

**SOPER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 24, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Angella Dancer.

*Members present: Gaylen Branton, Arlis Young, Bruce Roebuck, Angella Dancer.
Not present: Robert Spaulding.*

Administration present: Scotty Van Worth, Tina Jeffreys, Parker Harless.

It was determined that enough members were present for a quorum.

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

Motion was made by Bruce Roebuck and seconded by Gaylen Branton to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for the Soper School Board for April 19, 2021.

Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

No visitors were present at this meeting.

The Superintendent's report was given by Dr Scotty Van Worth. He opened with excitement over Summer School, asking that Mrs Jeffreys elaborate. Dr Van Worth's wife is teaching and their daughter is volunteering, so he is hearing about the positive response from the kids, as have others. Given the volume of enrollment, more positions were available than Soper teachers who wanted to work for the summer, so one Hugo teacher, Mike Morris, was hired to teach Reading for half of each day. Mrs Jeffreys will speak more on summer school in her report.

Dr Van Worth noted that about 97 students have enrolled for the summer program, which is near half of the student body for this age group. Feedback so far indicates that the students are enjoying summer school immensely.

Dr Van Worth stated that the maintenance crew is working on several projects on campus and making progress on those. He expects to finish with his reports in good time so that he can help with those projects, one of which is to finish moving things from the old cafeteria so that the teacher's lounge can be created.

He said that the weight room has been opened for the students starting at 8 a.m. and is available for about an hour and a half. So far, several girls are taking advantage of that resource, but no boys yet.

A new Grasshopper mower has been purchased, and Dr Van Worth is satisfied with its performance.

Over \$100k still remains in the building fund, so more projects can be completed over the summer months, and there is another \$300k coming from the middle stimulus funds, which must be spent before it is collected. The district needs to spend this money by July and then will be planning for another \$760k from the third stimulus distribution.

The third distribution will have more specific guidelines for how it can be spent, but the school district will be able to use it for anything that focuses on ventilation or ways to keep the students in clean air. One project being considered is an outside learning area, and the awning project outside the new cafeteria, possibly including benches for outside lunching. Also, there will be plans to replace the old air conditioning systems.

And the old flat roof which the board members have wanted to replace with a pitched roof will be planned with coming funds.

In the coming week, Tina Gravet, Tina Jeffreys, Parker Harless, Scotty Van Worth, Gina Hammock, and Megan Parker will meet to discuss how to spend the available funds so that coding meets requirements. Included in the plan is to purchase a new bus to replace the aging activity bus. Such uses of the funds will remove some stress from future budgets.

After all three summer payrolls are completed, the operating account is still healthy. A bill has been passed that will give more to the districts' building funds, which will essentially double what we currently have. Schools such as Soper, which have no local industry to increase funds are matched with schools that do, which allows smaller schools to operate with the same advantages for students as others in the state. The administration is trying to be frugal with expenditures, spending only funds required so that future budgets can stay healthy as well.

The chairs for the new cafeteria arrived. They are slightly smaller than anticipated but will serve the need. Everyone is happy with the new tables, especially their portability.

A motion was made by Gaylen Branton and seconded by Arlis Young to approve the general fund encumbrances 300-342 and checks. Arlis Young—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Bruce Roebuck—Aye.

The Principal's Report was begun by Tina Jeffreys. She was able to respond to Dr Van Worth's assessment of the Summer School program by agreeing that things are going very well. The students begin the day with two hours of Reading and one hour of Math. The rest of the day includes Art, PE, Spanish, and other subjects. She said that the students are all engaged and enjoying the process.

Currently, 97 students were enrolled, although two of them had not yet come in. The grade levels being served are K-6. This program has previously only been open to K-3, but it was opened to a broader range of students this year to circumvent the stresses created by Covid-19 during the previous school years. Parker Harless joined the report by proposing that Soper extend the Summer School program with the extra funds that are coming in. Mr Harless has been present and helping where needed.

Mrs Jeffreys said that she believes all of the teachers will be returning for the next school year and that the student body size will be similar to this year.

Mr Harless reported that the class schedule is ready for K-12 for the coming school year. Other than the newly retired teachers, all others are planning to return in fall.

