

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 12, 2024 in the Springs Valley High School Auditorium. Board members Mr. Chris Burton, Mr. Justin R. Wininger, Mr. Dustin Farris, Mr. Todd Marshall, Mr. Joe Lynch, Mr. Ralph Purkhiser, Mr. Justin L. Wininger, and Dr. Trevor Apple were present. Dr. Kyle Neukam, Mr. Troy Pritchett, Dr. Matt Williams, and Ms. Kelly Schmitt were present for a portion of the meeting.

During the Executive Session, the Board received information about prospective employees, and discussed job performance evaluation, 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 in the Springs Valley High School Auditorium. All of the above, as well as Dr. Jeff Kerby, Mrs. Felicia Wolfington, Mrs. Peggy Simmons, and Doug Soltwedel were present.

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

Mr. Burton opened the session for discussion on the new contract for the superintendent. There was no board discussion on the matter. No patrons addressed the board.

Mr. Burton presented the minutes of the January 8, 2024 board meeting, and vouchers and claims. Mr. Justin L. Wininger made the motion to approve, and Mr. Farris seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Williams thanked the staff for the dedication and hard work they put in each day working with our students. He also thanked the custodial and maintenance staff for doing a fantastic job keeping the school facilities in great shape. Upcoming events include IREAD testing for grades 2 and 3 beginning the week of March 4th, and Kindergarten Roundup will be held on March 5 and 6. Please contact the elementary office to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Neukam thanked the staff for guiding us into February. He noted the JH staff is focusing on the state assessment, iLearn, with their classroom instruction. The HS staff is motivating students to keep on their diploma track. He thanked Mrs. Laux and Mr. Stephens for taking a group of students to an academic competition at Oakland City University on February 7. Upcoming events include: SAT testing for juniors on March 7, the CTE department open house on February 13, a BPA competition in Indianapolis March 10 – 12, and a trip to the Indiana Statehouse on March 15 for the Government class.

Dr. Apple recognized several band students who had been selected to join the University of Louisville Honor Band. Those students include Christain Fehribach, Claire Elkins, Shanacea Hankins, Jadyn Lynch, and Maeli Plimpton. Jadyn Lynch was also selected for the Symphonic Band and Christain Fehribach was also chosen as principal baritone for the Concert Band. Shanacea Hankins and Loran Rayls each earned Gold ratings at the district solo and ensemble contest. Shanacea earned the right to compete at the state solo and ensemble contest in Indianapolis. Mr. Burton presented each student with a certificate.

Dr. Apple recognized Mr. Derek Freeman, Track and Cross Country coach, for being named the Indiana Class 1A Boys Track and Field Coach of the Year.

Dr. Apple recognized student Kaden Lee for his broadcasting skills, and teachers Mr. Chad Goldman and Mr. Auston Matricardi, who have been mentoring him. Kaden and Mr. Matricardi will be the voice of Blackhawk athletics on our new HUDL platform.

Justin L. Wininger thanked Dr. Neukam, administration, and staff for their continued commitment to substance abuse prevention efforts at Springs Valley schools. Dr. Neukam was able to secure a mini-grant from Families in Action for After Prom prevention efforts.

Mr. Purkhiser, on behalf of Lost River Career Co-op, invited the board to attend the CTE open house that will be held February 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Mrs. Erin Carnes, Girls Varsity Volleyball coach, addressed the board concerning her coaching and the decisions coaches make. She stated she believes we have great coaches here and hope people realize how much dedication they have to the students at Springs Valley.

Dr. Apple recommended the board approve an Early Literacy Achievement Grant Supplemental Stipend for qualifying K-3 staff. Springs Valley's allocation was \$3,629.48. Twenty qualifying staff members will each receive a one-time stipend of \$181.48. Mr. Justin L. Wininger made the motion. Mr. Purkhiser seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple recommended the board approve making the athletic director position, currently held by Kelly Schmitt, an administrator-level contract, and approve the updated addendum and contract for her at the salary previously approved at the January board meeting. Mr. Marshall made the motion. Mr. Justin L. Wininger seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple announced the following resignations: Jill Elkins, elementary librarian, effective January 23, 2024. Dr. Apple thanked her for her years of service and wished her well in her next endeavor. Also, Brandon Alexander resigned from his football and track coaching positions.

Dr. Apple announced the retirement of Paula Schneider, high school instructional aide, effective at the end of this school year. Dr. Apple thanked her for her years of service and wished her well.

