

EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Virtual Board Meeting due to State of Emergency

Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.

Present:

Dianne Mendez, Board Chair	Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent, Admin. Ops.
Stephanie Vargas, Vice Chair	Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education
Craig Schneider, Treasurer	Michelle Sapanara, Asst. Superintendent, St. Services
Michelle Nagelvoort, Secretary	Virginia Smith, Asst. Superintendent, HR
Jason Rodriguez, Board Director	Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations
Ivo Caouette, Board Director	Trevor Johnson, Senior Director of Business
Tracey Vela, Board Director	Katherine VanLeeuwen, Senior Director of Admin. Ops
	Dave Black, Senior Director of Facilities
	Leilani Weiss, Director of Special Projects IT/Facilities
	Karl Yoder, Chief Financial Officer
	Monica Lopez, Principal

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- Ms. Mendez called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Mr. Schneider moved to approve the agenda.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

3. Action: Approval of Board Minutes from December 7, 2023

- Ms. Nagelvoort moved to approve the Board Minutes from December 7, 2023.
- Ms. Vargas seconded.

- Vote: 6 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Vargas, Vela; 1 Abstention: Schneider, 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

4. Action: Approval of Consent Agenda

- Mr. Caouette moved to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of Warrants, Personnel Action Report, School Accountability Report Card (SARC), and Contract Ratification: South Pacific.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

5. Public Comments

- None

6. Information: Superintendent's Report

- In Dr. Hermsmeyer's absence, Vivian Price reviewed the Superintendent's Report and provided network-wide updates. She highlighted our Spring into Teaching program and indicated we have several staff members currently enrolled in the program.

7. Information: Student Spotlight - Spelling Bee, History Day, and Science Fair Update

- Nikkole McAdoo featured a video highlighting recent student events including Springs' Spelling Bee, History Day and Science Fair.

8. Information: Governor's January Budget Update

- Trevor Johnson reviewed the Governor's budget update and indicated that we are monitoring closely. The Governor will release additional information in his May Revise which we will use to project funding when preparing our budgets for the upcoming year.

9. Information: First Reading of Policy 4017.1 Hardship Wage Advancement

- Trevor Johnson presented this policy and explained that the policy will create the parameters for wage advancement for employees experiencing hardships. No changes were requested, and the policy will be brought forward at the next meeting for second reading and approval.

10. Information: First Reading of Policy 4018.1 ASBs, Booster Clubs, and PTO/As

- Trevor Johnson presented this policy and explained that the policy outlines the process for our campuses to create booster clubs, ASBs and/or PTO/As. No changes were requested, and the policy will be brought forward at the next meeting for second reading and approval.

- 11. Information: 2023-24 Mid-Year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Implementation Update**
 - Katherine VanLeeuwen reviewed the Mid-Year LCAP report and answered board members' questions. Katherine explained that there will be an opportunity for us to solicit feedback from our educational partners and the annual report will be brought to the board at a future meeting.

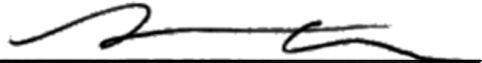
- 12. Action: Second Reading and Approval of Investment Policy - BP 4016.1**
 - Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Second Reading and Approval of Investment Policy - BP 4016.1.
 - Mr. Caouette seconded.
 - Discussion: Karl Yoder reminded the board that this policy allows us to participate in investment opportunities. It was previously brought for first reading, with no changes requested.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

- 13. Action: Approval of Change of Corporation Name 501(c)3**
 - Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Change of Corporation Name 501(c)3.
 - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
 - Discussion: Karl Yoder explained that it was necessary to change the corporation name to identify the differences between the Empire Springs Charter School (corporation), Empire Springs Charter School (charter), and Inland Empire Springs Charter School (charter).
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

- 14. Action: Approval of Auditor Selection 2023-24**
 - Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Auditor Selection 2023-24.
 - Ms. Vela seconded.
 - Discussion: Trevor Johnson indicated that we would like to continue working with our audit firm.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

- 15. Action: Approval of Local School Wellness Policy**
 - Mr. Caouette moved to approve the acceptance of the Local School Wellness Policy.
 - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
 - Discussion: Breana Diaz introduced this policy and explained we have been working closely with CDE to be sure our Local School Wellness Policy meets the requirements.

- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 16. Action: Waive First Reading and Approve Updated Policy 5025.1 - Education of Homeless Children and Youth**
- Mr. Caouette moved to Waive First Reading and Approve Updated Policy 5025.1 - Education of Homeless Children and Youth.
 - Ms. Schneider seconded.
 - Discussion: Michelle Sapanara introduced this policy and explained that minor edits were being made to align with the law and current practices.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 17. Action: Approval of Additional Funds for Scoot Education**
- Ms. Vela moved to approve the Additional Funds for Scoot Education.
 - Mr. Schneider seconded.
 - Discussion: Virginia Smith explained that we use Scoot Education to fill short and long-term absences for staff. This year's need for substitutes exceeded expectations, thus the need for additional funds. Whenever possible, absences are filled by Springs' staff, and HR is looking into ways to reduce the use of external substitute services due to the high cost.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 18. Closed Session - In Accordance with Gov Code Section 54956.8 - Entered into at 10:03 a.m.**
- Conference with Real Property Negotiator AA-8968
- 19. Open Session - Entered into at 10:31 a.m.**
- Report of Action Taken in Closed Session
 - Conference with Real Property Negotiator AA-8968
 - The board gave consensus to enter into a purchase agreement
- 20. Board Comments**
- None
- 21. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**
- Mr. Schneider moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.
 - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted



Michelle Nagelvoort, Secretary

March 7, 2024

Date