SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4
Monday, December 16, 2024
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM @ 475 W. 5th Avenue, Springfield School District, MakerSpace Lab

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL: The December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Springfield School Board was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Board President, Darrell Mackey.

B. MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Esch, Darrell Mackey, Heath Piper

C. MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrea Keenan and Larkin Smith.

D. SCHOOL PERSONNEL PRESENT: Shelly Swayne, Ginger Walker, Jerri-Ann Montoya, Pam Hartley, Julie Benge, Deb Sharpe, Starla Westphal, Van Walker and Carey George.

E. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Jamie Smith and Quinten George.

II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Superintendent Swayne requested an addition to DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS: Item G. Discuss and Approve Track Uniforms. She recommended the removal of recommendations for substitute staffing from Executive Session 2 and the addition of recommendations for School Nurse to Executive Session 2. Ms. Swayne recommended the cancellation of Executive Session 3 due to the illness of the district's attorney and the absence of board members.

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. APPROVAL of AGENDA: Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the agenda with the requested addition to DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS, the removal of substitute staffing and addition of school nurse to particular matters for discussion in Executive Session 2 and the cancellation of Executive Session 3. Heath Piper seconded. Motion passed.

B. ROUTINE ITEMS:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
   a) Regular Meeting: November 18, 2024
   b) Special Meeting: December 05, 2024
   c) Special Meeting: December 11, 2024

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS

D. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Heath Piper made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items B, C,and D. Jennifer Esch seconded. Motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM:

Please Note: ***Welcome to the open forum portion of our meeting. We appreciate your interest in participating in this conversation with the Springfield School District RE-4 Board of Education. A sign-up sheet was provided at the entrance to the Board meeting for all persons wishing to address the Board. Comments are requested to be limited to five minutes per speaker. Patrons are invited to share comments with the Board in an orderly manner consistent with the respect and dignity that should be part of a Board of Education public meeting. The Board will require that speakers and audience members adhere to basic standards of civility and, with limited time available, as the Board President, I may need to limit or terminate discussion to maintain decorum or to give as many people as possible the opportunity to speak. The Board will not take any action during this time. It is the preference of the Board that comments concerning District personnel be addressed in an executive session. Discussion of individual students must occur in the executive session. Please inform the Board if you intend to make comments concerning District personnel or students so those comments may be heard in the executive session***

Jamie Smith mentioned that the Apptegy program is still not being used and talked about the need for more direct parent communication in the Jr./Sr. High. She also spoke about her concern over the inclusion of Leader in Me as a primary component of the UIP when the program has not been implemented

in Jr. or Sr. High School. Ms. Smith noted that she wanted to follow-up on the status of staff enrolled in the 2 + 2 program and the rubric for their success and professional development.

Mrs. Deb Sharpe presented a gift of appreciation to each board member and school administrators.

V. Curriculum Corner

a. Leader in Me Student Lessons

b. Southeast Colorado Youth Entrepreneurship Projects

Superintendent Swayne informed the board that representatives were unable to attend the meeting to present information on their Curriculum Corner topics. These will be rescheduled for a future meeting. Ms. Swayne did share that a SHS student, Parker Arbuthnot, earned the award for the Overall High School Grand Champion Entrepreneurship Project. He was presented with a cash award of $750.00 to invest in his business.

VI. Board Forum

Darrell Mackey asked for clarification on when students' lodging and meals are paid by the district when participating in competitive events.

VII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEM

A. Adjustment of 2024-2025 Calendar

Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the school closure on November 7, 2024 due to weather conditions. Darrell Mackey seconded. Motion passed.

B. Policy Updates, 2nd Reading

Sections A-K policy updates for the legally required policies are available and ready for the 2nd reading and consideration.

Due to the absence of two board members, Darrell Mackey recommended that this agenda item be tabled. Jennifer Esch made a motion to table Policy Updates, 2nd Reading. Heath Piper seconded. Motion passed.

C. Unified Improvement Plan

Superintendent Swayne explained that this item is informational only. The Colorado Department of Education requires that school districts file a unified improvement plan that is attached to our state-qualified data. The UIP as it is called, is posted both online at CDE and on the school website. Part of the process is to ensure that the board of education is aware of and understands that data is being evaluated to guide the schools' ideas and implementation of education.

D. Highly Qualified and Licensed Staffing

Superintendent Swayne recommended that the board begin discussion on a district-wide perspective and the methods to recruit and hire highly qualified and licensed staff. The board asked Ms. Swayne to research other district's guidelines and they will revisit recruitment practices for staff that our not highly qualified at the January meeting.

