

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (6:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on January 17 A.D., 2023, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Anthony Mares, President
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Erica Austin
Sarah Blissett
Buffy Lael-Wolf
Micah Miller
Bill Ringer
Jeff Tucka

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President Mares called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Executive Session

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves adjournment to Executive Session to consider the following items:

- 2.1 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9, 10)
- 2.2 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- 2.3 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Micah Miller**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session to consider the following matters: 2.1 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9, 10), 2.2 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 2.3 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Blissett, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka
Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Lael Wolf and Ms. Austin joined the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Mares asked those in attendance to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4.1 Approve the Agenda for January 17, 2023

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved to approve the agenda. Member (**Erica Austin**) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, as amended, 'That the Board of Education approves the agenda'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka
Those voting "no": None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1 President's Comments

Mr. Mares read the following statement:

Public Comment

Public comments will occur during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. The Board will not allow interruption during the meeting. If you are interested in addressing the Board, fill out the required Public Participation form and submit it to Ms. Hammers. Alternatively, those wishing to participate via the telephone may email their name, phone number, and topic of discussion or agenda item number to boe@sps186.org.

5.2 Student Report

Ms. Hood provided information regarding the upcoming City Tournament. She reported that the Superintendent's Student Roundtable will host the annual Unity Day event in association with the City Tournament. She indicated that the Roundtable had selected two charities to support this year, in addition to the annual support provided to St. Martin de Porres. The two charities are the Good Guides, a youth mentoring group associated with Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois, and the Center for Youth and Family Solutions, a comprehensive, not-for-profit social service agency. She noted that this year's theme is "Linc-oln Up."

Next, Ms. Hood reported that Freshman Preview Night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023. She noted that members of the Student Roundtable conducted visits in December with 8th-grade

students at each of the middle schools to provide information about high school and help prepare the 8th graders for preview night and high school.

Southeast High School hosted a career day for students. Representatives from Brandt, Kerber Eck and Breckel, and SIU School of Medicine visited the school earlier in the day for the event.

Lastly, Ms. Hood reported that high school seniors across the district have begun to receive their college admissions letters and will make their selections.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Celebrate 186

Superintendent Gill provided the bi-weekly Celebrate 186 presentation. Copies of the presentation have been filed with the Official Minutes. The following topics were covered by the report.

Community Foundation Scholarship Opportunities

The Community Foundation announced its 2023 scholarship program. The program offers 40 different post-secondary scholarships. Superintendent Gill directed families to the District's website and high school webpages for more information about the scholarship offerings. She noted that the Community Foundation's scholarships are due March 1, 2023. She also indicated that last year, the Community Foundation awarded more than \$205,000 in scholarships and scholarship renewals, with a cumulative award amount exceeding \$1.8 million. She noted that the post-secondary coaches at each of the high schools can assist students with the scholarships if needed.

Freshman Open House

Superintendent Gill invited 8th-grade students and their families to an informational open house on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at each of the high schools. She noted that families should attend the open house of the high school within their boundary of residence. Topics that will be covered include scheduling, courses, extracurricular opportunities, and a tour of the facility.

Wrestling City Tournament

The Springfield High School Wrestling team won the City Tournament for the second year in a row. The Senators were 3-0 on the night defeating Sacred Heart-Griffin 69-11, Lanphier 51-30, and Southeast 56-24. Several individual wrestlers from Springfield High were undefeated during the tournament.

Springfield Sports Hall of Fame

The Springfield Sports Hall of Fame recently announced the 2023 inductees. Major Clay - Lanphier High School track and basketball, Doug Collins - Lanphier High School basketball, Phil Eck - Springfield High School soccer, Jim Files - Lanphier High School cross country, John Fox - Lanphier High School basketball, baseball, and golf, and Tracy Tate Wilson - Springfield High School golf have been selected for this year's induction. The induction ceremony will be held on February 20, 2023, at the Bank of Springfield Center. Superintendent Gill congratulated all of the inductees.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events

Fresh Visions Community Church hosted the Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and Vicinity's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service. During the service, scholarships were awarded to student essay contest winners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Superintendent Gill congratulated the winners.

