. Farris seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

The following consent items for high school personnel to be effective at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year with benefits per the master contract were presented by Mr. Whitaker: Kara Pickens to fill the English position at the salary level of G on the master's pay scale for the amount of \$47,725; Zoe Zellner – special education teacher at the master's pay level of F for \$46,225; Martha Niehaus as special education teaching assistant, with placement at the top of the scale at \$13.45; and Jolynne Cruz to the position of family and consumer science teacher, from special education teacher, continuing at her current salary level. Mrs. Shipman motioned to accept these recommendations. Mr. Purkhiser seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker recommended summer school teachers as follows: Third Grade including IREAD Remediation – Tiff McGee; Fourth/Fifth Grade – Jason Lowe; English – Kara Pickens; and Mark Hammond, Michael Leitzman, Erin Carnes, and Martha Niehaus for summer school physical education instruction, to be paid their hourly rate per master contract contingent upon each teacher adding Physical Education to their teaching license prior to summer school start date of June 4, 2018. Mr. Purkhiser so moved, and Mr. Burton seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

Upon the recommendation of athletic director Mr. Daniel Wolford, Mr. Whitaker presented the following consent items for athletics: 1) Varsity Football/Head Coach - Mark Hammond, Assistant Coaches - Jeremy Reynolds, Bill Harris, Jadon Hinkle, Junior High Football/Jason Lowe and Rob Land; Volunteer coaches Andy Andrews, Alex Pierce, and Levi Weddle; 2) Varsity Volleyball/Head Coach - Erin Carnes, Varsity Assistant - Vanessa Masden, JV Coach -

Monica Wolford, Volunteer - Nikki Haefling, Volleyball 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Janelle Crews, 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Kari Buchanan; 3) Varsity Boys/Girls Cross Country/Head Coach - Derek Freeman, Volunteer - Tim Weisenberger, Junior High - Ben Syberg; 4) Junior High Cheerleading - Kari Buchanan, and 5) Varsity Girls Basketball Volunteer - Kiana Winger. Mrs. Lynch so moved, and Mr. Farris seconded. The motion was then passed 7-0.

Also under Athletics from the recommendation by the athletic director and principal, Mr. Whitaker stated that he will support Kyle Chase as volunteer assistant football coach. Mr. Burton made the motion as recommended, and Mr. Marshall seconded. Discussion was held on the matter. Mr. Winger advised that he cannot support the recommendation in order to maintain consistency with past practice. Mrs. Shipman and Mrs. Lynch agreed that a hiring policy needs to be in place so that consistency can be maintained. Mr. Marshall stated that no such policy exists now to prevent the hiring. Mr. Burton added that he felt the administration had done their due diligence in making this recommendation. With no other discussion, the motion did not pass by the vote of 3-4, with Mr. Marshall, Mr. Burton, and Mr. Purkhiser voting in the affirmative and Mrs. Shipman, Mr. Farris, Mrs. Lynch, and Mr. Winger opposed.

Mr. Whitaker advised that we have received a rebate from Duke Energy in the amount of \$4,959.41 for the recent outdoor lighting project which was completed by HPDI.

Quotes were received for the removal of the adhesive and tile for Bid Item 2 for the elementary flooring project, with the low quote received from AsbesTECH, Inc in the amount of \$23,525. Mr. Whitaker requested approval of the AsbesTECH quote, with work to begin on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Purkhiser motioned to accept the AsbesTECH quote. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker advised that lots of discussion and input from various sources was received at the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting concerning the proposed locker room/gym project. He will be asking for direction from the board, but feels that we should look seriously at adding locker rooms. He has asked John Hawkins for sketches or plans to tear down the existing locker rooms and add four locker rooms, coaching offices, and storage. He also instructed Mr. Hawkins to keep in mind while designing this to think of an auxiliary gym that could be added on the north end depending on our needs and future finances. A Kovert-Hawkins representative will be at the June board meeting to discuss this project further. Mr. Whitaker advised that we might want to enter into a contract at that time. Additional discussion included remodeling on the south end of the gym, the need for temporary trailers, and possible timing of the project. Mr. Whitaker stated that he will receive the plans before the June meeting and distribute to board members for review.

