

# SPEED S.E.J.A. #802

## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting  
SPEED Governing Board  
Zoom Teleconference  
7:00 p.m.

August 24, 2023

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bean called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

On roll call the following answered present: Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153; Ms. Christina Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Brandi Jackson-Williams, District 168; Ms. Sonja Jenkins-Brown, District 172; Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. Samuel Lawrence, District 169; Ms. Katherine Kelly, District 170; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; Dr. Kristine Rucker-Morrow, District 227 and Mr. Christopher Riedel, District 233.

Dr. Halliman, Superintendent was present as well as the following SPEED Staff: Ms. Brenda Murillo, Director of Business and Finance; Ms. Sonya Douglas, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Antonia Hill, Director of Programs and Services, Mr. Joe Kekelik, Director of Building and Grounds; Mr. Greg Furgason, Technology Director; Principals, Ms. Nicole Johnson, Ms. April Spencer, Dr. Casandra Holliday and Assistant Principals, Mr. Kevin Johns, Ms. Antoinette Williams and Ms. Stacy and Program Supervisors, Ms. Sue Janacek, Ms. Amina Payne, Ms. Kijai Moreland, Ms. Marketta Green

Also present: Mr. Eric Grodsky, Attorney from Petrarca, Gleason Boyle & Izzo, LLC

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Renada Hardy, Union President; Chemonte Peppers, Rhonda Glover, Jennifer Carroll, Michelle Dunlap, Karen Carter, Angela Campbell, Michelle Williams, Shakita Dixon, Lakesha Hall, and Liz Gebbia

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Administrative Retreat – July 23-26, 2023**

Dr. Halliman shared with the Board that we began the school year with our Administrative Retreat and as in the past, we kicked off our retreat with a workshop by Garrick Podgorski from ISC4 on Leading with Collective Efficacy.

Dr. Halliman also shared that there were presentations on the recruitment process, preventing data breaches, safety planning and threat assessment exercises and school improvement plans. Dr. Halliman reviewed our district goals, leadership academy topics that we will have this year and our principals and some of our program supervisors presented as well.

We had two great teambuilding exercises, Puttshack and Activate. Activate is centered around team leadership by identifying team members strengths and weaknesses to work collaboratively to garner points.

### **Opening Institute Days – August 10 – 11, 2023**

Dr. Halliman stated that the full week was busy beginning with Substitute training on Monday, Bus Training on Tuesday and New Teacher Orientation on Wednesday. Teacher Institute Days were Thursday and Friday.

Our new theme for 2023-2024 is "It's Our Time to Shine". Dr. Halliman shared that she briefly spoke about our theme on Opening Day explaining that all of our previous themes were highlighted as stairsteps to our 2023-2024 theme, "It's Our Time to Shine".

Our keynote speaker was L. Kobie "Da Wiz" Wilkerson who spoke on Cultivating Accountability with Love. There were various breakout sessions, and all employees went to training on Mandated Reporting and Harassment. There was also safety training and training on various programs.

### **ISBE Webinar**

Dr. Halliman stated that she shared with the Superintendent's at the Operating Committee meeting that ISBE will be hosting on September 6, 2023, an especially important webinar for the Directors of Special Education within the member districts. The information has been forwarded to them. ISBE has instituted a new accountability system where SPED departments are graded annually. We had a number of districts represented in the room today that fell in the "Needs Assistance" category. Some of them were just under the monitoring. They are pro-active and will host a seminar on how to avoid being in these predicaments.

### **PRESENTATION – ESY RECAP**

Ms. Sue Janacek, Program Supervisor

This year we had a total of 206 students enrolled. This number reflects growth from the previous years, especially since COVID.

Ms. Janacek shared that the theme for ESY this year was "Summer in Bloom" which tagged on to the theme we had during the past school year, Blooming with Grace. This is also an extension of last year's theme, "Gardening, It's Not Easy Being Green." Summer in Bloom is so much more than gardening, it allowed the students to bloom in many talent areas.

The theme consisted of core curriculum ELA, Math, SEL in addition to exploration and theme activities based on various categories. New this year was physical exploration. Also, our ESY has a theme of STEM or STEAM to it to give the children a lot of hands-on experiences.

Ms. Janacek gave a wide overview of the summer activities and learning. She stated that supports were in place to ensure that IEP Goals were continuing to be met over the summer. One of the supports was student logs. This was something that was started during the pandemic, but it does enable the classroom teams to collect data rapidly and have it centralized so that when it comes time for report cards and progress notes at the end of the summer, all of the data is available.