Dr Van Worth announced that the OSSBA Conference is scheduled for August 26-29 and encourages all Board members to go who can and would like to. All are considering it. Dr Van Worth will register those who participate and will secure their lodging. Meals and mileage will be reimbursed. This is an avenue for Board members to earn required points for their Board commissions.

In other business, Angella Dancer moved to approve contracting Jenna Phipps's services for speech pathology with Moyers Public Schools, Eagletown Public Schools, and Ft Towson Public Schools. Through this contract, Soper Public Schools administers the program and utilizes Ms Phipps one day per week for

Soper students. Then she goes to the other school districts for the other three days per week, and Soper bills each of those districts for ¼ of the costs. It is an ideal way for smaller school districts to bring services to students in need in an affordable way. Arlis Young seconded the motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, and Gaylen Branton—Aye.

Arlis Young moved to approve using hours instead of days to calculate the 2021-2022 school year, as this is a better way to track while using the four-day school year calendar. The motion was seconded by Gaylen Branton. Gaylen Branton—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, Arlis Young—Aye.

The Board also reviewed the contracted services for Keystone (food services), OSSBA (Oklahoma State School Board Association), WPS (internet services), Little Dixie (head start), CRW (to stay legal and in the loop for policies and Federal Funding), and KTC (Vocational-Technical school opportunities for students) for the coming school year. Bruce Roebuck moved to approve these contracts. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Dr Van Worth requested approval to update Soper School's Internet Policy. He explained that the last update was 2013, and while it is not bad, it is a bit out of date. Therefore, he has updated it for relevancy. This brings the policy into compliance for Smart Funding, as the Policy needs to be included when the WPS invoices are submitted. That service helps to monitor student internet usage, allows inappropriate sites to be blocked, and other such assistance to keep the students safe. Gaylen Branton made the motion to approve the updated Policy. The motion was seconded by. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

Dr Van Worth read Kimberly Smith's letter of resignation from Soper School District. Angella Dancer moved to accept the letter. Gaylen Branton seconded the motion. Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, Angella Dancer—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye. The Board members commented on Ms Smith as being "a good teacher and a better person." Julie Harless will be submitting her letter soon as well.

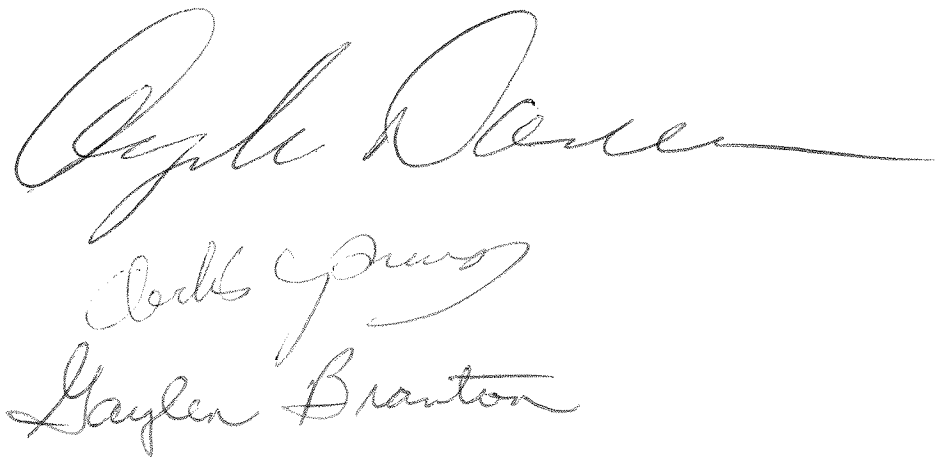
Gaylen Branton made a motion to approve the request for approval of State Aid and Federal Funds. This includes the acceptance of monies and conditions thereof

for such programs as the CARES Act and the USDA Grant. These total around \$584K extra funds for the school district. Bruce Roebuck seconded the motion. Angella Dancer—Aye, Bruce Roebuck—Aye, Gaylen Branton—Aye, and Arlis Young—Aye.

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

The Board members agreed to keep the same officers in place for the coming year.

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



Angella Dancer
Arlis Young
Gaylen Branton