

SPRINGWATER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES SCHOOL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

6:00pm

Held at Springwater Environmental Sciences School

16491 S. Springwater Rd. Oregon City, Oregon 97045

And Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldO-rqzgqHtf5Qjf5qBvwkx54X3SgJUqF>

Members Present: Jessica Henrickson, Cinda Scott, Tory Blackwell, Lissa Hettervig, Sarah Head, Nathalie Doherty

Members Absent: Tina Marquez

Non-Voting Member Present: Greg Mylet

Staff Present: Jen Wozniak

Community Present: Jim Sieple

Call to Order: 6:08pm

Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(f) for the Lottery 6:12pm Jen Steps out.

LOTTERY IS HELD

Executive Session ends- Jen returns.

Return to Regular Session: 6:23pm

**Motion to Approve February 8, 2023 regular session and executive session minutes –
Approved by ALL**

Principal Report:

Greg- Parent conferences went well; parents wanted the opportunity to give feedback. This is important for teachers and parents to both have channels for communication. Biomes and buddies have been a very positive experience this year. The virtual and in person open houses were very successful with 145 applicants this year. We had 135 applicants last year. In the past we have said community members need to attend an open house to apply. We will confirm with Kristen Miles to see if we can require members to attend an open house in order to apply. There was a large diversity of people in attendance.

Lissa- CAIS says that too.

Tory- In the past that was the only way to receive an application. Times have changed with the digital age.

Nathalie- I can ask Kristen Miles what OSBA says about requiring people to attend at least on open house in order to apply to Springwater.

Lissa- People should go to the open house to see how far out it is and to find out what the school is all about.

Tory- My concern is if you don't come out then people won't realize how far out it really is.

Lissa- Also to stress the issue of no school every other Friday.

Greg- I have concerns about equity and diversity.

Greg- Our early release time on Wednesday's now, we have been focusing on PD (Professional Development). Today we focused on how to explain to our new staff equity.

Jen- Last staff meeting we focused on Equity. Teachers talked about equity and decided after lots of discussion to do an equity audit. Teachers are asking the board to set this up for them. The board, Mark, Greg and Sarah have contacts. The extra food is really popular and some kids are taking advantage this. We want to make sure that there is a routine in place that someone

other than a teacher makes sure the fridge and freezer are stocked. The teachers also would like a clothing closet for kids if someone wants to organize and set up protocols for it. Food and clothes felt important to the teachers.

Greg- I think Tina donated all the lost and found to a O.C. clothing closet, which our families have access to. We will check in with Tina.

Sarah- I am excited to hear the staff is interested in an equity audit, I have a connection.

Tory- We can always contact Jacque Fitzgerald again since she did the board equity training.

Bus Update:

The bus reimbursement has been very frustrating. It as cost around 50K and we are having issues getting the district to give us the reimbursement. They only get the discount if contracted through First Student, to be contracted through First Student they must contact the Union. Which they did, the union said No. Greg gave them several possible scenarios of how to work through the reimbursement process. We aren't sure of what will happen, but we need a bus. Greg will continue to work with the union and the district. The district has put us in a corner and probably didn't know we weren't going to get reimbursed. If the union approves, then we can get reimbursement. The district is doing their best to work though this, but we are not their number one priority. It will be important to get an answer for budgeting purposes. If the district doesn't offer any buses, then we will have a problem. It is state law that we must provide a bus and it is state law that we have to be reimbursed if it is chartered through the district. The State is obligated to pay us reimbursement if we get transportation through the district. Greg is waiting for them to get back to us. Other districts work with other schools, we may need to just pay. We are a Non-Union school and district probably didn't know. We may need to make an appearance at a OCSD board meeting.

Tory and Lissa- We receive texts weekly from the district stating that routes are canceled for the day.

Nathalie- Please clarify, it is 50K?

Greg- Yes, I think the concern is do we even get the bus back next year?

Lissa- Do we take it out of our policy that we offer transportation?

Greg- No we can't, it is state law.

Sarah- To clarify if we go through the Union then the district would be obligated to reimburse us?

Greg- Yes

Nathalie- When do you start having a conversation with the district regarding next year?

Greg- As soon as they get back to me.

Cinda- Can we all come to the next O.C. board meeting? And request to speak?

