

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
Thursday, April 25, 2019**

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District met at the Springfield High School Cafeteria in said Town on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. (7:00 o'clock in the evening) for the purpose of discussing the proposed school district budget, and then to be adjourned to the Riverside Middle School Gymnasium at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) on April 30, 2019 to vote by Australian ballot.

Moderator Patrick Ankuda called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge was recited by all present. This meeting is pursuant to the warning dated March 25, 2019 regarding the budget on the ballot. Moderator Ankuda then explained the rules of order and procedure for the meeting. This meeting was broadcasted live on SAPA Television. School District Budget will be voted on April 30, 2019 by Australian Ballot. The Moderator will receive only limited procedural motions.

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend THIRTY MILLION, SIX HUNDRED FORTY FIVE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,645,214), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,445 per pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.49% higher than spending for the current year. (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

The Moderator asked Superintendent Zach McLaughlin to present information regarding the budget. Dr. McLaughlin explained the 3.47% increase in expenditures; the positions that are proposed for elimination; the addition of the RMS Computer Science Teacher to the local budget that had been previously grant funded; the factors considered in determining some of the formulas of the budget numbers; and that the residential educational taxes would increase about one cent. He then shared the impact on different categories of taxpayers in the community. The information that was shared on the postcard mailer was reviewed. The State Education Fund sources were noted as well.

The Moderator then opened the meeting up for discussion and questions.

Sam Creigh, 740 Dutton District – Town and School Taxes are increasing, but property values are not. Would like to see that happening. *Was the State contribution amount change from first budget, a result of the first budget defeat?* Rick Pembroke, District CFO, answered that it was a result of more decisions coming from the State that contribute to the calculations. By the time Legislature ends their session, the amount is expected to change again. *Has the Special Education budget portion of the budget changed since the first budget presentation?* There was a full-time special educator that has been eliminated for this proposal. *Are Social Services included in the Special Education budget?* Dr. McLaughlin explained that parts of those services are included, but not everything. The School District has a collaboration with Springfield Hospital that provides 2 Social Workers, which is a savings to the District while still providing services needed to student in the schools. Mr. Pembroke shared a little more detailed list, including Occupational Therapy, Audiology, Speech Language, School Psychology, and others. *Are there any non-special ed students who are receiving these services?* Yes, there are but those are not covered in the Special Education budget. *How many Special Ed Students are there now?* Special Services Director, Kelly Ryan, shared there are about 270 students, which is just under 25% of total enrollment. Our enrollment is a little higher than others in the region, but not drastically. *Does the decline in enrollment include Special Education students who also are receiving social services? Are there similar numbers moving in as well?* The net is about 8 students this year over last year.

Garet Richardson, 63 Breezy Hill Road – Mr. Richardson asked for clarification regarding residential taxpayer contributions for the previous amount and current amount. Current year \$3,422,818, first budget \$3,599,608 for residential. For non-residential \$4,252,970 vs now \$3,856,560.

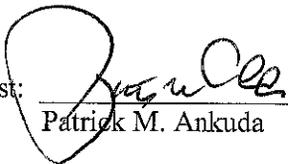
Kelly Ryan, 53 Cooper Street – *What was the increase in homeowners investment last year?* The exact number was not available at this meeting, though it was not a large increase over last year. Dr. McLaughlin also explained that the language on the ballot does not state what the local taxpayers raise, so it is confusing to voters.

Jason Phelps – 10 Jordan Road – *Mr. Phelps asked for the status on the Park Street project. Dr. McLaughlin explained that it is not a completed deal yet. The District is not the only player, and it is still moving forward. How much will the lease decrease the budget if/when that deal goes through? There is expected to be an \$80,000 savings. Regarding the student enrollment decline noted on the postcard mailer, what is the approximate number decrease? Approximately 47 students. What is the Long Range Planning for the next 6 years for student population? We are expected to be down 240 students over 10 years. The Administrators and Board are working on making changes as the enrollment declines, while still providing options.*

Hearing no further discussion, Moderator Patrick Ankuda adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. to Riverside Middle School at 8:00 a.m. on April 30, 2019 to vote by ballot on Article 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Amaya, Recording Secretary

Attest:  _____, Moderator
Patrick M. Ankuda

Attest:  _____, Chairman of the Board of School Directors
Edward F. Caron