

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 (6:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on January 18 A.D., 2022, 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

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools
Geneice Thompson, Student Board Member

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 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- 2.4 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)
- 2.5 Security Procedures - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education adjourn 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 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), 2.4 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), 2.5 Security Procedures - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**.

Those voting “aye”: Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting “no”: None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present.

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 18, 2022

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**William Ringer**) 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: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Those voting “aye”: Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer
Those voting “no”: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1 President's Comments

Mr. Mares made an announcement that per the Governor’s mandate, attendees are required to wear masks while in the meeting space. He further reported that in the case that any attendees refused to comply with the mandate, the meeting would be suspended. He confirmed that all attendees were in compliance before continuing with the meeting.

Next, Mr. Mares read the following statement.

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. Thompson reported that the Superintendent’s Student Roundtable’s Unity Day event had been postponed to the spring. She also provided information on the AP study groups. She indicated that the in-person version of the study group has been postponed. Planning for Zoom options will be discussed

during the group's next meeting. Lastly, she congratulated the students that participated in the Sangamon County 200th Birthday Video Contest. She indicated that she along with Natalie McLaughlin from Southeast and Alison Langfelder from Springfield won first place for their respective schools. Winners received a \$1,000 scholarship.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Celebrate 186

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest

Superintendent Gill congratulated the finalists in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest, hosted by the Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and Vicinity. She thanked Pastor T. Ray McJunkins and Union Baptist Church for hosting the event again this year. She congratulated the following winners: Chelsea Turner, 5th grade, Iles Elementary, Annabelle Morris and O'Tyonna Williams, 5th grade, Ridgely, Paul Watson, 7th grade and Claire Smith, 8th grade, Franklin Middle School, Ja'Maria Rollen, 8th grade, Jefferson Middle School, Emily Ye, 12th grade and Marek McKinney, 11th grade, Southeast High School.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

Superintendent Gill congratulated the members of Frontiers International for hosting another successful Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast.

Safe 2 Help Illinois

Superintendent Gill provided information about the Safe 2 Help resource for students. She indicated that the resource provides an anonymous way for students to report concerns about safety or obtain assistance.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

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

- Black Hawk Elementary School - Photos of the library and back of the circulation desk were shared, along with photos of the new art room.
- Butler Elementary School - Photos of the new addition were shared. Temporary plastic has been installed to protect the addition from the weather.
- Dubois Elementary School - Photos of the second-floor classroom and third-floor elevator lobby were shared. Drywall is going up and ductwork is being completed.
- Fairview Elementary School - Photos of the new library and art room were shared. The new circulation desk area is taking shape. Drywall work is complete and windows are waiting to be installed.
- Franklin Middle School - Photos of the second-floor classroom and north addition conference room were shared.
- Grant Middle School - Photos were shared of work being completed on the first and second floors. The areas featured will include a resource or breakout room and a teacher workroom.
- Jefferson Middle School - Photos of the classroom addition were shared. Exterior framing work is complete. A prefabricated stairwell will be installed. Ductwork is also being installed on the first floor of the addition.

- Sandburg Elementary School - Photos of the new rear classroom addition were shared, along with photos of the new music/art room. Installation of ductwork is underway.
- Washington Middle School - Photos of the classroom addition and first-floor hallway addition were shared. Exterior sheathing has been installed. A crane is being used to deliver roofing materials to the roof. Interior framing on the first-floor addition is underway.
- Southeast High School Auditorium - Photos taken from the stage facing the back of the auditorium and facing the stage from the back of the auditorium were shared. Seats and flooring have been removed.

2021 - 2022 Teaching and Learning Updates

Board members were provided with copies of a presentation of the 2021 - 2022 Teaching and Learning Updates. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Superintendent Gill introduced Dr. Nicole Moody, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

Dr. Moody provided an overview of the updates. Next, she overviewed the District Improvement Plan and highlighted the District's collective commitment to afford equitable opportunities for all students and staff. She overviewed District Improvement Plan goals for pre-kindergarten through 5th grade schools, 6th through 8th-grade schools, and 9th through 12th-grade schools.

Next, Dr. Moody shared the Superintendent's Cabinet's Theory of Action. She indicated that all Cabinet members, from Human Resources to Operations and Maintenance, Technology, Communications, Student and School Support have committed to support and increase capacity among Springfield Public Schools administrators and staff; communicate clear and high expectations relentlessly, align their work meaningfully in service to every student, family and school community; and ensure every student is afforded equitable access to rigorous learning opportunities. She reported that with this commitment, we can expect that every student will be empowered and ready to pursue college and career.