Greg- Or they must give us more than 80%. They had stated they would only give us 80% but they would give us more support. This dramatically reduces our support. If they moved up to 85% that would cover the cost of transportation.

Nathalie- They will say No.

Sarah- When does the 80% get renewed?

Nathalie- The contract renewal is every 5 years.

Greg- We did say we would reevaluate it in 2 years.

Nathalie- They said we will give you more resources.

Greg- However they have not.

Cinda- Is there anything we can do to support you Greg? Should we all go to the OC board meeting and air our grievances?

Greg- Yes, I think right now the next steps are we go to the bigger board meeting. It is looking very much like the rug is about to be pulled out from under us and that is not survivable long term. We can do it for one year but not very long. These are O.C. students that are choosing to attend our school. They next board meeting is in April.

Sarah- Are all the other charter schools providing transportation?

Greg- ACA doesn't have to and the others are part of the school district.

Tory- Also families should be sending emails to the O.C. board.

Sarah- Let's give Greg space and time for him to try to work it out then we do the board meeting in April and in the next two weeks let us know where we are at.

Greg- We will know soon if they say no or if the district is not sure if ty will provide us with the buses next year. We will need to do the math on the costs. We would need to share this with the district. I would be scary to the doom and gloom the whole school year.

Nathalie- Some of our families need the buses.

Lissa- We will run out of money fast!

Sarah- Should we have parents send an email clearly stating that we need the busses, our school is not viable without busses.

Cinda- Thank you for working so hard on this Greg!

Sarah- Will there be summer camps?

Greg- Yes, this will be the last year that it is free. Next week we will provide the dates. We will always look at ways to cover the cost if someone really needs the help.

Architects Proposals:

Greg- We met with several architects each group would do similar things form a focus group involving the community, short and long term plans. They will look at the current buildings and the conditions and put together plans that will move forward and give us a long-term plan.

Jim- Numerous firms were contacted and only two wanted to come out and give proposals. Soderstrom and Waechter. Soderstrom has a lot of state certified assessors and if the need to go out get grants they would be able to. Waechter would partner with someone that have a couple of people on staff that are certified assessors if it should come down to that.

Nathalie- Does that increase the cost for partnering?

Jim- Waechter was over \$20K and Soderstrom was less, but both very close based on a proposal instead of costs. Waechter will do more for the assessment. Waechter was very limited with K-12 experience, where Soderstrom has extensive experience with K-12.

Greg- Both companies were very knowledgeable and seemed to be a pleasure to work with.

Jim- Soderstrom's president Marlene Gillis has knowledge about grants. She reached out to OCS D to ask about the grants available and asked if they can piggy back off of the opportunities. It turned out to be empty but she definitely has a lot of experiences going after funding and knowing where to find these opportunities.

Nathalie- It's nice that they have K-12 experience.

Sarah- Jim are you leaning one way or the other?

Jim- I like Soderstrom with the experience they have with K-12, and they have actually worked with Springwater in the past.

Cinda- How many years ago did Soderstrom work at Springwater?

Greg- I'm not sure.

Nathalie- Would they incorporate the Environmental Sciences?

Greg- Yes, both groups would.

Tory- Does Waechter included mechanical and Soderstrom did not in the bid so is that the reason maybe it is cheaper?

Jim- They take on mechanical, electrical, and plumbing. They passed along a year 2000 facilities survey done by interface on Soderstroms behalf. Marlene indicated to me I could go around and

get model numbers and manufacture information along with info on longevity of each of these equipment's for example the HVAC unit.

Cinda- Do we have to decide tonight?

Greg- Yes

Nathalie- Did anyone on staff do the tour with you?

Greg- No, it was a simple walk through. We wanted to make sure safety is the forefront, that we have systems that work and anything that is going to fall apart soon gets taken care of. But you also must put in something that is exciting. They will have focus groups with teacher and parents to determining importance.

Nathalie- I know Troy Frystak wants to be involved in a focus group.

Sarah- I am more drawn to Waechter because the proposal is more engaging, and I am familiar with the buildings they have worked on. What is the timeline comparison and how do we compare?

Greg- Soderstom begin in January 2023- end July 2023

Jim- Waechter proposed a 12–13-week timeline based on start date.

Greg & Jim- Soderstrom had a start date of January 9th of this year and end July which will carry us into next year because we are two months past that. Waechter has less experience with grants and less experience with K-12 public schools so they aren't used to dealing with the department of education as much.

