SPRINGWATER ENVIONMENTAL SCIENCES SCHOOL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MEETING MINUTES**

June 12, 2023

6:00pm

Held at Springwater Environmental Sciences School

16491 S. Springwater Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045

And via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIqduqtqjwjE9cCBYlevXzzFAc21GelGSiy>

**Call to Order:** 6:07pm

**Members Present:** Tina Marquez, Jessica Henrickson, Cinda Scott, Sarah Head, Lissa Hettervig, Nathalie Doherty, Tory Blackwell (6:10pm)

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Greg Mylet

**Staff Present:** Jen Wozinak, Tony Miceli

**Community Present:** Katrina Rector, Anna Murray, Eric Bruckbauer, Andy Edmundson

**Motion to approve May 17, 2023, Board meeting minutes- Approved by ALL**

**\***Nathalie notes that this agenda will be fluid and flexible as people join us to do their presentations in 15-minute intervals.

**Tony Miceli (Springwater counselor) Presentation:**

End of the year assessment, sharing data and how he serves the community as the school counselor. Using ASCA (American School Counselor Association) model and framework. Tony shares screen-

Report Summary-

Students’ mental health, which includes their ability to cope with their problems and work cooperatively with others and regulate their emotions, is key to their individual success and achievements in school.

Primary goal- to address the social and emotional need of students with evidence-based practice through the guidance of ASCA (American School Counselor Association) model and framework. Groups and curricula are also designed to address our student’s primary needs while meeting the ASCA national standards.

Tony- I keep in mind equity for all, I provide lessons with all grades, recognizing stressors and provide several ways to manage. I took a student survey- to determine which lessons students found to be most beneficial or most enjoyable. Tony shares pie graft to illustrate his results.

Tony also provides individual and group sessions with all grades. And the focus is to get the students to self-reflect on self-thoughts, how is it impacting them, how is it impacting others? How can he provide ways to help and to connect resources to kids or the teachers.

Trends- This year there is a larger increase of students with ADHD diagnosis, Tony is focusing on how to better support specifically those with ADHD.

Goals for next year- mindfulness training. Tony surveyed the teachers and the students and provided grafts to show results. Staff suggested he provide strategies he uses with students at the beginning of the weekly Wednesday staff meeting. Also provide feedback to help Tony structure the lessons and check-ins for next year.

**Katrina Rector/Potential Board Candidate-**

Parent of Ruby 4th grade and Neva 2nd grade. Katrina is passionate about parents’ needs in the community. Is very reliable- Has lots of volunteering hours in. She is a problem solver and has a strong work ethic and is good at communication. Her kids have been home schooled for 2 years and are very excited to be at Springwater at a place that prioritizes imagination. She loves the nature experience at Springwater and the volunteerism. Although would love to see more of a volunteer push. She wants to make sure all kids have the best school experience possible. Being at the school regularly makes her appreciate all that the teachers do; she likes the teacher’s dedication and collaboration. Katrina wants to coordinate with Oregon City School Board and wants to be involved every step of the way. She feels she has a good relationship with the community and students and sees the potential at Springwater to help along the way. She is grateful for what Springwater has brought to her family.

**Fundraising Update-** 16K- Jog-a-thon, which means 100k raised so far this year. Last year Jog-a-thon raised 12K.

**Eric Bruckbauer/Potential Board Candidate**- Eric reads his letter of intent. His kids are Ari (4th grade) and Ruby (1st grade) he and his wife first applied in kindergarten and was delighted when both kids got in and feel lucky to be part of the Springwater community. Eric is glad Springwater offers care for the environment, teaches kindness, where the students are not just a number but where the teachers and staff build personal relationships with each student. Each of my kids has had emotional growth and personal growth. Eric has attended nearly every FFS and loves the wonderful, wooded area that makes Springwater so special. Eric appreciated the way in which Springwater and the board navigated COVID and appreciated the leadership of the board and teachers regarding it. During the pandemic Eric attended several board meetings and shared their family’s thoughts on the issues. Eric felt the board listened and heard and he wants to be on the board because he understands the importance of the board and the school having a positive impact on his family and the community. He has professional experience with non-profit fundraising and grant writing experiences. He also runs a Conscious Fathering class which he has taught for over 10 years.

**Facilities Update-**

Oregon City put out an RFP (request for proposals), Greg spoke to the principal at Cascade Heights, and they are going after it. We should strongly encourage them to include us (Springwater) in the grant writing. Please let us be involved, we need money to do safety upgrades and we need X $ or %. Greg is meeting with the super intendant Dayle very soon. Greg will do all the maps of former students that would be likely to say yes to a bond measure and encourage and follow up. We will need to let families know this bond measure is coming up and we are not involved. Nathalie can go with Greg if needed. We will need to figure out how much per month per household this amount would be.

