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 MAY 2025

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and upon the roll being called, Angela Craig and the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Jennifer Allard, Mekalia Cooper, Christine Ledendecker, Ryan Pillers and Rob Soderlund. Absent: Heather Price. Others present were: Superintendent Chris Miesner; Recording Secretary Tina Witherby; Principals Kelly Carpenter, Lynda Loesing and Jackie Smith III; and members of the staff and community.

With no public comment requests, the meeting continued.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2025, regular meeting and April 30, 2025, special meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

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

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025, at Sparta Lincoln School at 7 p.m.

Principal Lynda Loesing thanked each member of the staff for their dedication. She then introduced the Sparta Lincoln School students that are state-bound. They were: Golf: Kaylee Gerlach and Jaxon Miles; Track & Field: Madaline Craig, Paige Smith, Addy Zang, Gennavecia Barnett, Jakhai Dance, Jayston Hoyt, Antonio Monroe, Liam Renner, Jason Hoyt, Colin Simmons, and Eli Lueth.

Sparta High School Assistant Principal Jackie Smith announced staff morale is at a high. Mr. Beckley and Mr. Stork are retiring, so there will be a party soon. The play was amazing. Baseball and softball regionals are next week. Abby Grau went to state for pole vault.

Principal Kelly Carpenter reported Evansville Attendance Center will have two track students going to state for track. They are Ella Walter and Kaylee Kempfer. The sports and academic banquet will be held soon, along with Junior Beta induction and field day. It will be approximately $65,000 to repair the bleachers at Evansville Attendance Center. The stage curtains will be approximately $7,000.

Superintendent Miesner thanked the staff and administration for all of their hard work.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the FY 2025 Tentative Amended Budget, to establish the Public Hearing on the Budget which will be held prior to the June 2025 board meeting, to publish notice of the Public Hearing and to display the FY 2025 Tentative Amended Budget in the district office for 30 days. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Registration begins in June for the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference.

The motion for the feasibility study was tabled.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Southern Illinois School District Cooperative Buying, NFP. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Margaret Chidez and Garrett Christman from Play Illinois presented the playground specifications.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to approve the Cooperative Team Agreement between Evansville Attendance Center and Steeleville St. Marks as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers and Craig. Nays: Cooper and Price. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to enter into closed session at 7:36 p.m. to discuss items related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act; and collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to come out of closed session at 8:29 p.m. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to approve the executive session minutes of the April 10 and April 30, 2025, meetings as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to accept the resignation of Mandy Meirink as a Special Education Teacher at Sparta Lincoln School effective August 1, 2025. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to terminate Heather Hoagland, a non-certified probationary employee effective immediately. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to employ Lauren Adams as a full-time Teacher for the 2025-2026 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 licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to employ Isabella Sizemore as a full-time Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year with no 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 licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to employ Kaelyn Rubach as a full-time Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year with no 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 licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to employ Cahterine Kibling as a full-time Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year with 30 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 licensure. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Allard moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to employ James Hall III as a 12-month Custodian for the 2024-2025 school year, subject to and contingent upon successful completion of a criminal history background check, employment history review, physical and drug screening. Roll call vote. Yeas: Allard, Soderlund, Cooper, Ledendecker, Pillers and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Jennifer Allard seconded to ratify the two-year contract with the Sparta Education Association for the 2025-2026 school years. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Allard, Ledendecker, Pillers, Soderlund and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Rob Soderlund seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Cooper, Soderlund, Ledendecker, Pillers, Allard and Craig. Nays: none. Motion carried.

JUNE 12, 2025 PRES.

APPROVED

SEC.