Greg- We met with each of them in November and both have reached out to us several times, so each is very interested.

Cinda- Does Waechter have a person who is interested in helping us with grants like Soderstrom?

Jim- Not that they indicated, maybe because they have less experience with K-12.

Tory- We are a niche K-12

Sarah- Do they have Charter School experience?

Sarah- Jim and Greg do you have recommendations for the board?

Greg- Go ahead Jim.

Jim-Soderstrom. Waechter has the skillset but just lacks the K-12 evidence.

Greg- I am leaning towards Soderstrom too. They were very knowledgeable and could talk through funding with total comfort/familiarity and the owner knew exactly what she was doing. Impossible to tell with the proposals. Both would be great, but the benefit of having someone

who has a better understanding of all the funding sources which helps with the funding pieces would be best. Doesn't mean Waechter couldn't but they just didn't talk about it as much.

Nathalie- Agreed that the funding experience is right up there with what we need.

Lissa- My husband Paul has worked with Soderstrom and he recommended them.

Motion to move forward with Soderstrom Architects Ltd. Firm with plans for facilities planning. - Approved by ALL

Greg- I wonder if we should approve the signing of the contract with Soderstrom. Instead of waiting, now it is just a proposal.

Motion to approve a Long-Range Facility Plan contract signing with Soderstrom Architects Ltd. Up to 25K- Approved by ALL

Sarah- Let's be considerate about the language moving forward that we aren't building a new building and letting everyone know what is happening.

Nathalie- Yes, that may alert some people.

Greg- No, we are not building a new building.

Sarah- Will you send an email or put it in the weekly?

Greg- Yes once the contract is signed.

Search for new board members:

Nathalie- Let's be on the lookout for new members. Keep putting our feelers out there as opportunities arise.

New agenda item:

Nathalie- Added an agenda item for public record. To clarify some information with the board regarding Middle School parents about the board's discussion on the ELA Curriculum. Someone said that they should relay feedback to the board. Just for the public to know, the board is not discussing the ELA curriculum. We approved it last year. If there is any reason for us to discuss it,

based on our policies or if Greg brings it to the board to make changes then we will do that, but right now we are not making comments.

Public Comment: None

Updates:

Budget:

Tory- Money Market= \$863,752.56

Checking=\$411,277.59

We collected \$397. Interest

Things look as anticipated. Once we agree on a Architect proposal we will burn through some of that money. There are some payments outstanding for the covered area so we are under budget as of now.

Budget Meeting- We had our first meeting and looked at big picture where things are at. We are going to get a little over 7% from the state. The cost of lining COLA estimate is over 8% so what we are getting from the state is not matching with inflation. We have the 7% we need to do something for the teachers and the bus situation.

Greg- I talked to the teachers in the leadership team and they are very open. We know that social security is 8%, inflation is high, and we can't go over the 7% which isn't sustainable. They have set their salaries for 3 years. They did a 4% last year like we did. They are doing 4% last year 3% this year.

Sarah- Is that a conversation we have in the future or is that Greg?

Tory- The majority of the budget goes into the salary and Greg lets the committee know the starting point, now we can do projections to see what that will look like. Then we will bring that to the board and choose what it will look like with this set of percentage or that percentage.

Greg- Our staff work 90% of the OC School districts days so we pay that amount of the O.C. teachers. They don't have the same benefits package, but PERS is right. We get a set amount per student. IEP is counted as a double student. The teacher fund and an ESSER will be gone. Student improvement funds are yearly this year 130k. Teacher retention fund is gone now.

Safety Committee:

Lanyards are in and custom.

Night Hawk people have been in and made improvements. Classrooms now have panic buttons press and hold. It will call the fire department. They are in the same location in every room.

Facilities:

Appraisal for the land in the back says \$3,400 and Greg sent the appraisal to Gary. They looked at the current use of the property instead of what it could be. Greg has not heard back from them.

Greg met with electric gate guys and fence guys. Closing date for bids will be on March 23rd.

Tory- Are we still using the front for overflow parking? Will we need a 2nd gate?

Greg- Yes, we are still using the overflow parking and No we won't need a 2nd gate.

Fundraising:

Lissa – There are no new updates. The auction is coming along, working with Parent Council on Jogathon date. Peace, Love and Pancake is this Friday.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: 7:48pm