

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2019**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, April 8, 2019 in the Learning Center Board Room. Board members Mr. Justin Wininger, Mrs. Jennifer Shipman, Mr. Dustin Farris, Mr. Todd Marshall, Mr. Chris Burton, Mr. Joel Dalton, and Mrs. Cheryl Lynch were present. Dr. Trevor Apple was also in attendance.

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 6:00 PM on Monday, April 8, 2019 in the Learning Center Board Room. All board members and Dr. Apple were present, along with Mr. Kyle Neukam, Mrs. Jan Van Emon, Mrs. Amy Orr, Dr. Jeff Kerby, Mrs. Kathy Allstott, and Mrs. Peggy Simmons.

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

Mrs. Shipman motioned to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 board meeting, vouchers and claims as presented, and special permission to pay Laura Aylsworth the amount of \$541.53 from Education Fund for travel and mileage expenses incurred for the ISHA annual convention as requested by Mrs. Allstott. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Van Emon reported that Grade 3 IREAD results have been received. Sixty-three third grade students and one fourth grader passed the test and nine students did not pass, including seven students who have an IEP. Test results have been mailed to parents, with information for those students who will need to attend summer school so they can retake the test during the final week of summer school. Final decisions about placement will be made once the summer scores are received. Sixty-one kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have enrolled in summer school. Kindergarten round-up was held last week, and 62 students were screened for enrollment in the 2019-20 school year. Mrs. Van Emon thanked Bonnie Stone and Kearsten Ingle for their assistance, and thanked volunteers who helped with the screening. Thirty-one pre-K students were identified that could benefit from the kindergarten “jump start” program, and information regarding that program has been provided to parents. Mrs. Megan Lowe’s preschool students visited the kindergarten classrooms recently. Elementary staff members can participate in Monday dollar jean days for the remainder of the school year and enjoy a potato bar luncheon, with donations to go to someone in need. Mrs. Van Emon thanked our PTSO for their contributions to the elementary spring parties. The Wonders reading program has been selected as the next reading adoption. Mrs. Van Emon congratulated Mrs. Kacie Shipman, Mrs. Amy Orr, Mrs. Amanda Dalton, Mrs. Stacy Denbo, student teacher Ms. Ashton Allbright, and PACT director Mrs. Janet Harrison upon completion of the ten-week program entitled “Family First”, a program for parents and students that addressed the needs of students and parents.

Mr. Neukam congratulated seniors Caitlyn Reynolds and Cole Cooper for receiving \$500 scholarships from the Southwestern Officials Association. He thanked Springs Valley Bank & Trust, Springs Valley Meadows, and Brooks Galloway Real Estate for donating snacks and drinks to students during our first testing window on March 18-22, and thanked the school board for handling communication with the local businesses, stating that students appreciated the snacks and drinks. The next testing window begins on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for sophomores, and the ILearn state assessment for junior high students will be conducted April 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 10. He thanked Mrs. Connie Reed, Dr. Kara Pickens, Ms. Barbara Schwartz, Mr. Kerry Lueken, Mrs. Zotaina Zellner, Mrs. Jill Hammond, and

Mrs. Jill Stephens for proctoring portions of the state test, and thanked everyone who assisted with supervision during the testing window.

Patron Eugene Pinnick addressed the board with concerns that proposed legislation involving the change in casino revenue funding could impact local funding, and increase property taxes for taxpayers. Mr. Wininger spoke to Mr. Pinnick on this matter.

Dr. Apple recommended Mrs. Amy Orr for the elementary principal position with a two-year contract for 450 days for \$81,000 per year, and a supplemental contract for 15 days in June 2019 for \$5,400.00 based upon her daily rate. He advised that Mrs. Orr will also be entitled to fully-paid dental benefits, as comparable to other administrators in our district. Mr. Farris so moved, and Mrs. Lynch seconded. Mr. Wininger clarified that Mrs. Orr's health insurance benefits would be paid as per the teachers' master contract. The motion was then carried 7-0.

Dr. Apple presented Mr. Neukam's recommendation to employ the following teachers for summer school classes at the high school: Algebra 1 – to be determined; English - Kara Pickens; Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) - Taylor Sabens; Junior High Remediation - Amanda Dalton, Jolynne Cruz; Physical Education - Marty Niehaus, Mark Hammond, Michael Leitzman, Luke Aylsworth, and Erin Carnes contingent upon her passing the Physical Education exam. Mrs. Shipman motioned as recommended. Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion passed with the vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Dalton abstaining.

Dr. Apple recommended approval of the following spring coaches: 5th Grade Volleyball -- Erin Carnes at \$885; 6th Grade Volleyball -- Vanessa Masden at \$885; Shelby Hughes -- 7th and 8th Grade Cheer Sponsor at \$1070 (\$535 for each grade); recommend approval of the following basketball coaches: Boys Varsity, Michael Leitzman, \$6994; Marty Niehaus, Girls Varsity, \$6994; and approval of Ashton Allbright as volunteer varsity track coach, to replace Bo Webster who can no longer fill that position due to other employment. Mrs. Lynch so moved, and Mr. Farris seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

The following personnel items were presented by Dr. Apple as consent agenda: approve Countdown to Kindergarten program sponsored by The United Way with support from IU Health, with Janelle Crews teaching the class assisted by Jill Elkins; approve unpaid leave request for Kathy Walls, as she has exhausted all available leave days and has requested additional time off; and employ Ashton Allbright as teacher's aide in the high school special education moderate classroom with the hire date of April 9, 2019 at the pay rate of \$10.45 plus 50 cents per hour per the support staff pay scale, to replace Tiffany Martin, who resigned April 5<sup>th</sup>; and approval of six-week paid maternity leave for Mallory Hall beginning on or around July 24, 2019. Mr. Burton made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.

