

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting
May 27, 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
Margaret Rovinski, Director*

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

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Lord led the pledge to the flag.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ **Ms. Joan Wider, 359 Spring Valley Road, Springfield** Ms. Wider discussed the importance of having a certified librarian in the buildings rather than a teacher.
- ❖ **Mr. Al Kapcryuel, 717 Sheffield Drive, Springfield** Mr. Kapcryuel would like the District to consider having a certified librarian in the high school and middle school.
- ❖ **Regina Scheerer, 34 Old State Road, Springfield** Ms. Scheerer is concerned about the Critical Race Theory (CRT) in our society. She is requesting the District reject any Critical Race Theories in our schools. She also asked for schools to be fully opened in September and to remove the face masks requirements for children.
- ❖ **Alexandra Donato, 940 Stewart Avenue, Springfield** Ms. Donato discussed the low transmission rate of COVID for elementary aged children. She feels students should not be wearing masks in the buildings.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ❖ **Education – Jennifer Lofland, Chair**
Did not meet but Dr. Lofland thanked everyone that made a public comment and invited them to the next Education Committee meeting. Committee did not meet this month. Next meeting will be Thursday, June 10th in the SHS Auditorium.
- ❖ **Facilities – Don Mooney**
Met on May 13th. Primary discussions were the final punch list on Phase 1. Phase 2, which is the demolition, will be completed by mid-August. Planning

for Phase 3, which is the reconstitution of the fields and different site work related. Additional discussion about the maintenance building and Haldermann Field.

❖ **Finance & Audit – Frank Agovini**

Finance Committee met by Zoom on May 11th. Had a brief discussion on Master Plan financing. School district refinanced existing debt which will cause a large savings for the district. Discussed the reassessment and impact on the community. Mr. Mooney added that this will be an ongoing process and the District is going through appeals that have been filed.

❖ **Personnel – Bruce Lord, Chair**

Did not meet.

❖ **Policy – Domenic Bentivegna, Chair**

Met May 17th and discussed several policies that are affected by updates made by the PA Department of Education.

❖ **Communications – Frank Agovino, Chair**

No report.

❖ **Volunteer Memorial – Domenic Bentivegna, Chair**

Met May 6th. Had a discussion on the July 4th festivities which will not have a typical celebration due to COVID.

C. 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: 8-0-0

1. Approval of Minutes

Regular Board Meetings – April 22, 2021

D. 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: Dr. Lofland

Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Ms. Bellace reviewed the Personnel report which included (1) retirement-certificated, (3) retirement-non-certificated, (1) resignation of non-certificated, and (2) Family Medical Leave.

2. Superintendent's Contract – Dr. Lofland and Mr. Lord

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the termination, effective June 30, 2021, of the Employment Agreement of Superintendent Anthony Barber dated June 14, 2018.*

Motion: Ms. Guy

Second: Dr. Lofland

Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Mr. Lord explained that this is a typical extension and is in term only. These are performed to reward and retain top performers and as an administrative tool to stagger administrative contracts. Dr. Barber needs to resign before a vote can be held to extend his contract. This vote terminates the existing contract which will then be immediately followed by his reinstatement.

3. Superintendent's Contract – Dr. Lofland and Mr. Lord

RECOMMENDATION: that the Board approves the written "Employment Agreement between the Superintendent of Schools, Anthony Barber, and the Board of School Directors of Springfield School District", with an effective date of July 1, 2021, for a term of five years, and at his current salary of \$225,003.51; and authorizes and directs the Board President to execute the same, subject to the review and approval of final language by the Solicitor.

Motion: Ms. Guy

Second: Dr. Lofland

Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Mr. Lord stated he appreciates all that Dr. Barber has done over the past year. Dr. Lofland also thanked Dr. Barber for all that he does for the District and the community.

4. PDE Emergency Instructional Time Template – Dr. Barber

RECOMMENDATION: that the Board approves the SSD Emergency Instructional Time Plan for remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: Ms. Rovinski

Second: Dr. Lofland

Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Dr. Barber explained that this Time Template allows the Springfield School District to utilize virtual learning in the event of an emergency situation and that it is a requirement by PDE.

5. 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. 42-00-00389-00, 419 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$6,500,000 assessment/\$6,500,000 fair market value

Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$5,249,210 assessment/\$5,249,210 fair market value.

This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$1,250,790 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$24,610 to our District for tax year 2021.

