MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF

SPARTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #140

RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS,

HELD AT SPARTA LINCOLN SCHOOL

IN SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT AT 7:00 P.M.

ON THE 14th DAY OF DECEMBER 2023

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Angela Craig and upon the roll being called, Angela Craig and the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Mekalia Cooper, Jennifer Morgan, Ryan Pillers, Heather Price and Rob Soderlund. Absent: Corey Rheinecker. Others present were: Superintendent Chris Miesner; Recording Secretary Tina Witherby; Principals Scott Beckley. Kelly Carpenter and Lynda Loesing; and members of the staff, community and press (*County Journal*).

President Angela Craig led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

With no public comment requests for open session, the meeting continued.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023, regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the Bills, Payroll, Cash Flow and Fund Balances as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024, at Sparta Lincoln School at 7 p.m.

Sparta High School Principal Scott Beckley reported the sound system and lights have been completed in the new gymnasium. Landscaping is supposed to be done by Christmas. The vocational building is almost repaired. A walk-through will be done next week. Mr. Beckley has been working on the Science teacher situation for second semester.

Principal Kelly Carpenter reported the Evansville Attendance Center Christmas concert was amazing. A Positive Power Party was held for 22 students. There was a K-8 competition and a second-grade student won. The girls played an exhibition game last week for basketball. There were 11 girls playing with 8 cheerleaders. The Love Abby organization donated coats and other things to the school. The Randolph County Sheriff’s Office provided Shop with a Cop for Evansville students in need.

Sparta Lincoln School Principal Lynda Loesing recognized Fall sports. Softball finished 15-5 and were 4th in the state. This is the first Class L state trophy at Sparta Lincoln School. The team members were: Britton Miller, Maddisyn Mueller, Madilyn Pierce, Kyra Claybourn, Nora Pickering, Callie Buch, Ellaina Buch, Kataleya Claybourn, Madison Sternberg, Mollie Soderlund, Kaylee Gerlach, Addy Zang, Hailey Heller, Maddi Craig, Paige Smith, Emma Stork, Quyn Glodo, Alana Ethington and Loralye Pickering. The coaches are Zac Drumwright, Regina Heller and Nick Stork.

The girls’ cross-country team won the Sparta Invitation meet and Conference Championship. They placed 11th at state. The team members were: Leah Coop, Paige Smith, Melany Baird, Callie Buch, Zoe Peck, Abigail Wilson, Christina Wilson, Jaeda Yarbrough, Britton Miller and Rebecca Ayala. The coaches are Andrea Pillers and Eric Montroy.

The boys’ cross-country team won the first regional championship in school history. They finished 9th at state. The team members were: Camden Allard, DJ Hayes, Wyatt Peck, William Haynes, Logan Sternberg, Ronin Bradshaw, Landon Hernandez, Parker Klausing, Hayden Montroy, Leo Ohms, James Stoops, Owen Jacobus, Lane Kordys, Lawson Kurtz and Samuel Pillers.

Superintendent Miesner emailed a survey for the strategic planning meeting. He would like everyone to complete the survey. The next steps for the meeting will be to select the team members. The meetings will start in January. There will be four meetings before the second part of the strategic planning will take place.

Holland Construction has changed project managers for the gymnasium project. They are working on getting the punch list items completed. The doors are projected to come in after Christmas and then will be installed.

Mr. Pillers asked about the status of the Dwight Fulton Gymnasium floor. Mr. Beckley answered that it will be redone in the spring. They are going to take care of it.

Mr. Miesner explained that setting the high school graduation date early will help with ordering materials and for people to make plans. This will be on the next month’s agenda.