**Melly Murphy/Potential Board Candidate-**

Melly feels her assets are that she has a disconcertment, big picture visioning possibilities, a strong practicality, and out of the box thinking. She is passionate about the mission statement of Springwater in particular the dedication to the Environmental aspects of the school and helping to raise ethically environmental children. She likes the way Springwater can be a safe haven for our children to grow and nurtures each child and how they each get individual attention. She is very passionate that each child gets the support and appreciation that each is innately owed. What else do we want to know? She has been thinking of applying for a while now and feels called to do my best to help the school grow, to support the school and its continued awesomeness. Melly has two kids at Springwater- Axel (1st grader) and Lotty (6th grader).

**Soderstrum meeting update-**

3-4 parents met, with 3 teachers, 5 kids. Jim, Sarah, Greg, and Troy to name a few. Sarah appreciates the process with Soderstrum in particular the skilled facilitation especially with kids. They discussed Hot Topics, Priorities, and dreams. Safety, Middle School, Staff bathroom, library, bigger public space yet more private spaces as well. The covered area vs Gym has no connection between the two, also no open natural lighting. Troy- Dreaming Big. Jen- They had quality listing skills discussed picnic tables and the Amphitheater.

Sarah- They felt like people who create spaces vs just people who build buildings.

**Andy Edmundson/Potential board candidate –**

Has 2 kids, a 6th grader and a 3rd grader and has been at Springwater 4 years. What do I bring to Springwater? Since 2012 have worked in senior leadership roles with human resources businesses. Andy has good listing and reasoning skills. He thinks it is important that the community feels heard and keeps in mind decisions that the board makes need to re affirm the school’s mission statement. Andy has a desire to give back and has volunteered with P.E., service days and Andy is looking to give back to the community and is passionate that every child gets more environmental education and is inspired that the teachers choose to be here. Andy has served as several workplace guest lecturers regarding employer branding. He believes Springwater to be an attractive, creditable, and sustainable school. Andy can vision sharing stories and highlighting what makes Springwater special. Andy has is also the chair of a group of the Boy scouts of America or BSA, where he attends regular board meetings and is familiar with the regular cadence of meetings.

**Budget Update:**

Treasurer Tory Blackwell reads the bank statements.

Checking account- $556,266.73

Money Market account- $864,058.28

We continue to get a great interest rate, currently $448.00. Budget-wise we are being conservative; we have student success act $120,000 under budget but we have not paid the architect yet and salary. We saved $6,000. On the Auction this year vs last. We will need to keep an eye on voting for state services; we may be able to get some money back for maintenance of services (student investment act) we don’t want money to be taken away from the SIA or diverting some funds.

Greg- Budget wise we do have the bus situation. Greg met with the transportation people there is a process to do a study then they decide. The district has committed to 2 buses if canceled then we pivot and figure it out. We would ask for 87% vs the current 85% we get from the state to offset some of the cost. August is when we signed our 5-year agreement with O.C. school district then in October we were blindsided by the transportation issue. Otherwise, we would have changed the language form may provide transportation vs must provide transportation. Maybe we should proactively draft a letter and have people send it to the district. Greg will meet with Michael Sweeten, the director of facilities, soon.

Tory- The Oregon City school board meetings are not at CCC. The next one is August 10th.

Nathalie- Our next meeting is scheduled for July 12th.

**Chris Sugg/Potential Board Candidate-**

Nathalie reads Chris’s letter as he was on a plane and unable to attend the meeting. Chris has two kids at Springwater, a 5th grader, and a 3rd grader. He has managed a large organization for many years and is passionate about science, the environment, and the student teacher ratio at Springwater.

**Stand at Ease- 7:43pm**

**Return to Open Session- 7:51pm**

**Principals Report-**

* Habitat Project sharing
* Predator/prey
* Jog-a-thon
* 8th grade promotion
* Tentative 2023-2024 goals
* Transportation update

Habitat project sharing- Each grade demonstrates their learning of a habitat, based upon standards that overlap K-8th. For example, a First grader made a diorama, and Forth graders made maps based upon data collected. Some groups were more engaged than others with habitat sharing. Next time we will have teachers walk around to see each other’s work, creating a through line and finding meaning.

8th grade promotion was awesome! The community celebrated the graduates meaningfully, current, and former teachers were able to join Mr. Jon, Mrs. Ray, etc. Good vibes were felt all around. Titan’s mom took amazing photos!