Additionally, Superintendent Gill reported that she and several Board members attended the 48th Annual

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast hosted by the Springfield Chapter of Frontiers International on Monday, January 16, 2023.

Owen Marsh National AMVET Nationalism Art Contest

Owen Marsh Elementary recently had an assembly to recognize a 5th-grade student for placing second in the National AMVET Nationalism Art Contest. She indicated that Mayor Jim Langfelder was in attendance. The Department of Veterans Affairs presented the school with an American and an Illinois flag to display permanently inside the school. The Black Tigers Honor Guard presented the colors during the assembly.

Art is Exceptional Exceptional Exhibit

The Art is Exceptional exhibit currently being held at the Springfield Art Association celebrates the artistic accomplishments of Kindergarten through 12th-grade students with special needs. Over 120 pieces of two- and three-dimensional art from several schools are on display through January 27, 2023.

Lenses for Literacy Program

Superintendent Gill reported that the Springfield-Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in partnership with Vision Care Associates and District 186 launched the Lenses for Literacy program. The program will provide free eye exams and glasses for district students in need. She thanked the sorority for providing \$5,000 in funding to start the program.

Troxell Insurance Thanks Crossing Guards

Superintendent Gill reported that Troxell Insurance surprised crossing guards at Butler Elementary with goody bags filled with an umbrella, hand warmers, treats, and a gift card. Troxell plans to surprise crossing guards at two schools per month through May. She thanked Troxell for their generosity.

Boys and Girls City Basketball Tournaments

Superintendent Gill provided information about the upcoming Boys and Girls City Basketball Tournaments scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, and run through Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the Bank of Springfield Center in downtown Springfield. She reported that presale tickets can be purchased beginning Monday, January 23, 2023, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at each of the high schools. She noted that on January 26, 2023, the presale tickets for that evening's games will be sold from 8:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday games will be available until 4:00 p.m. for presale on January 26, 2023, and from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2023. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance and \$6.00 at the door.

Superintendent Gill then shared a graphic with the game schedule and information about the Spirit of Giving All City Food Drive. She reported that in addition to St. Martin de Porres Center, the Roundtable selected the Good Guides and the Center for Youth and Family Solutions.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

Next, Superintendent Gill provided pictures and drone footage of construction work at several schools. She shared the following:

- Lanphier High School - photos from the interior of the new auxiliary gym (Gardner Gymnasium) and main competition gym (Lober-Nika Gymnasium) were shared. The Gardner Gym will also serve as the storm shelter for the school. The steel in the Lober Nika Gym is almost finished. Work to install the decking is expected to begin soon. Additionally, photos of the new wrestling

room and a third-floor classroom were shared. Ductwork is being installed in the wrestling room. Ceiling grids and flooring were recently installed in the third-floor classroom.

Mr. Miller asked if virtual tours of the insides of the newly renovated or constructed buildings could be created to share with families and students. Ms. Blissett asked for information on the 6th-grade Preview Night. Dr. Lance Thurman, Executive Director of Secondary Schools, reported that the annual Preview Night will be on February 16, 2023, for incoming 6th-grade students and their families.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

11th Street Property

Superintendent Gill reported that the District has been working hard to complete the due diligence necessary for the South 11th Street property. She indicated that representatives from the firm that is analyzing the reports on the property and the firm that created the reports will be invited to the Board of Education meeting on February 21, 2023. She asked Board members to provide any questions they may have for the firm to her soon to ensure the firm has time to do any research and prepare answers in time for the February 21 meeting.

Mr. Miller asked if the Due Diligence Committee will meet prior to the February 21, 2023, Board of Education meeting. Superintendent Gill reported that once the Board members have submitted their questions, the committee will meet to develop a plan of action and a white paper for the community. Mr. Miller asked if the committee will have Board members. Superintendent Gill reported that it will. Mr. Miller and Mr. Ringer volunteered to be on the committee.

