SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4
Monday, January 27, 2025
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM @ 475 W. 5th Avenue, Springfield School District, MakerSpace Lab

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL: Darrell Mackey, board president, called the January 27, 2025, Regular Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Esch, Andrea Keenan, Darrell Mackey and Larkin Smith. Heath Piper arrived at 6:05 p.m.

C. MEMBERS ABSENT: None

D. SCHOOL PERSONNEL PRESENT: Shelly Swayne, Ginger Walker, Jerri-Ann Montoya, Pam Hartley, Kathy Self, Brooke Hartley, Carey George, Tanisha Hinds, Deb Sharpe, Brenda Chick and Van Walker.

E. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Jamie Smith, Julie Benge, Quinten George and Haylee Hancock.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. APPROVAL of AGENDA

B. ROUTINE ITEMS:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a) Regular Meeting: December 16, 2024

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS

D. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Andrea Keenan made a motion to accept all consent agenda items. Larkin Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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 suggested that larger flags would be a more appropriate size for the new gym as the current flags are too small for the space. She also asked why the wrestling match in Holly scheduled for Wednesday evening, January 22, was canceled.

V. Curriculum Corner

A. Career Choice Project Presentation: Haylee Hancock presented her Junior Career Choice Project to the board. She chose to research a career as an Agricultural Loan Officer or Agricultural Insurance Sales Agent and spoke about educational requirements, choices of educational institutions and other aspects of earning a degree applicable to her career choice. She concluded her presentation with a Q & A with the board and administration.

VI. Board Forum

A. Accountability Committee Update- A. Keenan: Mrs. Keenan shared information on topics discussed at the accountability meeting on January 13. There were approximately 10 members present and topics covered included discussion of last year's testing data and comparison to other school districts, parent communication and engagement and the committee's responsibilities. Meetings are currently held monthly, with hope of moving to quarterly meetings.

VII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Student Leadership and Advocacy

Colin Swanson, Class of 2025, requested the opportunity to discuss student representation at the board table. He presented the conversation on behalf of SHS student council. The board agreed they would welcome student voices and will take his request into consideration.

B. Track Uniforms Follow Up

The uniforms proposal for track uniforms was presented in December. At the board's directive, another proposal was requested and the existing uniform replacement schedule was shared with each member. Proposals presented were from Champion Sportswear for $11,698.00 and Coach Sports for $9,000.00. Each for 25 sets of women's uniforms, 25 sets of men's uniforms and 50 warm-up jackets and pants. Andrea Keenan made a motion to approve the purchase of track uniforms from Coach Sports for $9,000.00. Darrell Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Springfield Vehicles Inventory

At the board's request, Superintendent Swayne presented a list of the current bus inventory. The 52-passenger activity bus is 23 years old and should be aged out of use at 25 years according to statute. The board agrees that there is a need to create a plan to finance and maintain the correct number and size of buses or fleet vehicles. Ms. Swayne will research some options to present at a future date.

D. Banking Assignments and Updates

COLOTrust is our main general fund financial institution. With the addition of Abacus LLC serving as a payroll and accounts payable steward, Superintendent Swayne feels it will be beneficial to add Sarah Siegrist, owner of Abacus LLC to the COLOTrust banking roster to make transactions on our behalf. Larkin Smith made a motion to approve Sarah Siegrist to view account balances and make online

transactions as appropriate as a payroll and accounts payable steward. Andrea Keenan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

E. <u>CO PERA 140-day Retiree Consideration</u>

Superintendent Swayne explained that the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) restricts public school teachers from retiring and working full-time while collecting retirement. There are a few unique ways for schools to employ retired teachers. Critical Shortage contract designation timed out for Deborah Sharpe and Carol Grahn on 12-31-2024. Ms. Swayne recommended that we designate these 2 employees as 140-day retired working employees for 2025. Heath Piper made a motion to designate Deborah Sharpe and Carol Grahn as 140-day retired working employees for 2025. Larkin Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. <u>Highly Qualified and Licensed Staffing</u>

The board continued the discussion started in December regarding a district-wide perspective and the methods to recruit and hire highly qualified and licensed staff. The board voiced a desire to open up recruitment for positions filled by unlicensed teaching staff and the need to establish a deadline for considering a position as open. Heath Piper made a motion to advertise all positions held by uncertified teaching staff for 90 days beginning in February with position open until filled, or until the end of the 90 days. Andrea Keenan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. <u>2025-2026 School Calendar</u>

The board reviewed and discussed two versions of the 2025-2026 school calendar that have been discussed and collaborated with staff.

The most important details for staff are as follows:

- 2 weeks break for Christmas
- Dismissing the school year before Memorial Day
- A week holiday break for Thanksgiving
- Not starting the week immediately following the fair.
- 9-12 to be out of school the Thursday of the Holiday Basketball Tournament

The board ask that community and student suggestions also be sought out. Action to approve the 2024-25 calendar will be taken in February.

