SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4
Monday, February 19, 2024
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM @ Springfield Elementary School Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL: Tyler Gibson, Board President, called the February 19, 2024 regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Esch, Tyler Gibson and Darrell Mackey. Jeremy West attended electronically. Heath Piper arrived at 6:07 p.m.

C. MEMBERS ABSENT: None

D. SCHOOL PERSONNEL PRESENT: Shelly Swayne, Ginger Walker, Jerri-Ann Montoya, Pam Hartley, Deb Sharpe, Tanisha Hinds, Brenda Medina, Carey George and Troy Crane.

E. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Max Grant, Doug Stolebarger and Quinten George

II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Superintendent Swayne requested that Spring Junior High Track Coaches be added to particular matter(s) for discussion under Executive Session, Session 1.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Spring Junior High Track Coaches to particular matter(s) for discussion under Executive Session, Session 1. Darrell Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. ROUTINE ITEMS:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Special Meeting: January 09, 2024
2. Regular Meeting: January 22, 2024
3. Work session: January 29, 2024

Darrell Mackey made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2024 special meeting, the minutes of the January 22, 2024 regular meeting and the minutes of the January 29, 2024 work session as presented. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS: The board and Superintendent Swayne reviewed the financial reports. Ms. Swayne reported that the budget is currently on track.

Heath Piper arrived at 6:07 p.m.

C. CLAIMS PAYABLE: Jeremy West made a motion to approve the February 15, 2024 Claims Payable. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

V. 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. It is requested that comments be limited to five minutes per speaker. Patrons are invited to share comments with the Board in an orderly manner that is 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.

Mrs. Deb Sharpe presented UPK updates. There have been significant discrepancies in UPK payments state wide. Approximate payments to our district show only 85% of funding paid for 4 year old students and only 11% for 3 year olds. The state is working on a process to identify these discrepancies. Mrs. Sharpe reported that the preschool has been very busy: the NAEYC report has been submitted, all 4 preschool employees are enrolled in a Pyramid Plus program, the second checkpoint has been done, parent-teacher conferences were held 2/5, the preschool advisory council met on 2/12, the next culmination day will be 3/7/24 and they are preparing to start UPK registration for next year.

VI. Board Forum:

Mr. Darrell Mackey offered an apology to the elementary staff for not being present for the elementary Staff Chat on 2/15. His vehicle broke down and he wasn't able to get here before the meeting was over.

Mr. Mackey ask about plans for a wrestling space in the new campus buildings. Mrs. Swayne explained that currently the Multi-Purpose room in the athletic section of the new building may be designated as the wrestling space during wrestling season. No final determination has been made until staff and coaches can collaborate on the various needs that will need to be served by the Multi-purpose room.

Mr. Mackey expressed his continued intentions to donate funds to purchase a new scoreboard for the new gym facility.

Mr. Mackey also ask if it would be possible to send out text reminders of meetings.

Mr. Heath Piper discussed closed campus for junior high students. He posed the question if adjustments could be made for specific situations. Mrs. Swayne will look at specific instances in our student population such as how many JH students have older siblings, positive and negative discipline and bullying instances, what the liability issues for the district might be, closed vs open campuses at other schools and she will present the information at a future meeting for board review and discussion.

Circumstances around on-line students participating in school athletics were discussed. Questions posed involved how eligibility is maintained for students not attending the brick and mortar school, do on-line students pay higher activity fees since they aren't included in state per pupil funding and specifics of how athletic coops work.

The topic of dress code and school uniform was presented for consideration.

VII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Staff Chats Follow-Up:

Jennifer Esch and Heath Piper reported on items discussed during the Junior Senior High School Staff Chat on 2/15/24. Topics discussed included: request for clarification on policies and procedures for the switch to hourly pay for some classified staff employees, a school policy limiting athletic competitions to Thursday, Friday and Saturday, a no student cell phone policy, replacing advisory with something more academically productive, setting a limit on how many times an athlete can be ineligible for a sport before no longer on team, and possible stipends to provide extra help to struggling students.

Jeremy West reported on topics discussed during the Elementary Staff Chat on 2/15/24. Mr. West stated that there was good attendance and participation and he shared the notes taken during the meeting. (Notes attached) A main topic was student behavior and the things that are working, not working and suggestions for support or changes. Attendees stressed the need for help now.

B. Policy Discussion, GBGH-R

Superintendent Swayne discussed Policy GBGH-R: S.T.A. Personal/Sick Days. She explained that this policy was adopted in 1999 in collaboration with the local Student Teachers Association and addresses the process to donate sick days to fellow employees who have used days beyond the benefits contractually earned. Aspects of the policy do not align with legal advice and labor laws. Ms. Swayne recommends that STA and board members meet to negotiate the process and rewrite the policy.