PEBT Cards

Ms. Blissett reported that a new round of PEBT cards has been issued by the State of Illinois to all families with children enrolled in District 186. She encouraged families to check their mail for the new cards, as the envelope appears to be junk mail. The envelopes are addressed to the student. She reminded families that they must contact the State of Illinois at 1-800-678-5465 if they have any questions or concerns about the card. She also reminded families that the card can be used to purchase food that can then be donated to those in need if a family doesn't want to use the funds themselves.

7.2 New Business

Capital Area Career Center Open House

Ms. Blissett announced that the Capital Area Career Center (CACC) will host an open house on Thursday, January 19, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CACC is located at 2201 Toronto Road. Sophomores and juniors that may be interested in enrolling in a program at CACC for the 2023-2024 school year are encouraged to attend.

Enhanced Dress Code

Superintendent Gill reported that the District will use the Panorama Survey to gather input from stakeholders about the enhanced dress code.

PUBLIC COMMENT

8.1 Public Comment

Mr. Mares read the following statement outlining requirements related to public comment:

The Board of Education and I encourage public comment and public participation in Board meetings. However, it is inappropriate for any person to name a student or an individual employee, including designating an employee by job title rather than name, in open session. If any public commenter wants to address issues related to an individual student or a District 186 employee, that commenter is invited to contact the Board office or a member of the cabinet prior to public comment. It is not the intention of the Board to discourage public comment in any way; rather, it is the intention of the Board to address issues regarding individual students and employees in an appropriate manner. We thank you for respecting the privacy of our students and employees by following this rule.

District 186 streams board meetings on YouTube, and all content posted there is subject to YouTube's content guidelines.

Springfield Public Schools District 186 continues to encourage public comment. Statements made by speakers during public comment do not represent the views or opinions of the Board of Education or Springfield Public Schools District 186.

An emailed comment from Brian Daughtery regarding the enhanced dress code was read.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no presentations to the Board at this time.

BUSINESS REPORT

10.1 Business Reports

Board members were provided with the Monthly Business Report for December 2022. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Tom Osborne, Director of Business Services, reported that for December 2022, the Education Fund saw revenues of approximately \$7 million. Education Fund expenditures for the month totaled approximately \$13.88 million. Expenditures exceeded revenues by approximately \$6.88 million dollars. The Education Fund has recorded revenues fiscal year-to-date of approximately \$72.1 million and expenses of approximately \$56.2 million.

Next, Mr. Osborne reported that the Operations and Maintenance Fund revenues for the month of December were approximately \$98,000. The fund had expenditures of approximately \$1.4 million during the month of December. Expenditures exceed revenues by approximately \$1.3 million dollars. The Operations and Maintenance Fund has had fiscal year-to-date revenues of approximately \$7.8 million and expenses of approximately \$8.3 million.

Mr. Osborne noted that as of December 31, 2022, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$73.87 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only (Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, & Working Cash), the total cash in the bank was approximately \$47.3 million. Total investments were approximately \$71.63 million. The year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$1.14 million. The interest rate on all cash accounts on December 31, 2022, was 1.0% or 100 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of December 31, 2022, was approximately \$145.49 million. He noted that for

operating funds only, the balance was approximately \$47.3 million. Mr. Osborne indicated that recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of December were approximately \$1.13 million for the September collection period. Total collections thus far for fiscal year 2023 are approximately \$6.7 million, with total collections of approximately \$36.6 million.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Approval of Consent Action Items

Approval of consent action items as listed in the agenda.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Jeff Tucka**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

There was then some discussion regarding Consent Action Item 11.4 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Ashley Krstulovich Regarding Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom. Mr. Tucka asked for additional information about the services that will be provided. Superintendent Gill reported that the administrator with intimate knowledge of the program was unable to be at the evening's meeting. She indicated that eighty classrooms, at schools across the District, will receive services each semester. She noted that additional information can be provided at the next Board meeting when administrators with additional knowledge of the program are in attendance. She further noted that in addition to teaching students mindfulness practices, the provider will work with teachers to provide a training-the-trainers model. She stated that the mindfulness training being provided is trauma-informed. Additionally, she indicated that Larry McVey and the members of the District's Social Emotional Learning team have observed the work in person. The skills being taught assist students with self-regulation.

