SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4
Monday, March, 18, 2024
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM @ Springfield Elementary School Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL: Board Vice-President, Jeremy West called the regular board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

C. MEMBERS ABSENT: None – (Vacancy on board)

D. SCHOOL PERSONNEL PRESENT: Shelly Swayne, Ginger Walker, Jerri-Ann Montoya, Pam Hartley, Tanisha Grahn, Tiffany Hume, Tawnie Lusk, Emily Sharpe, Melissa Reid, Brenda Chick, Carey George, Van Walker, Carol Grahn, Jamie Houghton and Melissa Reid.

E. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Allison McVey, Quinten George, Jamie Smith and Lexi Brooks (Plainsman Herald).

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Superintendent Swayne requested the addition of item H: Printer Lease to DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS. She also requested the addition of Activity and Athletic Director to particular matter(s) for discussion during EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, Session 1 and noted that EXECUTIVE SESSION, Session 3 could be removed.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Darrell Mackey made a motion to add item H: Printer Lease to DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS, to approve the addition of Activity and Athletic Director to particular matter(s) for discussion during EXECUTIVE SESSION, Session 1 and the removal of Session 3 from EXECUTIVE SESSION. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. ROUTINE ITEMS:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting: February 19, 2024

Heath Piper made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2024 regular meeting as presented. Darrell Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The board reviewed the March financial reports. Superintendent Swayne reported that the budget is still strong and on pace.

C. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the March 12, 2024 and March 15, 2024 Check Listings as presented. Darrell Mackey 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.***

There were no public comments.

VI. Curriculum Corner:

A. AmeriTowne - 5th Grade Events & Classroom Learning

Ms. Brenda Chick and students Easton Hinds, Daniel George and Brastin Rothman shared highlights and a short video of their recent participation in an AmeriTowne simulation. The simulation was the culmination of several weeks of in-class curriculum. The students and Ms. Chick all agreed that it was a really good experience. Superintendent Swayne mentioned Reality U which is a similar program that Springfield may try to host next fall for Grades 8-12 county-wide. Reality U is a 75-minute interactive program that teaches teens personal financial education and career preparation.

B. Safe2Tell Colorado

Principals Ginger Walker and Jerri-Ann Montoya spoke about the Safe2Tell informational assemblies recently presented to K-5 and 6-12 grade students and staff. Safe2Tell provides students, parents and community members a safe and anonymous way to report information about any issues that concern their safety or the safety of others. Safe2Tell's reporting process is simple. The presenters shared age appropriate information and addressed student and staff questions.

VII. Board Forum

Heath Piper shared information he learned during a short conversation he had with the full-time resource officer employed by the Las Animas School and he suggested contacting the Las Animas School for further information.
Principal Walker gave a shout-out to Chief-of-Police Clay Klipfel and his officer team. They are visiting the school at least once every week. Their effort to be present at most school functions is also appreciated. She stated that the students interact well with them.
Darrell Mackey reported that First FarmBank would like to donate additional funds to the purchase of a new scoreboard. The extra donation will make it possible to purchase additional update options.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Social, Emotional, and Goals Learning

Tanisha Hinds, Tawnie Lusk, Carol Grahn and Principal Montoya recently observed "The Leader in Me" curriculum in real-time application during a school visitation in Liberal, Kansas. They shared many positive and exciting things that they observed and they played a short video that contained student and staff testimonies that support the research-based achievements observed at all levels and explained Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Success". The board was given a copy of a Student Wellness Grant Proposal that these ladies have prepared and, if approved, could be used to fund the cost to implement "The Leader in Me" curriculum for the first 3 years.

B. Homework Research & Conversation

The District Leadership Team was tasked with discussing and researching the validity, quantity and quality of homework for students K-12. Tiffany Hume, representing the District Leadership Team, presented articles and conversation for different perspectives. She gave reasons and stated that the DLT is not comfortable with a strict NO Homework Policy. She presented a proposal for the board's consideration. The DLT proposed a Homework Purpose Statement in addition mentoring of new teachers to help with best practices for homework assignment.

C. 2024-2025 School Calendar

The board reviewed 3 samples of a 2024-2025 school calendar. Each met the 1080 required hours for CDE educational accreditation. Superintendent Swayne shared that staff feedback showed a significant approval of Calendar B. However there are two changes that will need made: 1) the Professional Development Day on September 27 needs moved to October 4 to coincide with the BOCES In-service Day and 2) a Professional Development Day needs added to January 31 to accommodate help for the High School Knowledge Bowl. Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve Calendar B for the 2024-25 school year with the following changes:

1. Move Professional Development from September 27, 2024 to October 4, 2024
2. Add a Professional Development Day on January 31, 2025.

