



Spectrum School Board Minutes

Date: September 24, 2015

Scheduled Time: 5:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Position	Committee Member	Arrive	Depart
Chair	Dave Lucas	Present	
Vice-Chair	Tom Sagstetter	Absent	
Secretary	Kerry Jerred	Present	
Treasurer	Robin Schelske	Present, 5:35 p.m.	
Member	Jessica Kemnitz	Present	
Member	Tony Brunt	Present	
Member	Kathy Reed	Present	
Ex-Officio	Vanessta Spark	Present	
Ex-Officio	Nick Taintor, BKDA	Absent	
Staff Member	Dawn Sorenson	Present	
Guest	Julie Johnson	Present	6:00 p.m.
Guest	Robyn Hansen	Present	6:50 p.m.
Guest	Don Hansen	Present	6:50 p.m.
Guest	Chip Garrison	Present	6:50 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order at: 5:30 p.m.
2. Reading of Mission and Vision Statement
3. Conflict of Interest  
Chair Lucas called for conflict of interest acknowledgement. None was noted.
4. Consent Agenda
  - Agenda
  - Interim Financial Transactions
    - None
  - August 27, 2015 regular Board of Director meeting minutes

Following discussion, *on a motion duly made and seconded, Reed/Kemnitz the Spectrum High School Board of Directors, by consensus of members present, approved the agenda and the August 27, 2015 Board of Directors meeting minutes as presented.*

5. Public Input
  - Mr. and Mrs. Don Hansen presented before the Board regarding student dress code, stating that they are concerned about the restrictiveness of the current code and feel that what their daughter has been wearing is not inappropriate. They stated that they don't disagree with the school having a policy regarding dress; however, they don't feel that the clothing items that their daughter has chosen to wear is inappropriate and would like the Board to consider a less restrictive dress code.

- Mr. Garrison presented next. He stated that he was there to encourage the Board to maintain the current dress code. He stated that his student has been cited for a dress code infraction by the school, and supports the school in its decision. Mr. Garrison went on to state that Spectrum High School's dress code, in his opinion, is no more restrictive than any other public school. He feels that Spectrum is doing an excellent job of enforcing its dress code, and encourages the school to continue with its current practice. He stated that the school has been built on high standards and he encourages the Board to not lessen the dress code.

Following the public presentation, the Board thanked the parents for attending the meeting, noting that the Board would be addressing dress code later in the meeting, and that they were welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting should they choose to do so.

6. Spectrum Student Input

- None

7. Employee Introduction and Recognition

- Ms. Spark read a letter of thanks and gratitude to this month's employee, Michele Newberger, who is the health, attendance and office support staff member at the high school building. Ms. Spark shared that Michele is an excellent asset to the school, and is masterful at juggling many different areas of responsibility all at one time. Thank you, Michele, for your dedication to Spectrum High School. You are greatly appreciated!

8. Technology Update – Julie Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided a detailed update on the improvements that have been made in the area of technology. She stated that over the summer, the school made a decision to change technology companies and made significant improvements to the network resulting in more reliable technology. In addition, a teacher was hired over the summer who has a vast amount of expertise in the area of technology who is increasing student technology skills and competence. Also, as a part of the technology integration plan, Ms. Johnson stated that there is a concerted effort to improve the technology skills of all the teachers so that there is an increase in technology literacy within the classroom, which includes training staff and students to report issues so that there are less hardware problems. Finally, Ms. Johnson stated that it is a goal to showcase our school's technology offerings in an effort to improve our image and reputation.

The Board thanked Ms. Johnson for her presentation.

9. Old Business

- None

10. Budget Report

10.1 Finance Committee Minutes

- The Finance Committee did not meet in the month of September so there were no minutes to be presented for the Board's consideration.

#### 10.2 August 2015 Financials

Because the Finance Committee did not meet in September, the August and September financials will be presented for the Board's consideration at the October meeting of the Board.

#### 11. Directors Report:

##### 11.1 DIRECTORS REPORT

Ms. Spark presented her Director's Report. She noted that enrollment is at 638, with 11 full-time PSEO students. She went on to report that a couple of the Spectrum-owned buses needed to be replaced as they were too old and no longer could pass inspection. The School is selling them, and in the meantime, purchased 2 buses from Vision Transportation for a cost of \$7,000. These new buses did pass inspection.

Ms. Spark went on to report that she is proud of Spectrum students and how they have rallied around the student who was recently diagnosed with cancer. She stated that one senior student came to her to seek her permission to have the proceeds from her senior project be donated to the family of the student who has cancer. In addition, another student who works at Caribou Coffee in Elk River reported that her respective store has chosen to donate the proceeds collected from the sale of Amy's Blend coffee to be donated to the cancer victim's family as well.

Finally, Ms. Spark shared the exciting news that Spectrum received notification from the Three Rivers Community Foundation that the school had been chosen as a recipient of a \$3,000 grant to be used for the AVID program.

Following discussion, *on a motion duly made and seconded, Kemnitz/Reed, the Spectrum High School Board of Directors unanimously accepted the September 2015 Director's Report as presented.*

#### 12. New Business

##### AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 12.1 Technology Committee  
None

- 12.2 School Improvement Team Committee  
None

- 12.3 Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Jerred, Ms. Schelske, and Ms. Spark presented the work of the Strategic Planning Committee since the last meeting of the Board. They noted that the facilitator, Jean Melancon, is in the process of completing interviews with the individuals identified by the Committee as persons who would provide a unique and varied perspective for the Board's consideration. It is anticipated that through the interviews and parent surveys conducted that the Committee will be able to provide some recommendations for the Board to consider at its Strategic Planning workshop scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If possible, the Committee will make the recommendations available to the Board prior to the November 14<sup>th</sup> planning session.