Ms. Janacek stated that there were a lot of activities which included classroom kits for the student to raise butterflies. There was a butterfly release day as well. Our Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Joe Kekelik worked with the students on dye-tying shirts. There were two

different kinds of planting activities which were Hydroponic Gardening made out of 2-liter pop bottles and also little pots where each classroom grew flowers. There were also art projects which included coffee filter bouquet art.

The field trips included the Independence students going to Kidzone. The ALL Program did a garden center trip. Everyone had an opportunity to go outside and participate in a scavenger hunt for garden items. Coach Jesse Glover worked one week with each program during the summer for physical fun activities.

This summer we had our first field day at the end and Coach Glover did a lot of activities at the end as well. We also had the very first Juneteenth Celebration at SPEED. We had cellist Kaillie Holliday and a presentation by Independence student Julie Newman.

Finally, Ms. Janacek stated that the children enjoyed the virtual field trip to the Zoo during the pandemic, so we included this activity again this year. The little ones explored seals and the older students got to see sharks. They were able to interact with the zookeepers and talk about the animals.

### **PRESENTATION – Proposed 2023-2024 Budget**

Ms. Brenda Murillo, Director of Business and Finance

Ms. Murillo shared a PowerPoint presentation with the board which shared a breakdown of revenue sources which were:

- Local Funds            81%
- State                      08%
- Federal Funds        11%.

New this year, SPEED was awarded \$8,850 from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for Independence and ELC. \$3,500 was awarded from the local food for school funding to be shared districtwide.

Ms. Murillo stated that for our expenditures, this school year's salary and benefits makes up 69% of the budget, purchased services makes up 24%, increases per line item in this area vary from 15% to 20% to existing renewals. The increase also includes a budget for more contractual positions such as SLP, Social Workers, Case Managers and Psych. Supplies and Materials make up 5% of the budget and Capital Outlay and Non-Capitalized Equip each make up less than 1% of the budget.

Ms. Murillo stated that SPEED is proposing a \$22,188,010 budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Dixon questioned that the insurance cost is so high? Ms. Murillo stated that for HMO there is a 5.5% increase and for PPO there is a 2% increase. Mr. Dixon asked if these are going out for bid or are we just going with the same thing? Ms. Murillo shared that she is starting the Insurance Committee meetings in September, and we do have another insurance provider that is coming to present to us.

Ms. Vlietstra – regarding the ESSER funding and anything that is being paid through ESSER funds...when are those funds going to expire? Ms. Murillo stated that the ESSER funding is expiring at the end of September 2023. It was in three buckets which had very definite rules about how the funds could be used. We chose not to use it for salaries but for the ESY sign-on bonuses.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **Budget Summary**

Ms. Murillo reported that at the end of July 2023, we have received under 1% of our revenues and expended 4% of the budget. The FY24 Membership Dues invoices were mailed on July 24<sup>th</sup> and the Administrative Cost invoice was emailed on July 25<sup>th</sup>. ESY Billing will be sent out at the end of September along with the first month of tuition billing.

The Business Office will host IMRF member information meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and a TRS member information meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Both events will be held in the Independence Gym here at SPEED. The invites will be shared beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>.

SPEED reached Tier II in EBC's Wellness program and received \$5,279 for participating in wellness activities. Some of the things we did were host fitness activities, host a flu shot event and a Biometric Wellness screening. The goal for the upcoming year is to reach Tier III to double the incentive reward from EBC.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:32 p.m., Ms. Vlietstra, District 161 moved, seconded by Ms. King, District 206 that pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(1), Section 2(c)(10) and Section 2(c)(11) the Governing Board goes into closed session to discuss the employment, compensation, and/or performance of a specific employee of SPEED and or matters regarding students. Any items needing approval will be voted on during the open session. Collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

On roll call vote: Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153; Ms. Christina Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Brandi Jackson-Williams, District 168; Ms. Sonja Jenkins-Brown, District 172; Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U, and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. Samuel Lawrence, District 169; Ms. Katherine Kelly, District 170; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; Dr. Kristine Rucker-Morrow, District 227 and Mr. Christopher Riedel, District 233.

Nays: None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153 moved, seconded by Ms. Christina Vlietstra, District 161 that the Governing Board approve the Consent Agenda items A, B, C, D and E as presented excluding S. Nootbaar, S. Nowak and M. Ruiz.