H. <u>School Success Plans</u>

At the CASB work session in November, the board set forth 2 goal areas for success in our schools and evaluation of the superintendent. Those areas are defined as 1) academic success to be accredited by CDE without watch and 2) finalizing the completion of the BEST grant. A copy of the rough draft of those goals was provided to the board. Board members asked that a discussion on truancy be put on a work session agenda. Principals Walker and Montoya reviewed beginning of the year and semester 1 growth data.

8:35 p.m. – 8:42 p.m. The board took a short break

I. March Meeting Date and Work Session(s)

The March regular board meeting is Monday, March 17. This date falls within our scheduled spring break. The board discussed rescheduling the meeting. Superintendent Swayne requested that the board consider scheduling two work sessions to occur before April 01. The purpose of those sessions is to first do more work on our mission(s), vision, and the portrait of a Springfield High School graduate. The second is to learn, review, and discuss budget priorities that align with our revenue, expenses, and the development of that graduate. Other needed discussions include graduation requirements, building goals, and the career, college, and life readiness goals for students.

Darrell Mackey made a motion to change the date of the March regular board meeting to March 18, 2025 and to schedule work sessions for February 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and March 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Heath Piper seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Managed Services IT Contract

Superintendent Swayne presented a proposal for $26,316.00/year and a one-time installation fee of $4,400.00 for a server, to extend a contractual agreement with Flair Data Systems to manage the network at our schools. The services are E-rate eligible, therefore 80% of the costs are covered in the federal program.

Larkin Smith made a motion to accept the proposal from Flair Data Systems for $26,316.00 per year, and a one-time charge of $4,400.00 to manage the network. Andrea Keenan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Springfield Preschool – Mrs. Sharpe reviewed her report provided in the BOE packets. Topics included first semester culmination day, appreciation for the Christmas lunch provided by administration, the coffee and muffins delivered by STA and the cash bonus, challenges of UPK, Leader in Me implementation in preschool, Fire Drills, NAEYC annual report and child find. The preschool census is currently 37 and Luz Hargis is working as a sub since the resignation of a teacher. The preschool needs list was also updated and shared with the board.

B. Principal Reports – both principals had provided their January BOE reports in the board packets. Elementary Principal, Jerri-Ann Montoya reported that Christmas parties were enjoyed and the students will be participating in the canned food drive sponsored by Stuco. Jr./Sr. High School Principal gave a shout out to Leah Concepcion and Lloyd Bancairen for an awesome Christmas concert. She shared that Springfield would be hosting the FCCLA Winter Conferences and our first wrestling match in several years. Students are very involved in extra-curricular activities with the Holiday Basketball Tournament, the National Western Stock show and Knowledge Bowl. Student Council is planning Snowcoming and a “Souper Bowl” canned food drive. She also reported that due to excessive tardies 1st and 6th hours, students are now serving after school detention when they get a tardy.

C. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Swayne's BOE report included in the board packets provided the board with information on the discussions during the monthly Accountability Committee meeting, the schedule for implementing Leader in Me in 6th – 12th grades, conversation to determine the continuation of the Construction Trades program, the heating situation in the ag shop and bus barn, progress on the HVAC issues, repair of water leaks and the district's partnering with county schools to enter into a state grant process to address youth vaping. In addition, Ms. Swayne shared that Springfield has 3 students who will be interviewing for a Daniel's scholarship and 1 student who has advanced to the next level in the selection process for a Boettcher scholarship.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Session 1: 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 2: The board will convene in an executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters for the purposes of evaluations and contracts of the Superintendent, SES Principal, and SHS Principals. Recommend attendance session 1: BOE, S. Swayne Supervisor

Session 3: 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 JH Wrestling, Spring Coaching Staff, and the District Business Manager.

Recommend attendance session 2: BOE, J. Mort- AD, G. Walker - Admin, J.A. Montoya - Admin, S. Swayne - Supt.

Jennifer Esch made a motion to move into Executive Sessions. Darrell Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The board entered Executive Session 1 at 9:35 p.m. Session 1 ended at 10:45 p.m.

The board entered Session 2. Session 2 was tabled.

The board entered Session 3 at 10:51 p.m. Session 3 ended at 11:15 p.m.

The board returned to regular session at 11:12 p.m.

IX. ACT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

a. Retirements, Resignations:
   i. T. Wells, Librarian
   ii. TJ Spell, Paraprofessional
b. Employment Recommendations:
c. Other

Superintendent Swayne made the following recommendations for hiring:
Head Jr. High wrestling coach – Rafe Hutches
Asst. High School track coach – Rafe Hutches
Head Jr. High Girls track coach – Julia Mondragon

Head Jr. High Boys track coach – Darian Schaller
Substitute teacher – Brittney Martin
Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the hiring of coaches and a substitute teacher as recommended. Larkin Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Swayne recommended the board accept the resignation of T.J. Spell effective 01-16-2025. Andrea Keenan made a motion to accept the resignation of T.J. Spell. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

X. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u> Andrea Keenan made a motion to adjourn. Heath Piper seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 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