Following discussion, *on a motion duly made and seconded, Reed/Jerred, the Spectrum High School Board of Directors unanimously accepted the September 3, 2015 Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes as presented.*

#### 12.4 2014-2015 Annual/World's Best Workforce Report

Ms. Spark thanked Mr. Anderson and Ms. Sorenson for their work on completing the 2014-2015 Annual/World's Best Workforce Report. Mr. Lucas called for any questions on the report and none were noted.

Following discussion, *on a motion duly made and seconded, Schelske/Reed, the Spectrum High School Board of Directors unanimously approved the 2014-2015 Annual/World's Best Workforce Report as presented.*

#### 12.5 2014-2015 Student Climate Survey Results

Ms. Spark presented the 2014-2015 Student Climate Survey results, noting that the area of "Rules are applied equally to all students", which scored 44.7% satisfaction rate, is the lowest score that this area has received to date. As a result, last spring, Ms. Spark spoke with students who felt this score was directly a result of the dress code, in that the students felt that not all students were treated equally when it came to dress code infractions. Therefore, Ms. Spark shared that over the summer administration met and came up with a process to insure greater consistency in the area of dress code compliance. The new dress code enforcement process was discussed with staff during teacher workshop, and is probably some of the reason why dress code has been such a hot button of activity this fall.

In addition to dress code, Ms. Spark presented the other action steps that were made as a result of the student climate survey results, noting that a survey was conducted of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to determine interest in various clubs, that archery is being implemented this year for high school students, and that Robotics is in the process of being implemented for middle school students.

#### 12.6 Amended 2015-2016 Student Handbook – Dress Code

The Board reviewed the proposed amendments to the student dress code. It listened intently to the input provided by the parents in attendance at the meeting, as well as the input of administration following meetings with parents, students, and staff. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of implementing a school uniform as a means to level consistency in enforcement, minimize discrepancies, and to alleviate the exhaustive time devoted to this matter by all parties – staff, students and parents.

Following a lengthy discussion, *on a motion duly made and seconded, Kemnitz/Jerred, the Spectrum High School Board of Directors unanimously approved that the dress code policy will read as follows:*

##### **A. Dress Code Policy**

*The intent of the Spectrum High School Dress Code is to provide a safe and productive learning environment with limited distractions. Any apparel that is a potential danger to themselves or others is not permitted. Dress for school should*

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be clean and in good condition. If students have any confusion regarding the appropriateness of their attire, they are free to consult with the office at any time. Students may be required to change clothing at the discretion of the Administration.

**NOTE: Current fashion trends may not be acceptable.**

**B. Clothing**

1. **Pants** *MUST* be worn at an appropriate waist level, cannot be torn or oversized, and undergarments shall not be able to be seen. Pant styles with holes are discouraged; however, if pants have holes, these holes should be located below the knee to be appropriate. When tight fitting bottoms are worn, upper body apparel must be long enough to cover the gluteus maximus muscle (front, back and sides) and long enough so that no skin is exposed at any time.
2. **Shirts/Tops/Sweaters** shall have necklines with no cleavage showing, whether sitting or bending over, and tank top and spaghetti strap style shirts must have at least a 2" strap (no bra straps should show). No skin should be exposed at any time.
3. **Shorts/Skirts/Dresses** may not be shorter than 5 inches from mid-knee.
4. **All clothing** with messages about drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gangs, racial or sexual connotations are not allowed.
5. **Pajamas and slippers** are not to be worn to school.
6. **Head coverings** (i.e. hats, skullcaps, du rags, scarves, or hoods) and sunglasses are NOT to be worn inside the classroom, at lunch, or anytime during school hours. These items will be confiscated in accordance with the nuisance articles policy. The only exception is for cultural head coverings.
7. **Undergarments** (including bras and boxer shorts) shall not be seen. This includes clothes that do not fit properly, revealing clothing or transparent clothing.

**At all times, students may be required to change clothing at the discretion of the Administration. If clothing is found to be inappropriate, Administration will follow Student Discipline Guidelines. If students are unsure as to where their clothing falls within these guidelines, they are encouraged to inquire with the office before wearing them to school. Spectrum High School reserves the right to change and adapt dress code as need arises.**

Following the vote, Mr. Lucas directed administration to draft a letter informing families of the Board's decision regarding student dress code.

13. Charter School Updates and Training

The Board noted that the initial and ongoing Board training has been scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015 – beginning at 9:00 a.m. Nick Taintor and Ellen McVeigh will conduct the training.

14. Board Calendar – 2015-2016

The Board reviewed the 2015-2016 Board Calendar. It requested that the November 14, 2015 Strategic Planning Session be added to the calendar.

15. Board Goals 2015-2016

No action necessary. The 2015-2016 Board Goals were adopted by the Board at its meeting on August 27, 2015.

1. By May, 2016, the percentage of students enrolled in grades 6-11 at Spectrum High School who ear an achievement level of Meets the Standards or Exceeds the Standards on all Science state accountability tests (MCA, MOD, MTAS) will increase from 58.5% to 60.5%.
2. By the regularly scheduled Board meeting in June, 2016, develop a draft 5 year long range strategic plan, which aligns with the school's mission and vision.
3. By February, 2016, take a critical look at, and if necessary, amend the School's mission and vision statements.
4. By June, 2016, the Board will host and schedule one Spectrum community building event.

16. Previously Tabled Items

None

17. Miscellaneous

None

18. Next Meeting Agenda Input

- None

19. Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded, Reed/Jerred, the Spectrum High School Board of Directors unanimously adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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Board Secretary Certification, Kerry Jerred