Mr. Whitaker presented the following consent items under new business: Approve participation in the Summer Food Service Program, which would allow all children ages 18 and under to eat a free lunch with adult lunches priced at \$3, meals to be available from 11:00 to 12:00 Monday through Friday from June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 22<sup>nd</sup> in the high school cafeteria; Approve math curriculum of Go Math from Houghton Mifflin, with the cost of \$50,798.99 from the elementary textbook fund; Approve changing the September board meeting date from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflict with Indiana School Boards Association's Fall Conference; and Approve FFA field trip to the state convention on June 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, with the corporation to provide the bus and fuel with other costs to be covered by the FFA. Mrs. Shipman so moved, and Mr. Burton seconded. Discussion was held, and the motion was then carried 7-0.

Mrs. Lynch made a motion to approve the high school student handbook as presented. Mr. Purkhiser seconded. Mr. Winger complimented Mr. Neukam on the excellent job in revamping the handbook, reducing the handbook from 60 pages to 12. Mr. Neukam commented this project was a team effort. The motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker recommended approval of a contract with Edmentum, which is software used for our online courses such as Spanish, credit recovery, etc. in the high school and Study Island, Reading Eggs, Education City, and Plato at the elementary level. The program provides both acceleration and remediation courses giving real-time reporting and progress monitoring. Mr. Neukam and Dr. Apple have worked with the Edmentum staff to obtain the price of \$19,500 for a one-year contract, as compared to our previous contract amount of \$110,000 for a three-year term. Mrs. Lynch motioned to approve the Edmentum contract as stated. Mr. Farris seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker recommended approving a contract with Public Consulting Group to provide Medicaid Fee-for-Service billing services. Mrs. Laura Aylsworth has been instrumental in the process, and PCG will guide and support Springs Valley Schools in preparing, submitting, and analyzing claims in a manner compliant with specific federal and state guidelines. The contract had previously been distributed for board member review. Mr. Whitaker advised that he will work with Mrs. Aylsworth on payout of billing. Mr. Purkhiser commented this billing service is wonderful to have in place. The motion was then approved 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker advised that he, Mr. Purkhiser, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Burton attended the ISBA Spring Regional Meeting held recently, and stated it was an informative evening. Mr. Purkhiser

was recognized as a Master Board Member, after obtaining a certain level of professional development points. The meeting provided information about legal issues pertinent to schools and the recent legislative session.

Mr. Purkhiser asked if the budget timeline schedule needed to be considered. Mr. Whitaker advised that some changes are yet to be made, and he had been advised to wait on adopting the timeline.

Mr. Whitaker stated that Wade Lowhorn from Youth First has informed him of confirmation from the state that there will be funding from the Division of Mental Health and Addictions for additional social workers throughout Indiana beginning in August. He informed me that Youth First is holding one of these positions for Springs Valley, which will match our funding for the social worker. However, this grant would only be for one year. We will receive information in June concerning the four year Lilly Grant. Securing the Lilly Grant for the four year period is our best option but we now have a back-up plan which will allow us to proceed with the hiring of a social worker. Mr. Lowhorn will be at our June meeting to present this. Several good candidates have applied for the social worker position, and Mr. Whitaker is confident that we will have a social worker on campus when school starts in August.

Discussion was held on summer projects, and included various options to have all kindergarten classrooms in the same area by relocating the moderate classroom. Other projects include new signage at the elementary building, grass in the new playground area, and concrete work. Mr. Whitaker expressed concern of any large expenditures, as we are spending a lot of money and need to be cautious of our spending in the future.

Mr. Whitaker advised that policies number 5200 and 8510 are ready for adoption, as first drafts were presented at the March 12, 2018 meeting. These two policies relate to Wellness (5200) and Attendance (8510), and the principals were instrumental in refining the policies. Mr. Burton motioned to approve the policies as presented. Mr. Purkhiser seconded. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Whitaker will review other pending board policies and bring those before the board at the June meeting.

Discussion was held regarding digital recording of the board meetings, and possible enhancements in that area.

With no other business before the board, Mrs. Shipman motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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