

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 8, 2021 in the Springs Valley High School Auditorium. Board members Mr. Justin Wininger, Mr. Chris Burton, Mr. Dustin Farris, Mr. Todd Marshall, Mr. Joel Dalton, Mrs. Cheryl Lynch, and Mrs. Jennifer Shipman were present. Dr. Trevor Apple was also in attendance, as well as Mrs. Renee Childress, Mr. Kyle Neukam, and Dr. Matt Williams.

A second Executive Session was held following the Regular Session, and ended at 7:15 PM. All board members and Dr. Apple were in attendance.

During the Executive Sessions, 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 Sessions 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, Mr. Jason Lowe, Mrs. Kathy Allstott, and Mrs. Peggy Simmons were present. Mr. Justin Wininger, Director of Hoosier Hills PACT, was also in attendance.

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

Mr. Wininger presented the minutes of the January 11, 2021 board meeting, and vouchers and claims. Mrs. Allstott requested permission to pay Lindsey's Construction the amount of \$3,458.27 from Operations Fund for invoices received. Mr. Farris so moved, and Mr. Burton seconded. The motion passed 6-0-1, with Mr. Dalton abstaining.

Mrs. Childress reported the elementary staff has collaborated to create additional times that students can receive academic support to help close learning gaps caused by COVID, and she thanked our educators for their efforts. Mrs. Childress recognized 5th grade student Jaden McMahel and 4th grade student Kyah Snider for being responsible and acting with integrity. Both students recently found a valuable item on the playground and immediately turned it in to the adult on duty. Math Bowl practice has started for students in grades 3-6 under the direction of Miss Sarah Stackhouse. Mrs. Childress announced that she plans to introduce Maslow, the school therapy dog, to the school environment during April and May.

Mr. Neukam thanked Dr. Kara Pickens and Mrs. Julie Woolsey for their time on the school improvement team and their ideas for a remediation plan. He stated that teacher recommendations for students to attend weekly study tables will be focused on high school students who are behind on graduation credits and junior high students who are showing gaps from school missed at the end of last year. Mr. Neukam thanked Dr. Pickens, Mr. Greg Stephens, Mr. Kerry Lueken, and Mrs. Woolsey for proctoring the ISTEP exam for our juniors, Mrs. Tanya Gilmore for her work in making sure all ISTEP requirements are met, the office ladies in making sure that all classes were covered and no details missed, and Mrs. Stacy Denbo for working on the 2021-22 master schedule.

No patrons addressed the board.

Dr. Apple recommended Jason Lowe as Varsity Football Coach at Area 1, Level A for the amount of \$6,500. Mr. Farris so moved, and Mrs. Lynch seconded. With no discussion, the motion carried 5-2 with Mr. Dalton and Mrs. Shipman voting in the negative.

Mr. Lowe addressed the board and administration. He thanked his wife for her support and stated he realized the importance of a solid role model because of his sons. He

thanked Mrs. Kelly Schmitt, Mr. Neukam, Dr. Apple, and board members for the opportunity to be the head football coach. Dr. Apple congratulated Mr. Lowe.

Under Personnel matters, Dr. Apple presented the following items for approval as consent agenda: 1) Maternity leave for Mrs. Barbara Fettes effective January 24, 2021 through March 19, 2021; 2) Mrs. Amber Dorsam as temporary math instructor, continuing at her normal hourly rate of \$14.00 per hour for 32 hours per week; 3) Mr. Darren Kerns and Mrs. Traci Kerns as summer drivers' education instructors at a salary of \$40 per hour each; 4) Mrs. Jessica Roberts as Assistant Track & Field coach at Area 4, Level A with the salary of \$1,500, and Mark Smoot as volunteer high school baseball coach; and 5) Following the resignation of Ms. Emily Shipman as PE/Swim Instructor effective February 5, 2021, approval of Mrs. Angie Hawkins as PE/Swim Instructor at the hourly rate of \$18.70, and Mrs. Childress will fill the instructional assistant position. Mr. Burton made the motion as stated. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple announced that Mrs. Shannon Meehan is resigning from her position as high school ECA Treasurer effective February 23, 2021.

