MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF

SPARTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #140

RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS,

HELD AT SPARTA LINCOLN SCHOOL

IN SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT AT 7:00 P.M.

ON THE 8th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Mekalia Cooper and upon the roll being called, Mekalia Cooper and the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Jennifer Allard, Ryan Pillers and Rob Soderlund. Absent: Angela Craig, Heather Price and Corey Rheinecker. Others present were: Superintendent Chris Miesner; Recording Secretary Tina Witherby; Principals Scott Beckley and Kelly Carpenter; and members of the staff, community and press (*County Journal*).

Vice President Mekalia Cooper led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

With no public comment requests, the meeting continued.

Jennifer Allard moved, Ryan Pillers seconded to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024, regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Pillers, Soderlund and Cooper. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Ryan Pillers seconded to approve the Bills, Payroll, Cash Flow and Fund Balances as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Pillers, Soderlund and Cooper. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024, at Sparta Lincoln School at 7 p.m.

Sparta High School Principal Scott Beckley announced that Teacher Morgan Clinton was nominated by a student and given an award by the National Society of High School Scholars. The One Goal Team has completed step 1 of 3. Tomorrow night the student section will be renamed after Perry Brooks.

Principal Kelly Carpenter thanked the teachers and staff at Evansville Attendance Center for helping out when absences occurred. School Choice Week was celebrated with a movie and popcorn. There was a fire drill and the students did a great job getting out of the building.

Superintendent Miesner introduced GRP Wegman, the District Performance Contractor. They provided a presentation on roofing needs and solar panels.

Board President Angela Craig entered the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Rob Soderlund moved, Jennifer Allard seconded to increase the salary for long-term substitute teachers who have been in the same substitute position for more than 10 days. They will be paid

at the BS, Step 0 daily rate of pay off the certified teacher salary schedule. Roll call vote. Yeas: Soderlund, Allard, Pillers, Cooper and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the overnight trip for Sparta High School Skills USA to Peoria, Illinois, on April 25-27, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: Soderlund. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the purchase of a new 2024 Ford Escape in the amount of $32,828 from Iron Ford. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to approve the 8th grade promotion ceremonies to be held on May 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. for Sparta Lincoln School and at 7:30 p.m. for Evansville Attendance Center. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Rob Soderlund moved, Jennifer Allard seconded to enter into closed session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss items related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote. Yeas: Soderlund, Allard, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to come out of closed session at 8:16 p.m. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Soderlund, Pillers, Allard and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the executive session minutes of the December 14, 2023, regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to accept the resignation of Michael Hall as Assistant Football Coach at Sparta High School effective January 18, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to accept the resignation of Veronica Frisch as Paraprofessional at Sparta Lincoln School effective January 12, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve William Powell as the Boys’ Track Coach at Sparta High School for the 2023-2024 school year, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check and employment history review. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve Alexis Chambers as the Girl’s Track Coach at Sparta High School for the 2023-2024 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve Kerry Harris as the Assistant Track Coach at Sparta High School for the 2023-2024 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Jennifer Allard seconded to employ Chandler Henson as a Full-Time Teacher for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with two years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Allard, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to employ Brian Taylor as a Full-Time Teacher for the District for the 2024-2025 school year with seven years of experience, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening, along with proper certification. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Ryan Pillers seconded to approve a leave-of-absence for Rhonda Dickey as Paraprofessional at Sparta High School from February 22, 2024, through March 1, 2024. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Pillers, Soderlund, Allard and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Jennifer Allard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Cooper, Allard, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

MARCH 14, 2024 PRES.

APPROVED

SEC.