

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting
February 25, 2021**

Members Present:

*Bruce Lord, President
Jennifer Lofland, Vice President
Joseph Sillo, Secretary
Frank Agovino, Treasurer
Domenic Bentivegna, Director
Jennifer Flynn, Director
Jacqueline Guy, Director
Kevin Keenan, Director
Margaret Rovinski, Director*

*Anthony Barber, Superintendent of Schools
Don Mooney, Executive Director of Operations
Linda Bellace, Director of Human Resources
Lisanne Mikula, Solicitor*

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Lord led the pledge to the flag.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments submitted via email were read at the School Board meeting by Ms. Mikula and are included as an attachment to the minutes.

B. ITEMS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

1. Cougar Sports Report – Ms. Flynn

- ❖ *ETR Intramurals program has been a huge success. Girls' Basketball is finishing up their 6 week program; Boys' Basketball will start their 6 week program on Monday. It is hoped the spring participation will be just as good.*
- ❖ *High School Winter Season is coming to a close.*
- ❖ *The Wrestling team had 24 participants and no COVID related issues.*
- ❖ *Boys Basketball was much improved with a 4 – 8 record.*
- ❖ *Girls Basketball is currently the #1 seed in the Central League.*
- ❖ *Alexa Abbonizio is Springfield Girls Basketball's all time league scorer with 1,247 points.*
- ❖ *The Diving Team finished 2nd in the Central League.*
- ❖ *Last night was Signing Night. 15 seniors have committed to playing their respective sports in college.*

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ **Education – Jennifer Lofland, Chair**

Met February 11th. PSSA's were discussed as well as the Homework Club. It was shared that the administrators would be attending educational opportunities and training on equity. The committee also wanted to recognize the ETR students in the Math Counts competition.

❖ **Facilities – Kevin Keenan, Chair**

Met February 11th. Some members attended virtually. Discussion included closing out Phase 1 of the Master Plan and looking at Phase 2. There was also discussion about the HVAC options for schools without air conditioning.

❖ **Finance & Audit – Mr. Agovino, Chair**

Met February 16th via Zoom. Master Plan financing was discussed. 2020-2021 operating results were reviewed and how they were impacted by the pandemic. Another topic discussed was the tax reassessment. Also noted was the tax collector compensation.

❖ **Personnel – Bruce Lord, Chair**

Did not meet.

❖ **Policy – Domenic Bentivegna, Chair**

Did not meet. No scheduled meeting in March.

❖ **Communications – Frank Agovino, Chair**

Did not meet.

❖ **Volunteer Memorial – Domenic Bentivegna**

Did not meet. The next scheduled meeting is March 18th at the firehouse.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Although Board action is required, it is generally unnecessary to hold discussion on these items. With the consent of all members, they are therefore grouped and approval is given in one motion. In the event a Board member wants to discuss any item, the Board President will move it to an appropriate place on the agenda.

Motion: Ms. Guy

Second: Dr. Lofland

Vote: 9-0-0

1. Approval of Minutes

Regular Board Meetings – January, 2021

2. Payment of Bills

General Fund checks for the month of January 2021 totaling \$1,010,960.34

3. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports

- ❖ Tax Collector's Reports – *January 2021*
Morton and Springfield
- ❖ District Financial Reports – *January 2021*
General Fund, Investment Schedule, Revenue, Expenditures
- ❖ Financial Reports – *January 2021*
Middle School & High School Activity Accounts

4. Contract for Board Approval

- ❖ *Agreement with Drexelbrook Catering for the Springfield High School 2022 Senior Prom on Saturday, April 23, 2022 @ a cost of \$65 per person with an approximate total cost of \$19,500.00*
No net cost to the District

E. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

1. Personnel Report – Ms. Bellace

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the Personnel actions as listed in the Personnel Report.*

Motion: *Ms. Guy*

Second: *Ms. Rovinski*

Vote: *9-0-0*

Comments: Ms. Bellace went over the Personnel report which included: Retirement of 3 non-certificated staff members, employment of 1 contracted teacher, employment of 2 long-term substitute teachers, employment of 1 non-certificated staff member, restoration of health for 2 employers for the 2nd half of the school year, 1 Family Medical Leave and 1 change of employment status from custodian part-time to full time.