The high school HVAC project is substantially complete, and Dr. Apple stated he is very pleased with the look and feel of the classrooms. Additional wireless card access points and security cameras will be added throughout the facilities. Mr. Marshall has been spearheading the track record signage project, which is nearing completion and will hopefully be ready this spring.

Dr. Apple provided an update on COVID-19 numbers, and stated the numbers are good right now with one positive in the whole corporation and no close contacts from that result, with low numbers in quarantine. He advised the State of Indiana has provided BinaxNow rapid test cards which may be used to test symptomatic teachers and staff to more quickly isolate positive individuals and begin contact tracing. The tests could also be used as an option to allow return to school on Day 8 of quarantine. With new guidelines beginning today, schools are no longer required to quarantine if the students and staff are socially distanced at least three feet and wearing a mask at all times, excluding while at lunch, athletics, band, orchestra, choir, or other school settings where students may gather and does not apply to classrooms in which students have been allowed to remove their masks. Discussion was held on COVID-19 matters.

Dr. Apple recommended the purchase of a new digital informational sign for the junior-senior high school to replace the old one which was damaged by lightning. The purchase price is \$29,382, and the total cost to the corporation will be approximately \$11,799.44 after the \$17,582.56 which was received from the insurance settlement. Mr. Burton made a motion to approve purchase of the digital sign. Mrs. Lynch seconded. Dr. Apple advised payment for the sign would be made from the Operations Fund. The motion was then approved 7-0.

Mr. Farris made the motion to approve the drivers' education summer program, as recommended by Dr. Apple with the student fee of \$300. Prior to driving, students will be required to complete classroom training at <http://www.drivedertogo.com> at a cost of \$70. Dr. Apple stated this training site is approved by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and advised that cleaning measures and mask precautions will be taken. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Apple requested approval to purchase a 78-passenger school bus to replace a 2005 International at an approximate cost of \$103,000. Mr. Burton so moved, and Mr. Marshall seconded. The purchase will be from the Operations Fund. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple requested an update to Amy Cranfield's bus 2 contract, advising that the mileage increase of 3.6 miles per day was due to student move-in with the change effective January 26, 2021. Mrs. Lynch motioned to approve the mileage increase, Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

The February 2021 ADM student count was 837, which was a decrease of five students from September 2020. Springs Valley's student count in February 2020 was 871.

Kindergarten round-up is being planned for March 16 and 17, 2021 as an in-person event. April 6 and 7 are alternate dates for the screening.

Mr. Justin Wininger of Hoosier Hills PACT addressed the board and requested funding of \$30,000 for the school-based prevention programs for the 2021-2022 academic year. Mr. Wininger stated this includes the Behavior Monitoring and Reinforcement Program, In-School Suspension, Life Skills Training, Owning Up, Cohort Teams, The Essential Project, and the Day Reporting Program. Dr. Apple advised that the PACT request would be taken under advisement.

Mrs. Shipman made a motion to approve the request by Mrs. Shannon Meehan to write-off bad debt in the amount of \$353.40 total for the high school ECA Cafeteria and Curricular Materials Rental Funds, as per corporation policy 6151. Mr. Burton seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. (see attached)

Mr. Dalton signed an annual conflict of interest disclosure statement.

The following policies were presented for first reading by Dr. Apple: 1220 (EMPLOYMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT); 2370.02 (FLEX PROGRAM); 2623 (STUDENT ASSESSMENT); 2700 (ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT); 3220 (STAFF EVALUATION); 5111 (DETERMINATION OF LEGAL SETTLEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY FOR ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL SETTLEMENT IN THE CORPORATION); 5130 (WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL); 5610 (SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS); 5895 (STUDENT EMPLOYMENT); 6114 (COST PRINCIPLES - SPENDING FEDERAL FUNDS); 6325 (PROCUREMENT – FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS); 8390 (ANIMALS ON SCHOOL CORPORATION PROPERTY); 8400 (SCHOOL SAFETY); 8405 (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES - INDOOR AIR QUALITY, ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM, AND IDLING VEHICLES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY); 8462 (CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT); 8600 (TRANSPORTATION); 8800 (RELIGIOUS/PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES); 9700 (RELATIONS WITH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS). Second reading of these policies and adoption will be considered at the March 8th board meeting.

Dr. Apple announced the board would be returning to executive session. With no other business before the board, Mr. Burton motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Shipman seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.
