

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 13, 2009**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, July 13, 2009 in the Learning Center Board Room. The following were present: Mr. Todd Marshall, Mr. Larry Pritchett, Mrs. Deborah Brothers, Mr. Willard Owen, Mr. Kevin Allstott, Mr. Tony Galloway, and Mr. Eddie Kellams. Mr. Todd Pritchett was also in attendance. Mr. Tony Whitaker and Mr. John Emmons were present for a portion of the meeting.

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed strategy with respect to collective bargaining, received information about prospective employees, and discussed individuals over whom the governing body has jurisdiction. 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 6:05 PM in the Learning Center Board Room. All of the above were present, as well as Mrs. Kathy Allstott and Mrs. Edith Pinnick.

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

Election of officers began with Mr. Kellams nominating Mrs. Brothers for board president. Mr. Owen then nominated Mr. Marshall. With no other nominations, three board members voted for Mrs. Brothers (Mr. Galloway, Mr. Kellams, and Mrs. Brothers). Four votes were recorded for Mr. Marshall (Mr. Allstott, Mr. Owen, Mr. Larry Pritchett, and Mr. Marshall). Therefore, Mr. Marshall was retained as board president.

Mr. Larry Pritchett nominated Mrs. Brothers for the office of vice-president. Mrs. Brothers declined. Mr. Larry Pritchett then nominated Mr. Allstott for vice-president. Being no other nominations, Mr. Allstott was elected vice-president by the vote of 6-0-1 with Mr. Allstott abstaining.

Mrs. Brothers was nominated for board secretary by Mr. Owen. Mr. Larry Pritchett moved to close the nominations, and Mr. Owen seconded. Nominations were closed, and Mrs. Brothers was elected board secretary with the vote of 7-0.

Mr. Marshall nominated Mr. Owen for the office of legislative liaison. With no other nominations, Mr. Owen was re-appointed as legislative liaison with the vote of 6-0-1 (Mr. Owen abstained).

Mr. Owen motioned for board meetings to continue to be held on the second Monday of each month, with executive sessions to be held at 5:00 and public sessions to begin at 6:00 or following the executive sessions. Mr. Larry Pritchett seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Owen for the board compensation to remain at \$2,000 annually, \$100 per diem for regular board meetings, \$50 per diem for special board meetings, and fully-paid life, dental and vision insurances. Mrs. Brothers seconded. The motion passed by the vote of 6-1, with Mr. Galloway voting against.

Mr. Marshall stated that Mr. Larry Pritchett is the current Springs Valley representative on the Lost River Vocational Board. Mr. Owen moved to retain Mr. Larry Pritchett in that position. Mrs. Brothers seconded. The motion was approved 6-0-1 (Mr. Larry Pritchett abstained).

Current representatives on the Springs Valley Educational Foundation Board are Mr. Marshall and Mr. Owen, and Mr. Marshall stated that they would both be willing to continue in that position. Mr. Owen motioned to appoint Mr. Marshall. Mrs. Brothers motioned to appoint Mr. Owen. The motion was then restated with Mr. Owen motioning

to re-appoint himself and Mr. Marshall as representatives, and Mrs. Brothers seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Larry Pritchett made a motion to approve the appointment and bonding of treasurers, with Mrs. Kathy Allstott as corporation treasurer with a bond of \$50,000, and \$10,000 bond amounts for Mrs. Edith Pinnick as deputy treasurer, Mrs. Brenda Wyman as high school ECA treasurer, and elementary ECA treasurer Mrs. Penny Harner. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Owen motioned to approve minutes for the June 8th, July 1st, and July 8th board meetings. Mr. Allstott seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Vouchers and claims were approved as presented, with a motion by Mr. Owen. Mr. Larry Pritchett seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whitaker advised the board that summer school began today, and staff members were very impressed with the paint job at the elementary school.

Mr. Marshall stated that he and Mr. Owen recently attended the ISBA School Board Summer Academy, and both commented on information presented at the various sessions attended.

Mr. Galloway motioned to approve the Blackhawk Brigade Summer Staff 2009 as stated. Mr. Larry Pritchett seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0. (copy attached)

Mr. Todd Pritchett stated that Mr. Whitaker had recommended the hiring of Mrs. Erin Carnes and Mrs. Risha Warren for the Title I elementary teaching positions. Mrs. Brothers so moved, and Mr. Larry Pritchett seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Brothers motioned to approve the posting of a kindergarten teacher's aide position, as requested by Mr. Todd Pritchett. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Todd Pritchett requested the board's direction for the South Central Area Special Education Cooperative to utilize the remainder of the ARRA stimulus funds toward a teacher's position at the junior/senior high school for special education remediation. Mr. Larry Pritchett so moved, and Mrs. Brothers seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Todd Pritchett recommended approval of the contract with Mr. Warren Owens in the annual amount of \$11,000 for the After School Program, with reimbursement to be made by Hoosier Uplands from the 21st Century Grant. Mr. Owen so moved, and Mrs. Brothers seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Marshall made a motion to hire Mr. Troy Pritchett as high school principal with the following contract terms: two-year contract for 225 days annually, to include 20 sick days, 4 personal and 4 family illness days annually, with unused days to accumulate as per the master contract, salary amount of \$84,241 for 2009-2010, insurance as stated in addendums #1 and #2, and approval of transfer of 80 sick days with initial contract. Mr. Owen seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Galloway stated that he does not approve of hiring Mr. Troy Pritchett, advising that it is nothing personal, but he feels it is a bad situation with his brother as superintendent. Mr. Kellams stated that he also will be voting no, as he agrees with Mr. Galloway and feels it is not very ethical. He also said that he was in favor of an applicant who is currently employed in the Springs Valley school system, and would have hoped to send a positive message to employees that those who do a good job would have a chance to move up in the system. Mr. Owen then spoke on the matter, stating that he felt that the board had interviewed two excellent candidates, with Mr. Troy Pritchett being the stronger of the two, and also believed that it was short-sided to infer that somebody is not going to work out because his brother is superintendent. In review of the hiring process, Mr. Marshall stated that the position of high school principal was posted on June 10th, with a total of 17 applications received; board members were asked to view the applications and offer input. There were two in-house applicants, eight candidates had experience and nine did not, four applicants were asked to interview, three accepted and were interviewed on July 1st with six board members present. Mr. Marshall acknowledged the one fact that set Mr. Troy Pritchett apart from the other candidates was that he has relatives in the school system and on the school board. He went on to state that there is no policy on the hiring of relatives,