2. Health and Safety Plan (Update) – Dr. Barber

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the updates to the Academic Health and Safety Plan.*

Motion: *Ms. Guy*

Second: *Mr. Keenan*

Vote: *9-0-0*

Comments: Dr. Barber and Ms. Mikula reviewed updates to the Health & Safety Plan, which is required by PDE. The plan reflects the updates in testing, shifts in quarantine guidelines and the adjustments in physical distancing recommendations. It also contains the flexibility of dealing with future circumstances.

3. Board Policy – Mr. Bentivegna

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the following policy for second reading:*

❖ *218.3 Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault*

Motion: Dr. Lofland Second: Mr. Agovino Vote: 9-0-0

Comments: Mr. Bentivegna noted a minor change to the policy as presented in the first reading in January. He recommends approval of the policy. It is a PSBA recommendation due to a new law that had been passed.

4. Special Education Agreement – Dr. Barber

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the joint Special Education Agreement between Springfield School District and Student ID #8602.*

Motion: Ms. Guy Second: Ms. Flynn Vote: 9-0-0

Comments: Dr. Barber pointed out that while details could not be stated in public due to privacy issues, the Board had received the details of the settlement.

5. Independent Contractor Agreement – Mr. Mooney

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approve the agreement between Springfield School District and independent contractor Allison Moyer (Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Home and School Visitor) to provide clinical services for the secondary level (Grades 9-12). This Agreement is for the 2020-2021 school year with services being provided for 75 instructional days, for a total cost to the District not to exceed \$21,635.25.*

Motion: Ms. Guy Second: Ms. Rovinski Vote: 9-0-0

Comments: Mr. Mooney explained that the new contractor would be replacing a contractor whose contract was terminated.

6. 2021-2022 School District Calendar – Dr. Barber

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the 2021-2022 School District Calendar for first reading.*

Motion: Ms. Guy Second: Ms. Rovinski Vote: 9-0-0

2021-2022 School District Calendar (cont'd)

Comments: Dr. Barber reviewed the calendar for the next school year noting that it was a non-COVID based calendar and was similar to the current year prior to COVID, starting before Labor Day with commencement scheduled for June 3rd.

7. Real Estate Tax Assessment Settlements – Ms. Mikula

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board authorizes and directs the Solicitor to finalize settlements of the following real estate tax assessment appeals for the following years and amounts:*

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00384-00, 313 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2020 \$564,000 assessment / \$1,000,000 fair market value
2021 \$1,000,000 assessment / \$1,000,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment / fair market value of the above property:
2020 \$575,000 assessment / \$1,020,213 fair market value
2021 \$627,890 assessment / \$627,890 fair market value*

This proposed resolution for tax year 2020 results in an \$11,000 decrease in the assessment which results in a refund of taxes from the School District to the property owner of \$379.30.

This proposed resolution for tax year 2021 results in a \$372,110 increase from the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$7,439 to our District for tax year 2021.

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00437-00, 144 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$4,250,000 assessment / \$4,250,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment / fair market value of the above property:
\$2,622,130 assessment / \$2,622,130 fair market value*

This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$1,627,870 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$32,544 to our District for tax year 2021.

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00385-00, 321-345 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2020 \$5,076,000 assessment / \$9,000,000 fair market value
2021 \$9,000,000 assessment / \$9,000,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment / fair market value of the above property:
2020 \$6,439,670 assessment / \$11,417,854 fair market value
2021 \$6,374,170 assessment / \$6,374,170 fair market value*

Real Estate Tax Assessment Settlements (cont'd)

This proposed resolution for tax year 2020 results in a \$1,363,670 decrease in the assessment, which results in a refund of taxes from the School District to the property owner of approximately \$47,023.

This proposed resolution for tax year 2021 results in a \$2,625,830 increase from the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$52,495 to the School District for tax year 2021.

- ❖ *Folio No. 29-00-00276-00, 0 Leamy Avenue, Morton Borough
2021 \$4,700,000 assessment/\$4,700,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$4,089,880 assessment/\$4,089,880 fair market value*

This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$610,120 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$12,200 to our District for tax year 2021.

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00446-00, 300 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$1,275,000 assessment/\$1,275,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$975,510 assessment/\$975,510 fair market value*

This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$299,490 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$5,892 to our District for tax year 2021.

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00484-00, 754 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$3,070,000 assessment/\$3,070,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$2,206,690 assessment/\$2,206,690 fair market value*

This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$863,310 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$16,986 to our District for tax year 2021.