After a review of the ending fund balances for fiscal year 2023,Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the resolution stating the aggregate amount of taxes to be levied for the year 2023 is $4,803,192, not including the Bond and Interest Levy of $949,815 and that the aggregate amount of taxes to be levied for the year 2023 does not exceed 105% of the taxes extended in the year 2022. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to authorize the letting of a $49,144 lease for the purchase of computer equipment. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to go out for bid for asphalt by the Sparta High School Vocational Building. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to go out for bid for a storage building by the Sparta High School Vocational Building. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to go out for proposals for a multi-passenger vehicle. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve two batting cages for the Sparta High School gymnasium. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to approve the Memorandums of Agreement for the Grow Your Own Program, Teacher Apprentice Program, Teacher Retention Bonus, BloomBoard Master’s Program and MA to Teach Dual Credit as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to adopt the Resolution Authorizing or Reauthorizing Participation in the Fund as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the replacement of an HVAC system at Sparta Lincoln School. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to approve a panel change out at Sparta High School. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the following policies as presented: School Board Policy #2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification; #2:110 Qualifications, Term and Duties of Board Officers; #2:120 Board Member Development; #2:200 Types of School Board Meetings; #2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure; General School Administrations Policies #3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent; Operational Services Policies #4:10 Fiscal and Business Management; #4:30 Revenue and Investments; #4:60 Purchases and Contracts; #4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds; #4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; #4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds; #4:170 Safety; General Personnel Policies #5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria; #5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; e-cigarette, Tobacco and Cannabis Prohibition; #5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; #5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct and Conflict of Interest; #5:150 Personnel Records; #5:190 Teacher Qualifications; Professional Personnel Policies #5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal; #5:210 Resignations; #5:220 Substitute Teachers; #5:250 Leaves of Absence; #5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves; Instruction Policies #6:15 School Accountability; #6:20 School Year Calendar and Day; #6:30 Organization of Instruction; #6:50 School Wellness; #6:60 Curriculum Content; #6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development; #6:230 Library Media Program; #6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program; #6:280 Grading and Promotion; Students Policies #7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools; #7:60 Residence; #7:70 Attendance and Truancy; #7:160 Student Appearance; #7:165 School Uniforms; #7:190 Student Behavior; #7:250 Student Support Services; #7:270 Administering Medicines to Students; #7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response and Management Program; #7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention; #7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security; Community Relations Policies #8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to enter into closed session at 7:23 p.m. to discuss items related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to come out of closed session at 8:13 p.m. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to approve the executive session minutes of the November 9, 2023, regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to accept the resignation of Steve McGriff as Bowling Coach at Sparta High School effective November 22, 2023. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Rob Soderlund moved, Jennifer Morgan seconded to approve Terri Menke as a full-time Paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year retroactive to November 29, 2023, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screen, along with proper licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Soderlund, Morgan, Cooper, Pillers, Price and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve a three-year contract with Jonathan Norton as Assistant Principal at Sparta Lincoln School with an annual salary of $69,000 for the 2024-2025 school year, $72,000 for the 2025-2026 school year and $75,000 for the 2026-2027 school year, along with a $5,000 annual stipend for Athletic Director. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Soderlund, Pillers, Price, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Heather Price seconded to approve a three-year contract with Kelly Carpenter as Principal at Evansville Attendance Center with an annual salary of $59,000 for the 2024-2025 school year, $62,000 for the 2025-2026 school year and $65,000 for the 2026-2027 school year, along with a $3,000 annual stipend for Athletic Director. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Price, Morgan, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to approve a three-year contract with Nathan Mayberry as Assistant Principal at Sparta Lincoln School with an annual salary of $67,500 for the 2024-2025 school year, $70,500 for the 2025-2026 school year and $73,500 for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Heather Price seconded to approve a medical leave-of-absence from December 4-26, 2023, for Sparta Lincoln School Custodian Leslie Meininger. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Price, Pillers, Soderlund, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Rob Soderlund moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to approve a leave-of-absence for student teaching for Sparta Lincoln School Paraprofessional Heather Cleveland from January 3, 2024, through April 3, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Soderlund, Cooper, Morgan, Pillers, Price and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Cooper, Soderlund, Morgan, Pillers, Price and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

JANUARY 11, 2024 PRES.

APPROVED

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