

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

3/A Special Meeting of the Lane County School District No. 19 Board of Education was held on August 25, 2016.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Board Chair Jonathan Light called the Springfield Board of Education Meeting to order in the Board Room at the District Administration Center at 4:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked fellow Board members for making time in their busy schedules to attend this special Board meeting.

Attendance

Board Members present included Chair Jonathan Light, Laurie Adams, Erik Bishoff, Sandra Boyst, and Tina DeHaven.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Sue Rieke-Smith, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Michael Henry, Jenna McCulley, Brian Megert, Kevin Ricker, Suzy Price, Judy Bowden, Anne Goff, Tim Stephens, Jim Crist, Greg James, Gary Cole, Laura Pavlat, Debbie Jennings, Linda Henry, Jack Moran of *The Register Guard* and Justina Coelho of NBC16.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one who wished to offer public comment

3. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mr. Light said today's meeting brought an exciting announcement. After serving the Springfield community on the Board of Education for 15 years, he tendered his resignation. This was necessary because, he was pleased to announce, he was going to become an employee of the Springfield School District in the capacity as the Career Pathways Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA). He was excited for the opportunity because he had been lobbying for more avenues for students since he had been on the Board. The Career Pathways position acknowledged that the District, the State of Oregon and the nation, hopefully, were moving in the direction of providing more avenues for students. This was the right opportunity for him at the right time, and he would be working with a fantastic team of leaders. He regretted leaving the Pleasant Hill School District as a music teacher where he has had amazing experiences, but he looked forward to his work in the Career Pathways program. The Board had accomplished a lot during his tenure on the Board, including starting the Academy of Arts and Academics (A3), providing more opportunities for kids, embracing Willamette Leadership Academy (WLA), and developing Gateways High School. The Career Pathways program offered one more opportunity to move the dial forward in a district that was uniquely poised to take advantage of the opportunity. The District had a clear vision, committed to every student excited about learning, and every student moving towards being successful and productive in the community. He thanked the Board for its statement in support of students opting out of the Smarter Balanced testing. He saw the Career Pathways position as an extension of the District's interest in doing whatever it can to serve the needs of its students. His biggest regret was stepping off the Board. He thanked Ms. Adams for the opportunity they had serving together and noted the new Board members had been phenomenal. While leaving the Board was difficult, he was excited about moving forward in a new career pathway.

Ms. DeHaven congratulated Mr. Light on the new opportunity and said she would miss his presence on the Board. She looked forward to continued updates on Career Pathways and the opportunities the program would provide the District.

Mr. Bishoff thanked Mr. Light who was a great leader and mentor. He was sorry Mr. Light was leaving the Board.

Ms. Boyst recalled Mr. Light's comment that it took so long to see progress after seeing the same policies over and over. However, in the last two years that she had worked with Mr. Light, she saw him changing things and felt the District was at a point where it was moving forward.

Dr. Rieke-Smith thanked Mr. Light for his leadership with the Board work as well as the opportunities they had had to do legislative advocacy work together. She had observed him perform under tremendous pressure while he was able to get his passion across helping with the federal discussion related to the Career Pathways issue. She was honored to have collaborated with him on education issues in his capacity as a Board member and she looked forward to working with him as a colleague in Springfield Public Schools.

Ms. Adams hated to see Mr. Light leave. They had worked together for many years and had always been able to communicate with each other. She wished him the best in his new endeavor. She was thrilled when she learned that Mr. Light had accepted the position. She called for a motion to accept Mr. Light's resignation.

Motion: Ms. DeHaven moved, seconded by Mr. Bishoff, that the Board accept Mr. Light's resignation from the Springfield School Board of Education. The motion carried 4-0-1, with Ms. Adams, Mr. Bishoff, Ms. Boyst and Ms. DeHaven voting in favor of the motion, and Mr. Light abstaining.

Ms. Adams stated the Oregon School Board Association had indicated that a Board position was not vacant until the Board member was no longer on the Board. Therefore, Mr. Light's resignation was effective today. She said the Board needed to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair, either today or it could wait until the new Board member was appointed. The public would be notified that Mr. Light had resigned and that the Board was accepting applications. The Board would interview applicants and appoint a new Board member on September 12, 2016. She was willing to serve as Chair until elections on September 12 or the Board could elect a new Chair today. She noted consensus by Board members to wait until September 12 to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Adams noted she was interested in serving as the Chair.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Ms. Adams adjourned the meeting at 4:20 pm.

(Minutes recorded by Linda Henry)