C. Campus Safety Conversations

Board members were furnished copies of the district's current crisis plans: Springfield District RE-4 Emergency Incidents Plan, Springfield RE-4 School District Emergency Preparedness Guide and a sample of a more current operation guide to help build a guide for crisis responses.
Superintendent Swayne recommended that a current and updated plan be prepared, quickly. It is her suggestion that a committee be organized to create the plan and proposed that the committee meet 90 minutes every 3 weeks starting right after spring break.
Board members also discussed looking into opportunities to have a Resource Officer on campus. This will be followed up at the March meeting.

D. Board Member Resignation & Open Applications

Tyler Gibson, Board President submitted his resignation from the school board, effective 2-20-2024 to pursue business and educational opportunities. Mr. Gibson expressed his gratitude to the entire school district for the trust that was placed in him to serve for the last 9 years. Reluctantly, Darrell Mackey made a motion to accept Mr. Tyler Gibson's resignation from the Springfield School Board effective February 20, 2024. Heath Piper seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the Resolution to Declare a Vacancy on the Board of Education of Springfield School District. Darrell Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Interested parties are invited to send a letter to the Board by March 28, 2024 and prospective candidates will be interviewed on April 12, 2024.

E. 2024-2025 School Calendar

Superintendent Swayne presented 3 samples for proposed 2024-25 school calendars. It has been a difficult task trying to create a calendar that meets staff's desires and CDE requirements. The board discussed some possible ideas and alternatives that Ms. Swayne can take into consideration to develop a calendar.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Principal Reports

Jerri-Ann Montoya, Elementary Principal, reviewed her written February Board Report. She reported elementary enrollment at 122, attendance this quarter is at 95%, 17 students had perfect attendance for 2nd quarter and 6 had perfect attendance for the 1st semester. There were 18 students on the 2nd quarter Superintendent's Honor Roll and 20 on the Principal's Honor Roll. Family Reading Night will be 2-21-24. The elementary had 100% parent participation. Students of the Month were chosen based on the trait of Honorable. Valentine parties were really fun. SUPPORT sold Valentine carnations and made sure every student received a flower.

Ginger Walker, Jr/Sr High School Principal. Mrs. Walker highlighted information on her written Board Report. Current enrollment is 124. Mr. and Mrs. Gale and her have been working on the assessment calendar for spring. The CMAS window opens on April 1 and closes on April 25. Teachers had conferences with 40% of parents. She is creating a student exit survey. The knowledge bowl has earned a spot at the State Knowledge Bowl, one Baca County wrestler qualified to compete at state and district and regional basketball is starting. Winter season senior night was held 2-16-24, FCCLA and Mrs. Self sold 621 Valentine cookies and the Snowcoming Dance was a great event.

B. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Swayne gave special shout-outs to the incredible preschool team that commits so much time to hold an excellent Child Find and to the Springfield Police Department and their partnership with our school. We are blessed by both.

Ms. Swayne spoke to the board about the Gobin's copier lease proposal included in their board packets. She asked that they look it over in preparation for discussion and approval at the March meeting.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Session 1: 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 junior high track coach, Substitute Staff and Custodial Applicants.

Session 2: The board will convene in executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4) (h) for the purpose of discussing Student "A" disciplinary matters.

Session 3: The board will convene in an executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4) (f) to discuss personnel matters concerning MS/HS Principal (G. Walker) and Elem. Principal (J.A. Montoya).

Jennifer Esch made a motion to go into Executive Session. Darrell Mackey seconded

the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Swayne was invited to executive sessions. Principals Walker and Montoya were invited to executive sessions 1 and 2. The board entered Executive Session 1 at 8:31 p.m. Executive Sessions 1 ended at 8:33 p.m. Executive Session 2 started at 8:33 p.m. and ended at 8:47 p.m. Principals Walker and Montoya left Executive Session. Executive Session 3 started at 8:47 p.m. and ended at 10:02 p.m.

X. ACT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

The board returned to regular session at 10:04 p.m.
Superintendent Swayne made the following recommendations:
Darian Schaller – Head Junior High Track Coach
Taylor Birdsong – Assistant Junior High Track Coach
Chase Krinard – Assistant Junior High Track Coach
Erin Stewart – Assistant Junior High Track Coach
Tilden Smith – change from full-time bus driver to on-call

Darrell Mackey made a motion to approve Junior High Track Coaches as recommended by Superintendent Swayne and to change Tilden Smith from full-time bus driver to on-call. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Esch read a thank you card from Van and Ginger Walker expressing their gratitude for the generous holiday bonuses and all the hard work done on behalf of the teachers this year. A FFA chapter update letter and an invitation to the FFA dinner and Hired Hand Sale on 2-29-24 was shared with the board.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Heath Piper made a motion to adjourn at 10:10 p.m. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Tyler Gibson, President Jeremy West, Vice President

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Jennifer Esch, Secretary Heath Piper, Treasurer

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Darrell Mackey, Director