- ❖ Folio No. 42-00-00387-00, 481 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$3,500,000 assessment/\$3,500,000 fair market value

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$3,328,340 assessment/ \$3,328,340 fair market value.*

*This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$171,660 above the
2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$3,377 to
our District for tax year 2021.*

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00496-00, 900 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$1,300,000 assessment/ \$1,300,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$350,700 assessment/ \$350,000 fair market value.*

*This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$949,300 above the
2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$18,678 to
our District for tax year 2021.*

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00477-00, 674 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$4,700,000 assessment/ \$4,700,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$4,160,260 assessment/ \$4,160,260 fair market value.*

*This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$539,740 above the
2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$10,620 to
our District for tax year 2021.*

- ❖ *Folio No. 42-00-00367-00, 1 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
2021 \$3,700,000 assessment/ \$3,700,000 fair market value*

*Appealed-from assessment/fair market value of the above property:
\$3,026,900 assessment/ \$3,026,900 fair market value.*

*This proposed resolution represents an increase of \$673,100 above the
2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$13,243 to
our District for tax year 2021.*

Motion: Ms. Rovinski

Second: Dr. Lofland

Vote: 8-0-0

*Comments: Mr. Lord stated that additional information can be found on our
website. Mr. Argovino noted that this is related to the previous tax
reassessment discussion. It moves the pendulum in favor of larger commercial
properties which swings the tax burden on to residential property owners. Mr.
Mooney thanked the solicitor's office for working hard to get the settlements
approved. He feels that these settlements fairly state the property values. The
District is still working on 40+ settlements, which may take several years. Mr.
Lord stated it is important to note that the reassessment may not be fair to
residents and many attempts have been taken to help the residents. Other
districts have experienced the same effects and have tried to have the process
corrected but instead have been forced to address each reassessment
property by property to get the valuations as fair as possible.*

6. Board Policy - Mr. Bentivegna

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

- ❖ 916 Vol II 2021 Volunteers
- ❖ 103 Title IX

Motion: Ms. Rovinski Second: Dr. Lofland Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Mr. Bentivegna explained the updates of Policy 916 and Policy 103. 916 has been changed to add specific language requested by PDE but is no deviation from our current policy. 103 is simply aligning our policy with current law.

7. Food Service Proposal – Mr. Mooney

RECOMMENDATION: *that the Board approves the selection of the Compass Group, USA, through its Chartwells Division, to provide food services management to the Springfield School District for a one year period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, with a guaranteed surplus of \$5,730 to be returned to the District. Chartwells' management fee will increase from \$0.0989 per meal to \$0.1002 per meal. This agreement is the second renewal election of one of the four one-year renewal options that may be exercised upon the approval of the district and Chartwells.*

Motion: Ms. Rovinski Second: Dr. Lofland Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Mr. Mooney commented that it has been an outstanding partnership over the last 16 years and recommends to the Board that we continue to use Chartwells as our Food Services provider. He thanked Brandon Lang and his team for stepping up to help students as best they could during the pandemic.

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

Recommendation: *that the Board approves the following credit change orders #01-002 for \$1,796,461.23, change order #03-001 for \$214,037.98, change order #02-001 for \$203,454.82 and change order #04-002 for \$190,364.36 for contract credits received from the general construction, electrical, mechanical and plumbing prime contractors for work related to the deletion of the district maintenance building that was scheduled to be built on the high school campus.*

Motion: Ms. Rovinski Second: Dr. Lofland Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Mr. Mooney explained that normally change orders are increase in cost for changes. In this case, the District has elected not to pursue building a

maintenance building during Phase 3, as the District has secured an alternate facility. The contractor is putting a credit back on their contract.

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

Recommendation: *that the Board approves the following change order #04-001 in the amount of \$10,323.84 for electrical and lighting modifications for the high school master plan project.*

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

Motion: Ms. Rovinski

Second: Dr. Lofland

Vote: 8-0-0

Comments: Mr. Mooney explained that this a change order under the electrical contract under Phase 3.

E. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Solicitor's Report – Ms. Mikula
No report.

2. Legislative Board Report – Mr. Agovino
The District is continuing to keep an eye on Bill 64 which allows parents to have their student repeat a grade due to COVID.

3. DCIU Board Report – Ms. Rovinski
The DCIU held their last meeting May 5th. The next meeting will be June 2nd at 7 PM and is open to the public. The DCIU sponsored the Legislative Breakfast which focused on Bill 64 as well as a discussion on Charter Schools. The enrollment for the DCIU DCTS (Delaware County Technical Schools) will increase next year. Graduation was held in Aston on May 19th and in Folcroft on May 20th. The DCIU provides an incredible amount of services for students. Ms. Rovinski noted their Speech and Language Intervention does a wonderful job.

4. DCCC Board Report – Mr. Sillo
No report.

5. Future Board Meetings – June 24, 2021

6. Superintendent's Salutations – Dr. Barber
Dr. Barber turned the salutations turned the report to Ms. Flynn since the Sports Report was not on the agenda.

Ms. Flynn – Sports Report.

- *Students have stayed safe and have been able to play.*
- *Middle School sports had a large turnout and students did great.*
- *High school sports – boys tennis won two league matches.*
- *Baseball had an improved season and just missed playoffs.*
- *Track – Great season. Four boys and two girls are still competing for states.*
- *Girls Lacrosse won their first playoff game.*

- Softball is in semi-finals.

- Boys lacrosse

Mr. Mooney thanked everyone for their efforts. Grounds crew, transportation and our trainer all did a great job in getting sports up and running.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Guy

Second: Ms. Rovinski

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Sillo
Director and Board Secretary

