

Spencer Township Trustee Meeting

March 20, 2018

Chair of the Board, Shawn P. Valentine called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Trustee Michael B. Hood	present
Trustee Teresa M. Bettinger	present
Trustee Shawn P. Valentine	present

Pledge to the Flag

Trustee Valentine stated this is a special meeting to see if the residents of Spencer Township would like to switch school districts.

Trustee Valentine presented a power point slide that gave the history of Spencer Township. It will be attached to the minutes

Mark Gorney, resident, asked if his taxes would increase. Carlos Ruiz, Lucas County Auditor's Office gave a break down for Swanton, Springfield and Evergreen Schools current taxes.

The Trustee Board was offered an opportunity to speak.

Trustee Hood clarified the tax rate of Swanton Schools.

Bill Clark, resident, asked what the Board recommended. Trustee Bettinger stated the Board has received many requests for this, but the decision is up to the public.

Kelly Baer, resident, was told by Springfield they do not want our kind in their schools. Trustee Valentine asked for the name of this individual.

Trustee Valentine explained this is all or nothing.

Sarah Williams, resident, asked if the schools can accommodate Spencer Township children. Trustee Valentine explained this is the first step to see what the public chooses.

Adella Harris, resident, asked what about building our own school. Trustee Valentine explained, we cannot afford to build a school stocked with books, computers, supplies...etc.

Rena Lancaster, resident, stated we currently have people living in our old school at the Joshua Treatment Center.

Trustee Hood stated Swanton Schools might not be able to accommodate because they demolished the Middle School.

Chris Lake, Swanton Schools, stated Swanton Schools are very tight right now; there are over 1,300 children right now. He stated this is a complex issue and may be very difficult.

Viola Hobbs, resident, asked is this about transferring the children or taxes the residents currently pay. She was concerned that the Board should have checked with the various school districts before this was brought to the public. Trustee Valentine stated the education at TPS is below par.

Sandra Salas, resident, asked if TPS was invited to represent their school system. Trustee Valentine explained this meeting was for the residents. She also mentioned she is an educator as well as her husband for Toledo Public Schools.

Mr. Paul Hobbs, resident, said TPS gives good education, it is not the school, it's the individual.

Carol Shull, resident, stated people should be able to voice their preferences. She noted the generalizations made about TPS were unfair.

Joe Nov. resident, asked what does the community want? He stated this is just the beginning of the discussion. He asked would it be the entire Township, Trustee Valentine explained it would only effect the current TPS district.

Amy Keller, resident, stated her children went to TPS and had issues when they were younger. She chose open enrollment through Swanton Schools.

Karen Gazinski, resident, TPS has done well for her student.

Emily Myers, resident, she feels the residents should be able to decide where their children attend school.

Paul Hobbs, resident, stated send your children to private school if you are unhappy where they are.

Joyce Sparks, resident, asked about open enrollment. It is available Trustee Valentine explained.

Trustee Valentine explained Swanton Schools was just one option.

Cheryl Young, resident, asked if this goes up to vote is it a special election and if so, how soon. Sheilah McAdams, legal representative, stated 75% of the eligible voters must sign a petition to get the ball rolling. This is also something that takes time. There are legalities. At this point, it would take at least 2 years. She explained the State Board of Education would have the final decision.

Carol Shull stated the Township needs to find out how many of the school districts can accommodate our students. She also asked that petitions be verified if they are presented.

Mr. Simpson, resident, asked if the Board could ask for a show of hands of who is interested in continuing the conversation.

Trustee Bettinger stated several families have come to the Board in regards to changing school districts from TPS.

Mr. Paul Hobbs expressed concern in making sure voters are legitimate if this does go to petition.

Anita Lopez, Lucas County Auditor, explained registered voter lists were purged last round. Some may need to re-register.

Resident asked for clarification on Spencer residents in TPS paying more than the other 3 school districts.

Trustee Bettinger read a letter from a resident, Rob and Peggy Messner. The resident is in favor of changing school districts.

Trustee Valentine asked for a show of hands of those wanting to continue the conversation to change school districts from TPS. The vote was 25 for and 12 against.

Trustee Bettinger made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Hood seconded. Roll call vote: Trustee Hood: yes, Trustee Bettinger: yes, Trustee Valentine: yes.

X

Dawn E. McDonald
Fiscal Officer

X

Shawn P. Valentine
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

X

Michael B. Hood
Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

X

Teresa M. Bettinger
Trustee