Dr. Apple presented the following consent agenda for approval: 1) Recommended the board approve Alicia Stidham as elementary librarian effective January 24, 2024 at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour. 2) Recommended the board approve Mrs. Jill Philpot as elementary instructional assistant at a rate of \$16.55 per hour and all associated benefits, 29 hours per week for 12 weeks then 32 hours thereafter, effective February 12, 2024; 3) Recommended the board approve Rebecca Tuell as full-time night shift custodian effective January 29, 2024 at a pay rate of \$13.90 per hour and all associated benefits. Mr. Lynch made the motion. Mr. Purkhiser seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple presented the following ECA consent agenda for approval: Garon Gadau - Girls Assistant Track Coach, Non-Certified Area 4/Level A at \$1250. He is taking the place of Brandon Alexander who was approved at the December 11, 2023 board meeting. Matthew Scheller - Volunteer Track Coach; Tristan Parmley - Volunteer Track Coach; Elisha Holland - Volunteer Track Coach; Tim Weisenberger - Volunteer Track Coach; Todd Marshall - Volunteer Track Coach; Matt Weisensteiner - Volunteer Softball Coach; Shawn Kluesner - Volunteer Softball Coach; Justin R Wininger - Volunteer Softball Coach; Emri Allen - Volunteer Softball Coach; Auston Matricardi - JH Softball Coach at \$1250; Shaun Mathies - Volunteer JH Softball Coach; Wes McNeely - Volunteer JH Softball Coach; Anelia Gil - JH Golf Coach at \$625; Llogan Russell - JH Golf Coach at \$625; Broc Warner - Volunteer Baseball Coach. Mr. Justin L. Wininger made the motion. Mr. Lynch seconded. The motion passed 5-0-2, with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Justin R. Wininger abstaining.

Dr. Apple recommended that the board approve the alternate bid from Performance Services in the amount of \$291,350 to complete the HVAC controls update in its entirety. This will be paid for with insurance reimbursements. Mr. Lynch made the motion. Mr. Farris seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple gave an update on some heating and cooling unit upgrades for the auditorium and Ag building.

Dr. Apple updated the board on the discussion he had with the committee concerning the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The committee was not in favor of changing the calendar

for the current year but will revisit this topic when they meet later in the year to set next year's calendar.

Dr. Apple recommend the board approve Driver Education class for this summer. The fee will be \$300 per student. Prior to driving, students will complete classroom training at <http://www.drivedrtogo.com/> at a cost of \$70. The site is Indiana BMV approved. Mr. Farris made the motion. Mr. Marshall seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple recommended Darren Kerns be approved as Driver Education instructor at a rate of \$45 per hour. Mr. Justin R. Wininger made the motion. Mr. Justin L. Wininger seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple recommended the board approve the three year bid from ENA to be our Internet service provider at a price of \$1375 per month. Mr. Farris made the motion. Mr. Marshall seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple recommended the board approve the bid from Logicalis to update or replace 15 wireless access points and our internet firewall which will no longer be supported next year. Mr. Lynch made the motion. Mr. Purkhiser seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple recommended the board approve early dismissal on Wednesdays for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Justin L. Wininger made the motion. Mr. Farris seconded. The motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Justin R. Wininger voting in the negative.

Dr. Apple presented the following consent agenda item for field trips: 1) Recommended the board approve a field trip to Louisville, KY on March 8, 2024, for Mrs. Lisa Golden, eight students, and a chaperone; 2) Recommended the board approve an overnight field trip to Indianapolis, IN on March 10-12, 2024 for a BPA State Conference for Mr. Kerns, 5 students, and a chaperone; 3) Recommended the board approve a field trip to Kings Island in Mason, OH for Mrs. Denbo, approximately 45 students, and two staff members, on May 10, 2024. Mr. Justin L. Wininger made the motion. Mr. Farris seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

The board discussed the following items: corporation social media and live streaming, elementary drop off procedure, student attendance data, summer school, corporation drivers bringing family on the bus to events, and preschool.

Dr. Apple gave an update on enrollment. The February 2024 ADM count was 824. This is a decrease of 7 students from September 2023 (831). The February 2023 count was 831.

Dr. Apple reminded everyone that the dates for Kindergarten Roundup will be March 5 and 6. Contact the elementary office for more information or to schedule a time.

Dr. Apple presented the Fall 2023 transfer report.

Dr. Apple presented the following policies for first reading: 1521 - Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting; 2221 - Mandatory Curriculum; 2414 - Reproductive Health and Family Planning and Human Sexuality Instruction; 2416 - Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information; 2510 - Adoption of Curricular Materials; 2520 - Selection of Curricular Materials, School Library Materials, and Equipment; 3120.02 - Adjunct Teachers; 3121 - Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting; 3220.01 - Teacher Appreciation Grants; 4121 - Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting; 5330 - Use of Medication; 5710 - Student Complaints; 5720 - Student Activism; 6152 - Student Fees and Charges; 9700 - Relations with Special Interest Groups.

With no other business before the board, Mr. Justin L. Wininger motioned to adjourn. Mr. Justin R. Wininger seconded, and the regular session adjourned at 7:38 PM.

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