

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2021**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:30 PM on Monday, August 23, 2021 in the Springs Valley High School Auditorium. Board members Mr. Justin Wininger, Mr. Dustin Farris, Mr. Todd Marshall, Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, and Mrs. Jennifer Shipman were present. Mr. Chris Burton and Mr. Joel Dalton joined the meeting virtually. Dr. Trevor Apple, Mrs. Renee Childress, and Mr. Kyle Neukam were 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 6:16 PM in the Springs Valley High School Auditorium. Mr. Wininger, Mr. Farris, Mr. Marshall, Mrs. Lynch, and Mrs. Shipman were present, along with Dr. Apple, Mrs. Childress, and Mr. Neukam. Mr. Burton and Mr. Dalton attended virtually. Dr. Jeff Kerby, Mrs. Kathy Allstott, and Mrs. Peggy Simmons were also present.

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

Dr. Apple stated that as authorized at the August 9th board meeting regarding the 2022 budget, Form 3 has been published on Gateway, and the School Bus Replacement Plan and the Capital Projects Plan have been posted on the school's website and Gateway, thus making the budget process compliant with the Department of Local Government Finance. Tonight's hearing is for the purpose of allowing the public to ask questions or make comments regarding the proposed 2022 budget. Dr. Apple advised that board members have received all documents necessary for the budget adoption on September 13th, including copies of resolutions and documents that will require signatures. On behalf of the board, Dr. Apple opened the public hearing for the 2022 budget, the Bus Replacement Plan, and the Capital Projects Plan, and asked for comments or questions from the public. No patrons addressed the board. Dr. Apple asked if any board members had questions concerning budget matters, and there were none.

Dr. Apple presented revisions to the Return to In-Person Instruction plan to change the close contact/quarantine procedure as follows: 1. Masks are optional but highly recommended for all students during school hours and extra-curricular events. All preK-12 staff must wear a face covering when within six feet of a student. 5. Unvaccinated students who choose to wear a mask while at school and remain symptom-free will not be required to quarantine due to being in close contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19. Parents of students wearing masks will be notified and will have the option of choosing quarantine for their child or not. If the student later develops symptoms or tests positive, they will be required to quarantine at that point. Mr. Wininger called for a motion on the proposed revisions. Mr. Farris so moved, and Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. Discussion was held on the matter, with Mrs. Shipman opposing the changes while Mr. Wininger and Mr. Marshall supported the revisions. The motion to approve the revisions was then passed 6-1, with Mrs. Shipman voting in the negative. Dr. Apple read the following statement, which will be distributed to patrons tomorrow: Effective immediately and until further notice, unvaccinated students who choose to wear a mask while at school and remain symptom-free will not be required to quarantine due to being in close contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19. Parents of students wearing masks will still be notified and will have the option of choosing quarantine for their child or not. If the student later develops symptoms or tests positive, they will be required to quarantine at that point. Staff will be required to wear a face covering when within six feet of a student. This updated policy is in effect from today forward, and does not pertain to students previously quarantined. We are trying to strike a balance between

COVID and the tremendous disruption it has had on education. Our second grade, first grade, and now kindergarten students have not experienced a school year without many lost days and loss of learning due to COVID interruptions. All other students have now had three school years in which academic growth was drastically affected. It will be very difficult to make up for the learning losses incurred, if at all. Many families cannot afford to miss work in order to stay home with their children. Many students depend on the daily meals they get at school. Therefore, we will try this alternative approach, and see if we can improve the educational process while maintaining student safety. We will monitor both the severity of and the number of positive student cases. We may adjust our quarantine guidelines if circumstances dictate doing so. We will continue to follow other protocols, such as distancing measures, frequent handwashing, sanitizing surfaces, and sanitizing buses. Although we are still allowing parent choice in the matter, we continue to strongly recommend mask usage. If mandated, we will implement a mask mandate in accordance with those requirements. Also, keep in mind that vaccinated students who remain symptom-free are exempt from quarantine. Finally, as always, if your child is displaying any combination of symptoms, please keep him or her home from school until symptoms improve.

A consent agenda for personnel items was presented by Dr. Apple as follows: 1) Jessica Roberts-5th grade girls' basketball coach @ \$1597. 2) Amanda Dalton-Volunteer 5th/6th grade basketball coach. 3) Ryan Carnes-Volunteer 7th/8th Girls Basketball Coach. 4) Kyra Harrell-Girls High School Assistant Basketball 2 Coach Area 4/Level A \$1250. 5) Landon Harner-7th grade boys' basketball coach \$2000. 6) Jim Tritle-8th grade boys' basketball coach \$2000. 7) Employ Ann Dann for the special education teaching assistant position in our Moderate/Severe classroom at the rate of \$11.95/hour beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2021. This is due to the resignation of Charles Norton effective August 13, 2021. Mrs. Shipman motioned to approve the consent agenda items as stated. Mr. Marshall seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Apple requested the board consider signing the FEMA Letter of Intent to apply for a FEMA Infrastructure and Communities grant that would address safety concerns by possibly building a safe room as part of a new building project. Dr. Apple stated the letter of intent would not bind us to the project, but allow us to get started at looking into the process. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the FEMA Letter of Intent, and Mr. Burton seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple recommended updating the transportation contract for the Street family, which would change the bus stop designation. Mr. Farris so moved and Mrs. Shipman seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

With no other business before the board, Mrs. Shipman motioned to adjourn. Mr. Burton seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

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