Dr. Apple provided information on textbook rental costs and the corporation's practice of covering the balance after the state textbook reimbursement payment and other local revenue from Orange County Community Foundation, Orange County Commissioners' Supporting Organization, and Radius Economic Development. He added that the Commissioners' Supporting Organization and Radius, along with the state's textbook program, had fully funded the textbook costs from 2007-08 through the 2015-16 school year. For the last three years as payment from the local revenue sources declined, the corporation has picked up the balance with contributions totaling \$306,771.60 from Casino Revenue Fund. Dr. Apple recommended a reduction in the corporation's contribution on a sliding scale so that in 2019-20, the corporation would pay 70% of the balance after state and other local revenue sources and parents to be responsible for the remaining 30%, 2020-21 – corporation to cover 60% of balance and parents to pay 40%, 2021-22 – corporation and parents to each pay 50% of the balance, and in 2022-23, the corporation would fund 40% of the balance after state and other local revenue sources and parents would be responsible for 60% of the balance. Discussion was held on the matter. Dr. Apple advised that he will review textbook rental fees at both the elementary and high school for possible cost-savings for both the parents and corporation, and provide additional information at the next meeting. Mrs. Lynch made a motion to approve the reduction in textbook funding from 70% to 40% over the next four years. Mrs. Shipman seconded. Following discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple stated that bids were received and opened for the 2003 Bluebird school bus, with Mark Parks as the high bidder for the amount of \$6,000. Mr. Parks will take possession of the school bus in June 2019.

Landscaping work will be done in early summer. Plans are available at the superintendent's office for review. Work areas include the elementary site, corporation office, and learning center building.

Dr. Apple stated that IREAD-3 results are back and 87% of students tested passed the required test.

Sixty-two children participated in Kindergarten Roundup and are enrolled for next school year.

Reading Wonders from McGraw-Hill was selected as the new elementary reading series.

Mrs. Cynthia Chastain requested permission for an overnight field trip on April 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> to Indianapolis for four students and one adult chaperone to attend the HOSA conference. Mr. Burton so moved, and Mrs. Shipman seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

Hoosier Hills PACT requested funding in the amount of \$27,000 to continue their student programs in the 2019-20 school year. Dr. Apple recommended approval with payment from Casino Revenue Fund. Mr. Burton moved as recommended. Mr. Farris seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Kerby distributed information on the Chromebook selection process for the 2019-2023 purchase cycle and the guidelines used to narrow down the selection. A final quote from the preferred vendor, Riverside Technologies Inc (RTI), was presented for consideration. Dr. Apple stated he felt the chromebook selected is a better device with upgraded features without much added cost, including a 4-year RTI accident damage protection plan. Dr. Kerby said he would prefer that board action be taken tonight to avoid delay in receiving the new chromebooks. Discussion included what to do with the existing chromebooks, buy-back options, and different needs at the elementary and junior/senior high school levels. Dr. Apple recommended we proceed with the purchase of chromebooks with the accident damage protection plan as quoted by RTI for the junior/senior high school and staff, with the student chromebooks to be paid by the building textbook rental fund and staff chromebooks to be paid from Casino Revenue Fund. Further evaluation of chromebook needs for the elementary school will be discussed prior to the May meeting. Mr. Burton so moved, and Mrs. Shipman seconded. The motion was then carried 7-0.

Dr. Apple and Mr. Wininger provided information on the proposed locker room project, including a feasibility study at an approximate cost of \$15,000 to \$25,000. Outstanding debt service for the corporation includes the middle school building project and the pension debt, which will both be paid off by 2029. They had discussed the project with financial consultant Dr. Brian Harmon, and shared his opinion that he would be hesitant to add costs at this time while trying to save money, not creating any unnecessary spending to save as much as possible in the Operations Fund while holding solid for a couple years. Discussion was held on the matter, including the topics of what can we do and what needs to be done, Title IX complaints, and community partnership for our facilities. Dr. Apple stated the pension debt will drop off in about five years, and possibly that would be a better time for this project. He added that the feasibility study would include a forecast of future fund balances, student enrollment, and area economic growth. Dr. Apple will present more information on the feasibility study for further discussion at the May board meeting.

A legislative update was provided by Mr. Marshall and Mr. Wininger on pending legislation that could impact school funding, including the senate bill 552 which could significantly impact our local casino revenue funding, and house bill 1003 regarding Operations Fund transfers.

The ISBA Region 9 spring meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Klubhaus 61 in Jasper. Board members were instructed to contact Mrs. Allstott for registration if they plan to attend.

A strategic planning session has been scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for board members and administrators. Dr. James Halik will lead the training session.

Dr. Apple recommended that the job classification for Bonnie Stone be changed to administrative assistant, to receive all paid holidays as other administrative assistants

with this change retroactive to the start of the 2018-19 school year. Mrs. Lynch made the motion as recommended, and Mr. Farris seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

Dr. Apple advised that he will posting an opening for an elementary teaching position if deemed necessary.

Dr. Apple requested permission to receive bids for bus 14A, which is a 2003 International 66-passenger bus. This bus was due to be replaced next year, but will no longer be needed with the consolidation of bus routes next fall. Mrs. Lynch motioned to allow Dr. Apple to advertise for bids on the 2003 International. Mr. Burton seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

With no other business before the board, Mrs. Shipman motioned to adjourn. Mr. Farris seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	