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 9th DAY OF MAY 2024

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. 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, Corey Rheinecker and Rob Soderlund. Absent: none. Others present were: Superintendent Chris Miesner; Recording Secretary Tina Witherby; Principals Scott Beckley and Kelly Carpenter; and members of the staff, community and press (*County Journal*).

After a moment of silence for Perry “Big Daddy” Brooks and Student Tyrese Fajardo, President Angela Craig led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gail McElroy invited everyone to the flagpole on the third Thursday of each month. It starts at 7 a.m. She also asked the Board of Education to consider Sky Tree Fairs as an alternate to Scholastic because Scholastic’s books promote LGBTQ material. With no other public comment requests, the meeting continued.

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

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

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2024, at Sparta Lincoln School at 7 p.m.

Principal Kelly Carpenter reported Evansville Attendance Center will have a Field Day tomorrow, with bounce houses and other activities. Three students went to state for track. They were Kaylee Kempfer, Ella Walter and Lucas Shafer. Over 30 students received a Soar award. The students got to watch the Archery finale. She also recognized the staff at Evansville Attendance Center. They have celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with many treats.

Sparta High School Principal Scott Beckley announced the Band and Chorus concert was currently being held in the new gym. He thanked the Board for the addition. Baseball and softball regionals are next week. PSAT scores have been received. There was a balloon issue at Sparta High School last week, where balloons were popped and teachers did not know what it was. Emergency personnel were on scene within two minutes.

Superintendent Miesner thanked the staff and administration for all of their hard work. The handbooks have been updated with name changes. The student handbook had a few changes. No

food deliveries will be allowed. The attendance policy was changed from 9 days per semester to 9 days per year. Smart watches are included with cell phones. The wording on bullying was changed also due to a change in the law.

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

Registration begins in June for the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference.

First Readings were held for the 2024-2025 District Handbook, the 2024-2025 Extra-Curricular Handbook and the 2024-2025 Staff Handbook.

Teachers Amy Juhl and Rebecca Juelfs presented their recommendation for the Math curriculum for grades K-8. They are recommending Imagine Learning with Illustrative Math. There are workbooks, but no textbooks. There is an online section for parents. The price quoted is for five years and professional development for teachers to learn how to use the curriculum.

Corey Rheinecker moved, Jennifer Allard seconded to approve Math Curriculum from Imagine Learning in the amount of $134,638.60 for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Price and Soderlund. Nays: Rheinecker, Pillers and Craig. Motion carried.

The motion for the contract with GRP Wegman was tabled.

The mission statement for the district will be “Every Student Counts, Every Moment Matters.” The vision statement will be “Sparta CUSD #140 will create a learning environment that inspires every student to find their pathway to success.” The committee described the core values and goals of the District. The team will move on to action steps to determine how to reach those goals.

Rob Soderlund moved, Ryan Pillers seconded to approve the strategic plan as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Soderlund, Pillers, Allard, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: Cooper and Price. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to enter into closed session at 7:54 p.m. to discuss items related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; the setting a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public act; and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Jennifer Allard seconded to come out of closed session at 8:17 p.m. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Allard, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

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

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to accept the resignation of Morgan Clinton as Freshman Class Sponsor at Sparta High School effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to accept the resignation of Heather Wilson as Paraprofessional at Sparta Lincoln School effective August 1, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: Cooper. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to accept the resignation of Taylor Martin as Softball Coach at Evansville Attendance Center effective April 16, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to accept the resignation of Virginia Miller-Rivera as Paraprofessional at Sparta Lincoln School effective May 20, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to approve the request to rescind the employment of Elizabeth Kremer as Special Education Teacher at Sparta High School effective April 25, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to accept the resignation of Renee Baue-Lee as Paraprofessional at Sparta High School effective May 20, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to accept the resignation of Bethany Peters as Kindergarten Teacher at Sparta Lincoln School effective May 20, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to accept the retirement request of Roseann Bierman as Cook at Sparta Lincoln School effective August 1, 2024 . Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to accept the resignation of Isaac Luthy as a Volunteer Assistant Football Coach at Sparta High School effective May 8, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers, Price, Rheinecker and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to employ Megan Greenhill as a full-time Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon proper licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to employ Heather Cleveland as a full-time Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year with no years of experience, subject to and contingent upon proper licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to employ Traci Etling as a full-time Teacher 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 licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to approve Marie Russell as Cross Country Coach at Evansville Attendance Center for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to approve William Powell as the Cross Country Coach at Sparta High School for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Heather Price seconded to approve Paige Russell as the Musical/Dramatic Director for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Price, Cooper, Pillers, Rheinecker, Soderlund 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, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

JUNE 13, 2024 PRES.

APPROVED

SEC.