SPRINGWATER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES SCHOOL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MEETING AGENDA**

August 16, 2023

6:00pm

Held via Zoom

**Call to Order:** 6:03pm

**Members Present:** Nathalie Doherty, Sarah Head, Jessica Henrickson, Chris Sugg, Melly Murphy, Andy Edmundson

**Members Absent:** Lissa Hettervig

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

**Community Present:** None

\*Melly will not be on camera due to medical reasons, but will listen and participate.

First item of business is swearing in new board members. Chris Sugg, Melly Murphy and Andy Edmundson were sworn in.

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 12, 2023, MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED BY ALL**

**Voting on Board Officials**

**MOTION TO APPROVE SARAH HEAD AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD – APPROVED BY ALL**, **except Sarah who abstained**.

**MOTION TO APPROVE CHRIS SUGG AS TREASURER OF THE BOARD – APPROVED BY ALL, except Chris who abstained.**

**MOTION TO APPROVE JESSICA HENRICKSON AS SECRETARY OF THE BOARD – APPROVED BY ALL**, **except Jessica who abstained.**

**Schedule Visioning Session for Board Goals**

Sarah said we should schedule the visioning session after the architects who will be joining our October board meeting. The visioning session meeting will take place on November 2nd at 6pm. Nathalie would like to add an agenda item to look at last year’s goal at the September meeting. We will set a date to meet with staff and bring food. Nathalie would like to meet with the staff after we determine the Board Goals. Nathalie provided examples of what prior goals were and how they were met. Sarah and Nathalie spoke about visioning sessions with teachers. We cannot have more than three board members present at one time at a staff gathering or it would be considered a meeting and we would need to comply with public meeting laws. We will further plan this event after our vision session in November.

**Principal Report**

**Calendar Update Recommendation: Early Release**

Greg said that Summer school was a blast. We had 180 kids in attendance. We had 18 former Springwater students work as counselors. It was free for everyone. The school is full for next year. We need to continue to consider how we increase the number of Middle School students choosing to stay at Springwater.

Greg put out a survey to staff regarding early release. Wednesday early release at 2:15pm still works best for staff. No need for a vote. Nathalie commented that putting a public survey out gives others false hope that we will be changing the time, so she doesn’t recommend doing that.

**SpEd Hiring by OCSD Update**

Greg said that the district will be hiring our 1.5 FTE (Free and Appropriate Education) learning specialists and our 2-6 hr/day Instruction Assistants. We both looked at the charter agreement and this relationship is spelled out in the agreement. Services will not look much different. Kris, Kristin, Tara and Julia will be hired by the district. It won’t cost anything, but we will need to adjust the budget and the board will need to adjust those changes. Andy asked does this make them union employees? Greg said yes. Greg said that we are overstaffed, and we did it intentionally. Our model is different than OC because we are K-8th. It is possible that OC might change the learning specialist staff amount. Nathalie asked if we had a choice in this? Greg said no we don’t have a choice. Nathalie asked why the IA’s are included? Greg said they help with Special Education. Chris Sugg asked if there is anything we can do to let the parents impacted by this know about the changes. Greg said yes. The kids will not see any changes. Greg mentioned to OCSC that we will need to be included in the hiring. Nathalie asked if they could move hours and move staff to a different school and give us someone else? If so, would Greg be involved in this? Greg said yes that could happen and yes, he would be involved. Staff impacted are worried about cuts at the end of the year and learning the nuts and bolts of the school district. Nathalie stated that we have been pushing for years to get more help in the classroom and it would be so disappointing if this were reduced. Greg said that we will not be able to negotiate this one. Nathalie asked about the budget concerns and Greg said no and might balance out in our favor. Chris asked if we could make certain they don’t miss a paycheck. Greg said that he is working to get them set up and transitioned properly. The new family leave act may apply to one employee. Nathalie said we just want the best for the staff impacted and the children with the IEPs.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public were present at this time. No public comment.

**Lottery Adjustment**

Greg said this isn’t something to vote on tonight. Our current practice is to redraw every year, for example, the person that may have started as 13th on the wait list then gets to 3rd place and then must redraw each year. It makes it impossible for someone that really wants to go to Springwater to get in. Sarah asked if there were any legalities to make this change. Greg said we just need to notate it well. Sarah asked if we could run this change through the charter lady. Nathalie said that we just need to have a lottery, but we can dictate how it is done. Chris thinks this will be great for our community and allow the parents that really want to be here, be here. Melly loves this idea. Greg said that we can vote on this next meeting. Greg said that we will need to update our policies. Nathalie said that this is a good opportunity to view our policies again and then add our changes. Greg mentioned the possibility of a weighted lottery and Nathalie said she will reach out to Kristin Miles regarding this issue. We will put this item back on the agenda.

**Board Member Pictures and Bios for Website**

Nathalie asked the board members for a picture and a bio ahead of the next board meeting so that she can upload them to the webpage.

**Board Member Locations**

Nathalie mentioned the previous ideas mentioned. Andy called Beavercreek and Redland Grange and the fee is $30/hour or $250 for the year. Nathalie said that the purpose is to be closer to other members of the public. We are waiting to hear back from Clackamas Community College. Melly mentioned libraries that were open until 8pm: Gladstone, Milwaukie and Happy Valley. Nathalie said that we have options so we will continue to talk about that. We will meet in person at Springwater on September 20th. Nathalie will not be able to attend the next meeting. Chris will need to join virtually. We can move the meeting as well which Nathalie will give it some thought.

**Updates**

**Facilities**

Greg had another meeting with the architects. They came back with some refinements that were reasonable and exciting. They were a stretch, but a doable stretch. Sarah said there will be a lot of options on how to move forward and give us the amount of money we will need to raise. October will be the next meeting. Greg mentioned that a lot of the ideas surrounded structural fixes, but also dreaming big.

Greg said the decks were fixed. Gate and fence will be up once school starts which might be surprising. The front door will be the only way to get into the school. Preschool were walking through the gate so they will have to do something differently now. Greg is hoping the community day will be a success and fun.

**Fundraising**

Greg said the auction will be held on May 3rd at the same place.

**Budget**

The savings and checking account balances are in the board packet. Chris Sugg is looking forward to learning about the budget process and meeting with Greg.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public were present at this time. No public comment.

**Adjourn at 7:33pm**