

**SPRINGS VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

Executive Session

The Springs Valley School Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 PM on Monday, September 14, 2020 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, 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, 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. All of the above, Dr. Jeff Kerby, and Mrs. Kathy Allstott were present.

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

Mr. Farris made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, August 24, and September 2, 2020 board meetings, and vouchers and claims as presented. Mr. Burton seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.

Mrs. Childress recognized elementary librarian, Mrs. Jill Elkins, for her efforts with the Reading Counts program. She also thanked 5th grade teachers and students for their projects on Patriot Day, September 11th. Mrs. Childress stated that several families have donated playground equipment to provide our students with fun activities while still maintaining social distancing. She advised that a lot of positive feedback has been received from families regarding the free breakfast and lunch program that will be offered to students for the next several weeks. She also thanked teaching assistants for their help during the dismissal process.

Mr. Neukam reminded everyone that tomorrow is school picture day at the junior/senior high school. He thanked teachers and support staff for all of their work through our first midterm who have done a great job of teaching two classrooms at one time, the office staff for their efforts, and Ms. Kearsten Ingle for her continuing guidance through COVID. Mr. Neukam added that he appreciates the support and hard work of all who have contributed to the well-being of our school, staff, and students during these difficult times.

Mrs. Shipman commended Ms. Kelly Schmitt for the amazing job she has done as athletic director, stating that she is very impressed with the safety measures in place at Springs Valley sporting events.

Mr. Farris thanked Mrs. Childress for her help with the Blackhawk Blessings food program.

No patrons addressed the board.

Dr. Apple recommended employment of Richard Stackhouse at the hourly rate of \$15.00 to perform temporary mowing duties. Mrs. Shipman so moved, and Mr. Dalton seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Apple recommended approval of contracting Kevin Ragains for mowing services at the rate of \$15.00 per hour as needed for the remainder of the current mowing season. He advised the additional help is needed due to the increased work load with the extra responsibilities that have been added to our custodial staff. Mrs. Shipman motioned as requested. Mrs. Lynch seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple requested approval of the following personnel items: 1) Brittani Ratliff as temporary nursing assistant effective September 8, 2020 at 29 hours per week at the hourly rate of \$13.40. 2) Devon Harrell as 7th grade boys' basketball coach at the salary of \$2,000. 3) Nick Snider as 5th grade girls' volunteer basketball coach. Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the personnel items as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

Corrections to previously approved ECA pay amounts were recommended by Dr. Apple as indicated. The changes apply to coaches who should have been grandfathered in at the old pay rates prior to the 2019-21 master contract. Mrs. Lynch so moved, and Mr. Burton seconded. The motion was passed 7-0. (copy attached)

Dr. Apple advised that applications are currently being accepted for a temporary technology assistant, and Dr. Kerby, Mr. Lionel Brown, and he will begin the interview process soon.

Dr. Apple stated the basketball goals in the high school gym floor have been raised to the regulation height following the installation of the new floor. Additional work as safety measures have been recommended for the goals, and Dr. Apple advised that work will be done next week.

Mr. Marshall presented the idea of displaying the track and cross country records and accomplishments. Discussion included the exterior walls of the bus barn building, and for the inclusion of baseball, softball, and brigade achievements. Additional discussion on this matter will be held.

Dr. Apple advised that an update to the Back to School Plan has been made, allowing students who are sick for a short time to participate in virtual learning with proper parent notification. Mrs. Shipman motioned to approve the update as stated. Mr. Farris seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Kerby addressed the board on the GEER (Governor's Emergency Education Relief) grant, and advised of various technology needs that will be addressed with these grant funds.

Springs Valley Schools has been awarded a Secured School Safety Grant for the amount of \$46,000, and Dr. Apple advised that those funds would be used to defray the cost of the elementary school social worker for this school year.

Dr. Apple provided an update on COVID-19, and stated that we currently have only five students or staff in quarantine, three of which are symptomatic and two are siblings. We have no known active COVID cases at this time. This total of students in quarantine represents less than 1% of our school population. To date we have had only four active cases in the school, and only three of those required contact tracing.

Dr. Apple advised the Average Daily Membership numbers will be counted this Friday, September 18th. As of today, school enrollment was 842 with 461 students in grades 6-12 and 381 in K-5. The ADM count at this time last year was 876, and most of the decrease is attributed to a smaller Kindergarten enrollment.

Dr. Apple reported that the annual review of the bus routes and bus safety policies has been completed.

Dr. Apple advised that an annual teacher evaluation plan review has been conducted with representatives of the classroom teachers' association and has provided the plan to the board for their review. Language was clarified regarding probationary, established, and professional teachers, added language about the process and explanation of the plan, and added growth measures for teachers with no growth model classes as required by state law.

Mr. Marshall made a motion to maintain the current student meal prices of \$1.35 for breakfast and \$2.50 for lunch, and \$3.50 for an adult lunch as recommended. Dr. Apple stated that effective today until further notice, all student breakfasts and lunches are free due to a USDA waiver received by the state of Indiana. The program is expected to run through December 31, 2020 or until funding is depleted. Virtual students are also eligible

to receive the free meals. The free meal is for a standard meal, while ala cart prices remain the same. Mr. Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple stated the timeline for the 2021 Budget has been followed. Permission to advertise the budget was granted by the Board at the August 10th Board Meeting. The School Bus Replacement Plan Notice to Taxpayers and the Capital Projects Plan Notice to Taxpayers have been posted on our webpage and Gateway, and the Form 3 has been published on Gateway making the budget process compliant with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The board conducted a public hearing, as required by law, in a special board meeting on August 24th to allow for public questions and comments. There was no input from the public. Tonight is the scheduled budget adoption meeting for the 2021 budget as advertised. The board will also adopt all resolutions required. Following the adoption I will ask the board to sign the required forms and resolutions. At this time I am asking for a motion to adopt and sign all required documents and resolutions for the 2021 budget. Mr. Farris made the motion to approve the 2021 budget documents and resolutions as presented. Mr. Burton seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Apple presented the policy numbers 3112, Board/Staff Relations, and 3220.01, Teacher Appreciation Grant, for the first reading, and stated that adoption of the revised policies would be considered at the October board meeting.

With no other business before the board, Mrs. Shipman motioned to adjourn. Mr. Burton seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

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