- 7A.** Personnel Reports
- 7B.** Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2023
- 7C.** Approval of Closed Session Minutes of June 22, 2023
- 7D.** Approval of Recurring and Non-Recurring Bills for June 2023
- 7E.** Approval of Imprest and Activity Funds – June 2023

On roll call vote: Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153; Ms. Christina Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Brandi Jackson-Williams, District 168; Ms. Sonja Jenkins-Brown, District 172; Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. Samuel Lawrence, District 169; Ms. Katherine Kelly, District 170; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; Dr. Kristine Rucker-Morrow, District 227 and Mr. Christopher Riedel, District 233.

Nays: None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **10A. Budget Approval**

Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163 moved, seconded by Ms. Sonya Jenkins-Brown, District 172 that the Governing Board ratifies the FY23-24 Budget for SPEED S.E.J.A. District #802, as approved by the Operating Committee at its August 17, 2023, meeting.

On roll call vote: Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153; Ms. Christina Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Sonja Jenkins-Brown, District 172; Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Abstain: Ms. Brandi Jackson-Williams, District 168

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. Samuel Lawrence, District 169; Ms. Katherine Kelly, District 170; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; Dr. Kristine Rucker-Morrow, District 227 and Mr. Christopher Riedel, District 233.

Nays: None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **11A. Amendment to Articles of Agreement**

**Mr. Bean stated that the Superintendent has explained the process for amending the Articles of Agreement stating that it must go to the Operating Committee first.**

Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U moved, seconded by Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163 that the Governing Board table the Amendment to the Articles of Agreement until we can procedurally bring it back to the Governing Board.

On roll call vote: Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153; Ms. Christina Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Brandi Jackson-Williams, District 168; Ms. Sonja Jenkins-Brown, District 172; Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. Samuel Lawrence, District 169; Ms. Katherine Kelly, District 170; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; Dr. Kristine Rucker-Morrow, District 227 and Mr. Christopher Riedel, District 233.

Nays: None

**Mr. Bean stated that the Superintendent has informed the Board that the three individuals that were removed from the Personnel Report (Sandra Nowak, Julie Nootbaar and Melissa Rulis) had submitted their letters resignation outside of the required notification time period.**

Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U moved, seconded by Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153 that the Governing Board does not accept the resignation of Sandra Nowak, Julie Nootbaar and Melissa Rulis.

On roll call vote: Mr. Jim Schmidt, District 153; Ms. Christina Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Ms. Brandi Jackson-Williams, District 168; Ms. Sonja Jenkins-Brown, District 172; Mr. Alejandro Gallegos, District 201U and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Abstain: Mr. John Dixon, District 167

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. Samuel Lawrence, District 169; Ms. Katherine Kelly, District 170; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; Dr. Kristine Rucker-Morrow, District 227 and Mr. Christopher Riedel, District 233.

Nays: None

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Student Enrollment Report – Dr. Halliman stated for the information of the new board members that at the conclusion of every meeting the Student Enrollment document is added to the Board packet to share our enrollment numbers and Itinerant services stats which is not included because we are just getting started but will be going forward.

### **AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Ms. Michelle Williams addressed the Board with concerns that the majority of the programs are being ran by the majority of Type 39s, internal subs and daily subs. She further stated there is lack of knowledge and communication. Secondly, there are no Speech Therapists. The OT therapist that we have has not been distributed among the Satellites. No one has said anything nor has anyone been directed to share what is going on. She further shared concerns of staff shortages within the classrooms. She was concerned that those subs that they do have are limited in knowledge of data collection and this is particularly important. They (the subs) are inadequately trained. She further stated that she works with a daily sub in her classroom that is awesome, but he does not have the tools to work with the students daily. Most Type 39s have been thrown into the classrooms because there is no certified staff. She noted that there are more Type 39s and daily subs working in classrooms than we have certified staff.

She noted that the consensus has been that people are leaving education. People are leaving SPEED because of SPEED. The lack of respect, knowledge and loyalty that they do not receive from SPEED. A lot of the staff are veterans. Many have been 10-15-20 years and they do not feel respected or properly communicated to nor do they have the proper direction on how to communicate or what to communicate to the parents.

Ms. Williams shared concerns that the classrooms are filled to the max with students. She stated that she is only speaking for the program where she works, ELC.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Bean adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.



Ms. Christina Vlietstra, Secretary  
Cassandra Giles, Recording Secretary

Date: 10-26-2023



Mr. Bean, President  
SPEED Governing Board