

7/26/18



ENVIRONMENTAL
S C I E N C E S
S C H O O L

Dear Springwater families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer enjoying the warmer weather and taking the time to relax with family and friends. The Springwater Board (Board) would like to reach out to the community on a few important updates.

At the June Board meeting, it was announced that effective July 1, 2018 Springwater will begin a leadership transition year. Dawn has been a member of the Springwater community for 11 years and our Principal for the last 7 years. During her tenure, Springwater has grown into a stable, thriving school. Dawn has resigned from her position and has accepted a transitional contract with a reduced schedule to ensure the successful development of new leadership. We are grateful for the service and leadership from Dawn, her advocacy for the students at Springwater and her strong support for the mission and vision of the school.

A New Chapter

As a successful charter school, we have an exciting opportunity ahead of us. As we transition, we can evaluate our leadership structure and, in true Springwater form, be innovative in our processes. Our teachers, staff, Board and Dawn are all committed to ensure a positive and smooth transition. In order to have full community investment, we will be working on a collaborative approach for filling the roles previously served by Dawn.

Our first step has been to work with teachers and staff to brainstorm wants and needs as well as potential leadership models. Teachers and staff are an integral part of this process and have amazing amounts of expertise and creativity. They have been working diligently and have once again demonstrated their professionalism and dedication to our school.

The greater Springwater community will have an opportunity to ask questions, brainstorm, and discuss wants and needs. We will be providing more information as we develop the best possible models that are inclusive of the community. We believe our families have a great deal to offer and we are committed to ensure that we do not miss out on the opportunity to be inclusive.

The Board has evaluated the current leadership position to consider our wants and needs and will begin the process of coalescing information. We will be reviewing other leadership models that have proven successful. In addition, we are considering working with the Oregon School Board Association, to facilitate meetings, ensure compliance, target potential candidates, and develop a successful leadership model. With this information, input from the teachers, staff and greater Springwater community, we hope to identify both a leadership model and candidates that will be able to fulfill the needs of Springwater.



Improving Communication with the Springwater Board

A healthy learning community is one in which all aspects function for the betterment of the whole. In order for this to occur there must be a sense of trust which comes from consistency, effective communication and from transparency whenever possible. It is also important that there is a culture of acceptance both for errors as well as for growth and achievement. As involved community members, the Board recognizes that there has been a disconnect which has added to confusion and tension in the community. Our vision for this year of transition is that we all work to improve areas of communication and trust while ensuring that we are legally compliant. This is going to be a long, protracted process of learning and we look forward to a year of growth and change.

To facilitate a stronger connection to the Board, the following are some of the new strategies we are implementing:

1. There will be a suggestion box in the main hall for you to share ideas for the Board's consideration. If a topic has already been discussed or is better addressed in another way, a Board member will contact you directly. For those who do not come on campus you are welcome to email the Board Chair. Suggestions must be received ten days prior to the board meeting to be considered on the agenda.
2. A Board member will attend staff meetings on a monthly basis at minimum. This should help provide clarity on areas that the Board and staff are working on.
3. The Board is currently conducting a 360 review to discuss areas of improvement within the board as well as areas in which we feel successful. This will include the structure of our meetings, relations with staff and outreach to the community.
4. A Facebook page should be live soon and will provide updates and other important information. This will be a public page where there is easy access to information without public commentary.
5. We will review our Springwater website with a focus on ease of getting information. It is our belief that having easily accessible information is important and we will be working to maximize this throughout the year.

We are all excited about the opportunities that the next year brings and look forward to seeing everyone at the beginning of the school year. Please feel free to contact the Board with any questions.

Sincerely,

Springwater Board of Directors