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00487-00, 780 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$12,500,000 assessment/\$12,500,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$8,692,040 assessment/\$8,692,040 fair market value*

This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$3,807,960 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$74,925 to our District for tax year 2021.

Real Estate Tax Assessment Settlements (cont'd)

Motion: Ms. Rovinski

Second: Ms. Guy

Vote: 9-0-0

Comments: Ms. Mikula stated these settlements were the first of many that the appraiser was working on but that in all cases the settled values are the highest values that our appraiser feels we could substantiate.

Mr. Mooney also went over the tax reassessment process noting that these settlements will reset tax assessments to remaining taxpayers in the school district.

**8. Springfield High School Master Plan Change Order Approval –
Mr. Mooney**

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves change order #01-010 and #01-011 in the amount of \$128,804.68 and \$123,004.33, respectively for general construction bleacher modifications, concrete work, glass and railing additions, and change order #02-004 in the amount of \$34,532.38 for additional HVAC work and mechanical changes for the high school master plan project.*

All change order costs will be funded from the capital projects bond proceeds.

Motion: Ms. Guy

Second: Ms. Flynn

Vote: 9-0-0

Comments: Mr. Mooney explained that the change orders were for a variety of items for the completion of Phase 1 of the Master Plan with the larger items being the bleacher modifications and the serpentine railing on the 3rd floor.

9. Air Conditioning Design and Survey Proposal – Mr. Mooney

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the proposal from Stantec Architecture, Inc. in the amount of \$403,530 for engineering design and building survey services for air conditioning alternatives for Sabold and Scenic Hills elementary Schools and E.T. Richardson Middle School.*

All costs for these services will be funded from the capital projects bond proceeds.

Motion: Ms. Guy

Second: Ms. Flynn

Vote: 8-1-0

Comments: Mr. Mooney said that the Facilities committee has been reviewing prep work toward installation of air conditioning in buildings currently without. It is a multi-year, phased project.

10. Springfield Tax Collector Compensation – Mr. Mooney

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the annual compensation for the Springfield Tax Collector, effective January 1, 2022 for each of the four (4) years as follows:*

- ❖ 2022 - \$32,015 –
- ❖ 2023 - \$32,655 – 2.0%
- ❖ 2024 - \$33,308 – 2.0%
- ❖ 2025 - \$33,974 – 2.0%

Motion: *Ms. Guy*

Second: *Mr. Bentivegna*

Vote: *9-0-0*

Comments: Mr. Mooney stated that there will be a new tax collector elected this year. The compensations are set every four years.

11. Morton Tax Collector Compensation – Mr. Mooney

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the annual compensation for the Morton Tax Collector, effective January 1, 2022 for each of the four (4) years as follows:*

- ❖ 2022 - \$8,020 –
- ❖ 2023 - \$8,180 – 2.0%
- ❖ 2024 - \$8,344 – 2.0%
- ❖ 2025 - \$8,511 – 2.0%

Motion: *Ms. Guy*

Second: *Ms. Flynn*

Vote: *9-0-0*

Comments: Mr. Mooney said that the Morton tax collector is completing an interim term and is running unopposed in this year's election. These are the compensation levels for the next 4 years.

F. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Solicitor's Report – Ms. Mikula

No report.

2. Legislative Board Report – Mr. Agovino

No report.

3. DCIU Board Report – Mrs. Rovinski

- *Met virtually February 3rd.*
- *They have started their rapid antigen testing.*
- *DCTS students in the automotive program had students participating in a competition. Two students will be moving to the next level.*

DCIU Board Report (cont'd)

- *Early Childhood education students have started working with children in the Head Start program.*
- *PA Media and Design competition is coming up with the regional competition on April 7th.*
- *The governor's STEM competition is happening with the students being tasked with improving the quality of life for Pennsylvanians.*

4. DCCC Board Report – Mr. Sillo

No report.

**5. Future Board Meetings – March 25, 2021
April 22, 2021**

6. Superintendent's Salutations – Dr. Barber

Comments: Dr Barber noted that the SSD takes mask usage very seriously and thanked both the administrative and grounds teams for dealing with the snow removal.

Before and after each meeting, the Board meets in Nonpublic Executive Study Session to discuss personnel, legal and labor relations matters.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Guy

Second: Mr. Agovino

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph Sillo
Director and Board Secretary