Tentative 2023-2024 Goals

Teaching and Learning Goals

1. Teaching and Learning Goals
   1. Literacy
      1. All students (grade K-8) who were on an “urgent intervention" status in STAR assessment will make at least a year and a half of reading progress during the 24-25 school year.
   2. Curriculum integration
      1. Middle School teachers will be able to integrate literacy and science for at least one unity during the 2023-2024 school year.
      2. And the school board by May 1st, 2024
   3. Differentiation (TAG and all levels)
      1. Using students’ work and assessment data in PLC’s.
      2. Using assessment data and classwork to determine interventions and challenges for students.
      3. Depth of knowledge investigation and strategies
2. Engagement
   1. All teachers will use strategies of student engagement (Socratic, seminars, partner, talk, group discussions protocols) in every classroom.
   2. Milestone projects at each grade level
      1. By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, each grade level will have identified and established one “milestone” project for that grade level.
   3. Science curriculum adaptation
      1. Form a committee to review and evaluate science curriculum for possible adoption for grades K-5. Have a recommendation for the staff by Spring 2024.
3. Behavior and Expectations
   1. Staff will create and implement an organizational system (flow chart, etc.) to provide clarity around responses to behaviors in the school… Summer 2023.
   2. Staff will develop and communicate clear and consistent classroom norms.
   3. Staff will use circles as a practice to revisit and respond to individual and classroom behaviors related to norms.
   4. Students and staff will identify increasing feelings of safety, positive classroom management and positive interactions with peers and students. Survey grades 3-8 as compared to 2022-2023 data.
   5. Students who are chronically absent or tardy meet with a teacher, counselor, or principal to discuss things that may be getting in the way of coming to school. Parents will also be followed up with….
4. Equity
   1. Springwater will conduct an equity audit and use the findings from this audit to determine areas for action and improvement. -Summer 2023
   2. Our school equity committee will create an equity lens practices and decision-making processes.

\*Jen is working with a person to take it to the staff in August.

**Public Comment**: None

Discussion about all potential board candidates-

Nathalie- We currently have 7 members our Bi laws state we can go up to 9 members.

If we bring on 5 new members all at once 5 maybe leaving at the same time.

Tory- Could you have 2 non-voting members?

Sarah- I hesitate to bring in a type of resentment or strange feelings if “members” could not vote. We talked about it before, did we make a definitive decision regarding how many members?

Nathalie- No

Nathalie- If we went back to 9 members that would be onboarding 5 new members.

Cinda- I agree, it didn’t feel much different changing from 9 to 7 but bringing in 5 new members does feel like a lot and however maybe not everyone will stick around for their full 5 years.

Sarah- That would be a culture shift, the new would outweigh the “old”.

Lissa- All 5 have a lot to bring to the table, it is especially exciting to see people with younger students.

Greg- How many years is the term?

Nathalie- 5 years, that is what is in our Bi-laws.

Greg- Wow that feels like a long term, I didn’t realize so 9 members vs 7 members, what are the pros and cons?

Nathalie- More people so we aren’t as worried about making quorum. Pro- more hands to take on assignments and take on work that is more interesting to 9 different people. Different ideas, only 4 of us will be left. I do sincerely worry about having 5 new people all learning at the same time.

Jessica- Why 7/9 why not 8?

Nathalie- We don’t want equal numbers as we may need a tie breaker for voting.

Lissa- 9 does make meetings take longer; we have more opinions.

Cinda- To recap, sounds like for all those reasons above we should keep a 7-member board for this year and you guys can assess as time goes on in the future.

Lissa- Agreed

Sarah- We want our new members to have a strong foundation, I still feel new myself.

Tory- We aren’t saying all 5 aren’t great candidates, we literally can’t support 5 new members at this time, without putting you in an awkward position. We want the board to be strong and successful.

Nathalie- Yes, we don’t want a frustrated mass exit.

Tina- Life does happen and change, if a board member needs to leave before their 5-year term is up, they are allowed to, if they state a dramatic change in life or work.

Greg- Instead of having uncomfortable discussions about each candidate. Let’s take a vote. Before you do let’s think about each candidate and what you are looking for in a candidate. We want people with a lot of experience, we want to represent a variety of experience and different backgrounds.

Greg- We can vote several ways highest to lowest ranking, check boxes, tally marks etc. I will run a copy of each candidate’s names listed for each board member to vote.

Sarah- I would like to have the opportunity to invite anyone to share anything about each candidate, positive or negative. If someone feels strongly about anyone, please speak up.

Nathalie- For future candidate seeking, I think it was helpful to hold listening sessions and have a Q&A. Having our ask in the weekly newsletter and all of us board members reaching out to people whom we thought would be good candidates. It was a group effort.

Board members vote unanimously on a piece of paper for their top 3 candidates and hands it to Nathalie (board chair) Nathalie Talley’s up votes and top 3 candidates will be offered a position on the board.

Nathalie reads the results- We will be offering the following people a seat on the Springwater Board of directors. In no particular order.

Andy Edmundson

Melly Murphy

Chris Sugg

We will invite the other candidates to apply again next year.

Jen- Will invite a current staff member to join her for her board liaison position. Perhaps someone would like to share the role with her and or shadow her for a year then take on the role the next?

**Adjourn: 8:41pm**