MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF

SPARTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #140

RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS,

HELD AT TILDEN COMMUNITY CENTER

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

ON THE 8th DAY OF AUGUST 2024

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

Board President Angela Craig led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

With no public comment requests, the meeting continued.

Jennifer Allard moved; Mekalia Cooper seconded to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024 regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

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

The next regular board meeting will be September 12, 2024, at 7 p.m. at Sparta Lincoln School. The IASB will hold the Southwestern Division Meeting at Sparta High School on September 25, 2024.

Sparta Lincoln School Principal Lynda Loesing reported the custodians have done a great job getting the school ready. 85% of students have already registered, which would be approximately 650 of them. The PreK teachers have done PreK screening for a day and a half this summer so those students could start school earlier. PreK is almost at full capacity. The Junior Beta Club was recognized as a 2023-2024 School of Merit because they do so much service for the school and community.

Evansville Attendance Center Principal Kelly Carpenter reported that Open House will be on Monday. The first softball game will be August 15, 2024. The first cross country meet will be at the end of August. Because of low participation, there will be no baseball at Evansville Attendance Center this year.

Principal Scott Beckley reported that the unveiling of the veterans’ monument will be September 21, 2024, at 11 a.m. They would like everyone to attend. Mr. Beckley discussed the cell phone use at the high school. He asked that the Board approved the amended handbook so cell phones need to be kept in lockers, like they are at Evansville Attendance Center and Sparta Lincoln School.

Superintendent Miesner reported that the schools are ready for the new school year to begin. Monday morning will be the staff breakfast. Strategic planning is still ongoing.

Corey Rheinecker moved; Jennifer Allard seconded to approve the FY 2025 Tentative Budget, to establish the Public Hearing on the Budget which will be held prior to the September 2024 board meeting, to publish notice of the Public Hearing and to display the FY 2025 Tentative Budget in the district office for 30 days. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Pillers, Rheinecker, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Heather Price moved; Jennifer Allard seconded to approve the 2024-2025 Risk Management Plan as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Price, Allard, Rheinecker, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to amend the 2024-2025 Student-Parent Handbook as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Pillers, Cooper and Craig. Nays: Rheinecker. Motion carried.

Students at Sparta High School will keep their cell phones in their lockers.

Jennifer Allard moved; Mekalia Cooper seconded to adopt School Board Policies #2:40 Board Member Qualifications; #2:60 Board Member Removal from Office; #2:140 Communications To and From the Board; #2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; #2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure; #2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color and National Origin Prohibited; Operational Services #4:20 Fund Balances; #4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors; #4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program; General Personnel Policies #5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; #5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited; #5:100 Staff Development Program; #5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest; Educational Support Personnel Policies #5:300 Schedules and Employment Year; Instruction Policies #6:60 Curriculum Content; #6:185 Remote Educational Program; Students Policies #7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities; #7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; #7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment; and #7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved; Jennifer Allard seconded to enter into closed session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss items related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and litigation, when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed session meeting. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Allard, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker, and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved; Jennifer Allard seconded to come out of executive session at 8:15 p.m. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Allard, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved; Heather Price seconded to accept the request of Scott Moran to rescind employment as a teacher effective July 23, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Price, Pillers, Rheinecker, and Allard. Nays: Craig. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to accept the request of Hailey Ogilvie to rescind employment as a paraprofessional effective July 25, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Mekalia Cooper seconded to accept the retirement request of Kay Buch as Payroll/Insurance Clerk effective December 31, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to accept the resignation of Victoria Cripps as Paraprofessional at Sparta Lincoln School effective August 6, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Jacob Wente as a Full-Time Teacher for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with 2 years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Alexis Chambers as a Full-Time Teacher for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Kimberly Greatting as a Full-Time Teacher for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with 29 years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Cooper, Price, Allard, Pillers and Rheinecker. Nays: Craig. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Austin Carpenter as a Full-Time Paraprofessional for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Tiffany Grab as a Full-Time Paraprofessional for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Caroline Harrell as a Full-Time Paraprofessional for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Dawn Bump as a Full-Time Paraprofessional for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Mekalia Cooper seconded to employ Olivia Rieckenberg as a Full-Time Paraprofessional for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Ryan Pillers seconded to employ Christopher Brooks as a Full-Time Paraprofessional for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Yeas: Allard, Pillers, Cooper, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Heather Price moved; Jennifer Allard seconded to increase the hours of Rhonda Shelton from 6-hour cook to 8-hour cook for the 2024-2025 school year. Yeas: Price, Allard, Rheinecker, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to employ Braxton Parker as a 6-hour Cook for the District for the 2024-2025 school year, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a physical and drug screening. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Abstain: Cooper. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Heather Price seconded to approve Alexis Chambers as the Head Coach for Girls’ Basketball at Sparta Lincoln School for the 2024-2025 school year. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Corey Rheinecker seconded to approve Colin Sheldon as a Volunteer Assistant Football Coach at Sparta High School for the 2024-2025 school year, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check and employment history review. Yeas: Allard, Rheinecker, Cooper, Pillers, Price and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved; Corey Rheinecker seconded to approve Larry Kurtz as a Volunteer Assistant FFA Sponsor at Sparta High School for the 2024-2025 school year, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check and employment history review. Yeas: Allard, Rheinecker, Cooper, Pillers, Price and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved; Jennifer Allard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Cooper, Allard, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 \_\_\_ PRES.

APPROVED

SEC.