Ms. Austin asked which schools will be provided with the services. She expressed concern about the amount of the contract. Superintendent Gill indicated that eventually, all schools across the district will receive services. Ms. Lael-Wolf asked for additional information about the supplies included in the contract. Mr. Mares asked if the provider has staff that will also provide the services. Ms. Austin asked for data on the effectiveness of the services being provided. Mr. Miller asked if the ESSER funds that will pay for the services must be used by the spring of 2024. Superintendent Gill reported that the ESSER funds must be used by September of 2024. Ms. Lael-Wolf expressed support for trauma-informed yoga and mindfulness services but indicated that additional information is needed.

Motion to Table Consent Action Item 11.4 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Ashley Krstulovich Regarding Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom

Member (Jeff Tucka) Moved, Member (Erica Austin) Seconded to table Consent Action Item 11.4 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Ashley Krstulovich Regarding Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye":	Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka
Those voting "no":	None

Vote on Remaining Consent Action Items

Upon tabling Consent Action Item 11.4 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Ashley Krstulovich Regarding Yoga and Mindfulness, a vote was then taken to approve Consent Action Items 11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of December 19, 2022, and 11.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka

Those voting "no": None

11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of December 19, 2022

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 reviews the minutes of the regular session and the executive session of the previous Board Meetings; and

WHEREAS, copies of these sets of minutes were distributed to the Board in the board packet prior to this meeting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the aforementioned sets of regular session and executive session minutes and directs the Secretary to include them in the official records of the Board of Education meetings.

11.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves payroll and bills payable as shown in the attached report.

11.4 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Ashley Krstulovich Regarding Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom

Ms. Ashley Krstulovich, a certified yoga & mindfulness instructor, will provide yoga and mindfulness instruction to students and staff during the Spring 2023, Fall 2023, and Spring 2024 semesters. Eighty (80) different classrooms will participate each semester with the plan to provide this resource at all schools.

The overarching goal of the project is to teach, model, and practice a wide variety of self-awareness and management skills and techniques through direct instruction that are sustainable for both students and staff long term after the completion of the semester's teaching and learning along with impacting learning capacity and behavioral regulation.

The total instructional/consultant cost is \$192,450 (\$64,000 per semester and \$150 family session per semester).

The District will also purchase supporting materials at an estimated cost of \$35,000.

Both the consultant and material costs will be paid through ESSER funds.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 would like to provide yoga and mindfulness instruction to support student and staff social emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Krstulovich, as a certified yoga and mindfulness instructor, is able to provide such instruction; and

WHEREAS, the consultant services are completely reimbursable through ESSER funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement with Ashley Krstulovich for a total cost of \$192,450 for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

12.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Moved, Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka
Those voting "no": None

12.2 Approval of a Contract Extension with First Student

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to accept the Student Transportation Service Contract Extension for the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 school year with First Student as the contractor.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Micah Miller**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT RESOLVED to accept the Student Transportation Service Contract Extension for the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 school year with First Student as the contractor.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka
Those voting "no": None

12.3 Approval of a Revision to Board Policy – Graduation Requirements

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 maintains Board Policy manuals giving direction to the District; and

WHEREAS, such policy and manuals reflect case law, legal rulings, legislation, and district practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the attached policy relating to graduation requirements.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Micah Miller)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 maintains Board Policy manuals giving direction to the District; and

WHEREAS, such policy and manuals reflect case law, legal rulings, legislation, and district practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the attached policy relating to graduation requirements.'

Ms. Blissett and Ms. Austin asked that students be encouraged to take Speech.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka
Those voting "no": None

12.4 Student Discipline

Resolution: That the Board approves the student discipline as discussed in Executive Session and summarized by the Superintendent, as follows:

- That one 7th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Jefferson Middle School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year with a program.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Jeff Tucka)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board approves the student discipline as discussed in Executive Session and summarized by the Superintendent.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka
Those voting "no": None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, February 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

13.2 Upcoming District Events

January 18, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Freshman Open House
January 25-28 - Boys & Girls City Basketball Tournament
February 20 - No School - Holiday

13.3 Freedom of Information Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Mares declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, February 6, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Anthony Mares, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: February 6, 2023