Darrell Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Staffing Alignment for 2024-2025

Superintendent Swayne reviewed the current 2024-2025 anticipated PS – 12 teacher staffing alignment with the board. Highlights included:

1. 8 alternative licensure candidates
2. 5 empty positions to fill
3. Possible elementary counselor

E. Fleet Vehicle (Suburban & Minivan) Consideration

Superintendent Swayne has reached out to find costs for fleet vehicles. She has received only one informal proposal at this time. She will continue her efforts and will bring a recommendation for purchasing to the April meeting.

F. Budget Preparation, FY2025

The board reviewed a summary of total salaries and liability cost for 23-24 and discussed the projected percent of total budget that goes to salaries. Superintendent Swayne would like to keep salaries at 73% of total budget. She answered questions the board members had concerning the budget process and explained the timeline for approval of a preliminary and final budget.

G. Open Board Seat Timeline/ Update

Letters of Interest for the board vacancy will be accepted through March 28, 2024. To date, three letters have been received. The board discussed and decided on Friday, April 12, 2024 for candidate interviews starting at 8:00 a.m. in the elementary school library. The vacancy must be filled by appointment by April 19, 2024.

H. Discuss and Approve Copier Lease Agreement

Superintendent reviewed the proposal submitted by Gobin's for the lease of copiers to be placed in the new facility. The proposal is for 4 copiers; a high capacity unit to be placed in the administrative suite workroom and 3 more units to be placed 1 in upstairs JH/HS workarea, 1 in downstairs JH/HS work area and 1 in the elementary work area. Copiers can each print BW & Color and each will have staple and whole punch finisher capabilities. Monthly lease and service agreement for all four units will be $753.85 / month.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Principal Reports

Elementary Principal, Mrs. Jerri-Ann Montoya reviewed her March administrative report with the board. K – 5th grades had an 89% attendance rate for the 3rd quarter. She shared that the elementary is getting ready to start CMAS testing and in March the 3-5 grade students attended a "Safe to Tell assembly. Students also celebrated Dr. Seuss day and had a fun Read Across America week. The students celebrated the 100th day of school, performed in an early spring concert, and enjoyed family reading time during Family Reading Night. Principal Montoya spoke a little more about the professional day she attended in Kansas with teachers Hinds, Lusk and Grahn and shared her hope to implement the Program at the beginning of the 24-25 school year.

Jr. /Sr. High School Principal, Mrs. Ginger Walker, reported that 3rd quarter attendance was 89%. Her written report included information on junior high lunch break, state testing starting the first week of April, good performance and behavior of the young high school knowledge bowl team, and the community support of the basketball teams during regional competition. She expressed appreciation to the maintenance crew for their efforts getting the gym ready for a funeral service. Mrs. Walker also applauded the students and staff for their amazing job of welcoming and making connections with some new students.

B. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Swayne shared some basic information about recent situations that have occurred. She also mentioned the need for local policies for the enrollment procedure for immigrant and/or migrant children and explained that the fact finding process of the OCR complaint has been done but there is nothing yet to report.

The board took a break from 8:37 p.m. to 8:47 p.m.

The board entered Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Superintendent Swayne and Principals Walker and Montoya were invited to attend Session 1.

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 Special Education Staff and Coaching Staff 2024-2025.

Session 1 ended at 9:13 p.m. Principals Walker and Montoya left Executive Session. The board entered Executive Session 2 at 9:14 p.m.

Session 2: The board will convene in an executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4) (f) to discuss personnel and contractual matters concerning MS/HS Principal (G. Walker) and Elem. Principal (J.A. Montoya).

Session 2 ended at 11:13 p.m.

The board returned to regular session at 11:14 p.m.

SESSION 3 WAS NOT HELD ~~-Session 3: *Possible Session: The Board will convene in executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) to conference with the Board's attorneys for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a pending civil rights matter, specifically OCR Complaint No. 08-24-1127~~

XI. ACT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

Superintendent Swayne made the following recommendations:
Brenda Chick, transfer from 5th grade classroom to K-5 Special Education for 2024-25 school year.
Jeff Mort, Athletic Director for 2024-25 school year.
Donnie Burdick, high school track volunteer for 2023-24.
Jennifer Esch made a motion to approve the hiring of Brenda Chick for K-5 Special Education Teacher for 2024-25, Jeff Mort for Athletic Director for 2024-25 and Donnie Burdick as a high school track volunteer for 2023-24. Heath Piper seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Esch made a motion to extend the Elementary Principal contract to Jerri-Ann Montoya and the Jr. /Sr. High School Principal contract to Ginger Walker for the 2024-25 school year. Darrell Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Esch read a thank you note from the high school knowledge bowl team expressing their appreciation for the boards' support and allowing them to participate in the state tournament.
Darrell Mackey made a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Esch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The board adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

VACANT, President

Jeremy West, Vice President

Jennifer Esch, Secretary

Heath Piper, Treasurer

Darrell Mackey, Director