“conflict of interest” does not apply per the Indiana State Code even though there is personal interest, and he will be voting for Mr. Troy Pritchett because he believes that he is the best candidate. Mr. Troy Pritchett has eight years’ experience as an administrator at two area schools, and most recently was employed at Mitchell Junior High School. Mr. Galloway commented that we hired a superintendent without experience and suggested that the second top candidate without experience could do a fine job, and he also believes that we’re showing our staff that it doesn’t matter if you work hard. Mr. Marshall stated that discussion has included the possibility of creating an avenue for employees with an administrator’s license to gain administrative experience. He added that once the board decision is reached, it is the board’s responsibility to make this a successful hire. Mr. Kellams stated that he did not have a problem with that and the support would be there; we need to move forward from this point. However, he believes that this is a tough situation as the public support might not be as good as it could be. Mr. Kellams also stated that he would like to see a principal with his own ideas. With no other discussion, the motion passed with the vote of 4-2-1, with Mr. Galloway and Mr. Kellams voting against the motion, and Mr. Larry Pritchett abstaining.

Mr. Todd Pritchett provided a quarterly financial review, and stated that the cash balances had dropped in the taxable funds due to only a small portion of the tax distributions being received prior to June 30th. The General Fund’s revenue is lower due to the June Basic Grant payment of \$537,248.53 being placed in a separate fund as instructed by the Indiana Department of Education.

Mrs. Brothers moved to adopt the Resolution to Reduce Appropriations in the General Fund by the amount of \$537,248.53 in the Elementary and High School Certified Salaries categories, as recommended by Mr. Todd Pritchett. Mr. Owen seconded, and the motion carried 7-0. (copy attached)

Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that temporary transfers were required on June 30th in the Debt Service and Retirement/Severance Debt Funds totaling \$263,132.49 to offset negative balances in those two funds. The funds were transferred from Casino Revenue, and then transferred back after July 1st. The newly adopted state budget does not appear to be favorable toward education. It is estimated that Springs Valley Community Schools will receive approximately \$200,000 more revenue in the General Fund in 2010 as compared to 2009, including much more vocational money; however, it is predicted that we would receive less money in 2011. Funding for the vocational and special education programs can not be determined until after the ADM count is established in the fall.

Mr. Owen moved to adopt the 2010 Budget Timeline as proposed by Mr. Todd Pritchett, including the First Publication of Proposed Budget on August 12th, August 19th – Second Publication, August 26th – Public Hearing/Special Meeting, September 14th – Adoption of Budget, and September 16th – Publish Capital Projects Notice of Adoption. Mrs. Brothers seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0. (copy attached)

Mr. Todd Pritchett advised that a workshop on differentiated learning was presented for our staff on June 29th and 30th by Mrs. Carolyn Coil.

Mr. Todd Pritchett stated that the recently enacted HEA 1492 now requires that expanded criminal history checks be conducted on new employees, and recommended adoption of the proposed Criminal History Information/Policy. Mr. Owen so moved, and Mrs. Brothers seconded. Following discussion, the motion was passed 7-0. (copy attached)

Mr. Emmons spoke regarding athletic ticket prices for various sports at Springs Valley High School and other PLAC conference schools. Mr. Larry Pritchett made a motion to approve athletic ticket prices as presented. Mr. Galloway seconded the motion. Discussion included the feasibility of charging for admission to baseball and softball games, student discount tickets, and concern of economic impact. The motion was then approved 7-0. (copy attached)

Mr. Emmons presented a list of proposed upgrades for the track program, as requested by track coaches Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Lueken. Consensus was for Mr. Emmons to obtain prices for the proposal, and then action would be considered.

Mrs. Brothers made a motion to approve the varsity volleyball trip to Lakeland College in Mantoon, IL on July 17 and 18, 2009, as requested by Mrs. Leslie Akers. Mr. Galloway seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Todd Pritchett requested permission to fill any position vacancies between now and August 10th, with formal approval at the August 10th board meeting. Mr. Owen so moved, and Mrs. Brothers seconded. Mr. Galloway requested notification by phone call prior to employing any new hires. Mr. Kellams stated that he would like to see possibly another teacher hired for fourth grade if student numbers remain high enough to warrant. The motion then passed 7-0.

With no other business before the Board, Mr. Larry Pritchett motioned to adjourn. Mr. Owen seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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