E. 3rd Party Elevator Inspector Contract

Our district is required to have a 3rd party elevator inspector. An RFP was posted to pursue the bidding on the school website as well as emails to the businesses provided by NV5 across the state. One proposal was received from Elevator Inspection, Inc. for $500.00 for 1 annual inspection (Category 1 inspection or Category 5 testing). Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the elevator inspection contract with Elevator Inspection, Inc. for $500.00. Heath Piper seconded. Motion carried.

F. <u>Considerations for Utilities @ 281 Tipton (Gas Service)</u>

The natural gas service to the bus barn and ag (maintenance) shop needs to be reconnected. Negotiations to determine who has financial responsibility for the reconnection project is still ongoing. The board discussed temporary solutions. Heath Piper made a motion to use a propane tank on loan from Quinten George and purchase two overhead propane heaters while continuing legal avenues. Jennifer Esch seconded. Motion passed.

G. <u>Discuss and Approve Purchase of Track Uniforms</u>:

Uniforms are replaced on a 5-year rotation schedule. This is the year to replace HS Track and Cross-Country uniforms. Superintendent Swayne presented a quote from COACH for $9,000.00. This would be for 25 Men's warm-ups, 25 Women's warm-ups, 25 Men's jerseys & shorts and 25 Women's jerseys & shorts. The board requested that at least one more quote be obtained and they would like to review the rotation schedule. No action was taken.

VII. <u>ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS</u>

A. Springfield Preschool

Mrs. Deb Sharpe reviewed her SPS Dec report with the board.

- 2nd Qtr. culmination was excellent, great attendance
- Parents attended November Pow Wows
- Thanks to Sheila & staff for homemade cinnamon rolls
- UPK registration for 2025-26 opens tomorrow
- Census is stable
- Entry camera is finally working
- Still need dishwasher, new playground bathroom door, gate between playgrounds

B. Principal Reports

Jerri-Ann Montoya, Elementary Principal highlighted some items on her Dec Admin Report:

- Enrollment is up 2, now 120
- Attendance is 97%, up from last year
- Family Reading night had fair attendance
- Recognized Students of the Month
- Teachers and students are anxiously awaiting the Christmas concert
- The 4th grade students volunteered at the Salvation Army and Food Bank

Ginger Walker, Jr./Sr. High Principal spoke about items on her BOE report:

- The Entrepreneurship Fair
- The FFA District Creed Speaking Contest
- Career Choice Interviews
- There were 21 discipline log entries for 2nd qtr.
- Average daily attendance is 92.34%
- Chronic absenteeism is 22%
- SHS has 6 options for students to demonstrate college or career readiness
- Participation in an active shooter drill
- Winter athletics are in full swing

C. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Swayne shared her goals for 2024-25 with the board and asked if there were any question or comments on the contents of her Dec BOE report. (attached) In addition to her written report, she reported that the school district currently meets the new minimum wage requirement and the staff is involved in submitting ideas for the 2025-26 school calendar.

VIII. <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

<u>Session 1:</u> The board will convene in an executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters for the purposes of exit interview(s) with J. Benge, Springfield School District Business Manager.

Recommend attendance session 1: BOE, J. Benge, employee

Session 2 if needed: The board will convene in executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(g) and 24-72-204(3)(a)(XI)(a) to consider documents protected by the mandatory non-disclosure provision of the Colorado Open Records Act. The particular matter(s) for discussion is the content of letters of reference & recommendations for ~~Substitute Staff~~ Nursing Staff. Recommend attendance session 2: BOE, Admin

~~Session 3 if available: The board will convene in an executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) to confer with the school district's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on the board's legal rights and obligations under its BEST Project contracts related to attorney-client privilege regarding construction contractors and contractual law. Recommend attendance: S. Swayne, D. Stevens~~
Session 3 was cancelled.

Heath Piper made a motion to go into Executive Sessions. Jennifer Esch seconded. Motion carried.
The board entered Executive Session 1 at 8:09 p.m. and ended at 9:11 p.m.
The board entered Executive Session 2 at 9:12 p.m. and ended at 9:17 p.m.
The board returned to regular session at 9:17 p.m.

IX. ACT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

a. Retirements, Resignations:
b. Employment Recommendations:
c. Other

Heath Piper made a motion to hire Cenzie Figgins as a school nurse. Jennifer Esch seconded. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Heath Piper made a motion to adjourn. Jennifer seconded. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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Darrell Mackey, President | Larkin Smith, Vice President

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Jennifer Esch, Secretary | Heath Piper, Treasurer

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Andrea Keenan, Director