

**SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Monday, January 25, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Angella Dancer.

*Members present: Robert Spaulding, Gaylen Branton, Arlis Young, Bruce Roebuck, Angella Dancer.*

*Administration present: Scotty Van Worth, Tina Jeffreys.*

It was determined that the agenda for this meeting was posted in due time.

Motion was made by Gaylen Branton and seconded by Bruce Roebuck to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for the Soper School Board for December 14, 2020. Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

The Board heard visitor comments from Brian Moore, who voiced his concern about the distance learning of the past semester and how his son did not progress at his normal pace. Mr Moore said that the administration was helpful in resolving the issue once he made it known, but he was displeased with his son's teacher's response and with the fact that he was not notified sooner that his son was not completing his assignments to his normal performance. Dr Van Worth assured him that the teacher in question, Ms Moffatt, does work hard and that there had been a satisfactory resolution to his son's work decline.

Mr Moore also expressed a concern for the two-week-on-two-week-off basketball schedule as having been detrimental to team unity and consistency, which could not bring success to the teams. Angella Dancer acknowledged that the experiment with the timing of the sports schedule had not benefited the team or the school as much as was hoped, and she assured Mr Moore that new policy has been adopted which will hopefully bring about improvement.

Dr Van Worth also assured Mr Moore and all present that he learned from a recent Superintendents' meeting that all school districts are struggling in similar ways as staff, administrations, and school boards try to navigate the current global pandemic restrictions.

In other business, Dr Van Worth welcomed Michael Kemper of Jenkins & Kemper, Certified Public Accountants, P.C., via speaker phone, as he addressed the Board about the recent audit report.

The Superintendent's report was given by Dr Scotty Van Worth.

A motion was made by Robert Spaulding and seconded by Arlis Young to approve the general fund encumbrances 194-224 and 70118-70119 and checks. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

The Principal's report was delivered by Tina Jeffreys. Ms Jeffreys announced that one teacher, Julie Harless, will be retiring this year and Ms Jeffreys believes that the position can be absorbed by remaining staff rather than seeking a replacement at this time. However, teachers' aid, Chelsea Burns, is also resigning and will need to be replaced, pending Board approval.

Ms Jeffreys also expressed concerns about the percentage of students missing their benchmarks for achieving recommended reading levels. While she acknowledged that this is currently common, she cannot accept it as good enough for the students she serves. Therefore, she has instigated a new focus on phonics for the elementary students until reading levels are back to Soper's standards. The Board agreed to support this effort.

Arlis Young moved to approve the resignation of Chelsea Burns, teacher aid. The motion was seconded by Angella Dancer. Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, and Gaylen Branton—Aye.

Robert Spaulding moved to approve the Teacher Leadership Effectiveness (TLE) waiver. The motion was seconded by Gaylen Branton. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.


Gaylen Branton moved to approve hiring a maintenance employee as well as a teacher's aid to replace Chelsea Burns. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Bruce Roebuck moved to approve using some of the currently available textbook money to purchase technology, specifically Chromebooks. The motion was

seconded by Gaylen Branton. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

There were no purchase requests nor any new business to discuss.

A motion was made to adjourn by Arlis Young, and it was seconded by Gaylen Branton. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Robert Spaulding—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

  
Gaylen Branton  
Robert Spaulding  
Bruce Roebuck  
Arlis Young