Dr. Moody then overviewed the Department of Teaching and Learning's Vision and Goals. She reported that the department's vision is as follows: "To ensure that schools demonstrate dramatic growth and achievement for every student in Springfield Public Schools, we as the leaders of teaching and learning will provide leadership, coaching, and supervision to increase the capacity of our building leaders." Additionally, the department has the following SMART Goal: "We, as leaders, will provide support so that by the end of the 2021-22 school year, 100 percent of principals will show growth in achieving their professional goals."

Next, Dr. Moody provided additional information about the work being done to ensure equity is achieved. She detailed the definition of equity as it relates to students and student achievement. She indicated that each school's School Improvement Plan is the work that the school does to improve teaching and learning. Additionally, the plans provide a means to document the work, in turn demonstrating the clear communication of the work to all staff and stakeholders, as well as providing an opportunity to monitor progress on goals that have been set. She then detailed how collaboration supports school improvement. She indicated that administration and teachers integrate various District initiatives and practices, such as AVID, into the school improvement plans by asking three specific questions: How will the initiative or practice support the work, how will we support students who are off track to reach our goals, and how will we communicate or involve families in this work?

Dr. Moody then provided information about the tools used to support and monitor the plans and work. She indicated that academic assessments, social and emotional learning assessments, and screeners, as well as culture and climate, are all used. Lastly, Dr. Moody indicated that the Board can expect to receive future presentations specific to AVID, FACE, Academic Curricular Areas such as literacy, social studies, math, science and technology, Social Emotional Learning and Wellness, Teacher Preparation Pathways, and individual school presentations that highlight the work she has overviewed.

There was then some discussion about the Illinois School Report Card and the 5 Essentials Survey.

City Basketball Tournament

Superintendent Gill reported that the Lanphier High School basketball teams have been impacted by COVID. The boys' team is unable to compete in the upcoming City Tournament. The girls' team will be able to compete on Saturday night. Additionally, there won't be a winner named during the tournament but the games will be made up after the tournament is over. The Sangamon County Department of Public Health has endorsed the audience capacity limits that are in place. Superintendent Gill then overviewed mitigation measures being used during the tournament, including limited ticket sales from 8,000 to 3,000 per night. Also, audience members will be encouraged to spread out. There will be a mask mandate and the Spirit Award has been put on hold for this year. The Bank of Springfield Center will also open the dampers to allow the exchange of additional fresh air to flow through the building. She reminded fans that there is no entrance after halftime of the second game each night. Also, there is no re-entry once fans leave. All bags will be searched. Security will also be increased inside and outside the building. Tickets will be on sale at each of the schools in the days leading up to the games. Unsold tickets will be returned to the Bank of Springfield Center to be sold on the day of the game. Lastly, the games will all be live streamed for those that don't want to attend in person.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

7.2 New Business

Mr. Miller asked for feedback and observations on the previous week of school. Ms. Austin indicated that she feels that schools are doing all that they can to mitigate and take precautions to protect students and staff. Ms. Lael-Wolf agreed. She reported that students can be provided with masks if needed. She has observed reminders being given to students to wear their masks, as well as staggered hallway passing times. She indicated that she has confidence in the mitigation efforts that have been implemented in the schools. There was additional discussion regarding the procedures for passing periods.

Superintendent Gill then provided some data. She indicated that as of the end of the school day on Friday, January 14, 2022, there were 614 students or 4.75% of the student population, and 99 staff, or 4.2% of staff, reported as positive for COVID in the COVID tracker. She reported that as of the end of the day on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, there were 1,970 students reported as a primary contact, as having a symptom, or as having a positive test result. She indicated that the number of students that tested positive was 396. Additionally, test-to-stay was utilized for a number of those students that had negative test results and no symptoms. Eighty-five staff members were in the tracker at the end of the day on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Of those, 65 tested positive, one was able to use test-to-stay to continue working, and 28 were classroom teachers. Seven classrooms that were on the tracker in adaptive pause came off on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, leaving four that remain paused. She reported that most of the

classrooms are special needs students that have challenges with masking or are early learning center classrooms. There was additional discussion regarding the test-to-stay option. Mr. Miller then asked if all of the District's facilities have weekly SHIELD testing in place. Superintendent Gill reported that each building does have SHIELD testing. There was then discussion regarding testing availability for schools that miss their regularly scheduled test day due to the observance of a holiday, vaccine clinics, mask requirements, and mental health days.

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. The meeting is also available on Cable Channel 22, U-Verse Channel 99 and at the public access streaming link.

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.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Adam Cook regarding school safety
- Jennifer Rockwell regarding masking and COVID

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 Business Report. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Ms. Angela Burris, Assistant Director of Business Services, reported that for the month of December 2021, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$5.19 million and expenditures totaled approximately \$10.29 million. Year-to-date Education Fund revenues have exceeded the expenditures by approximately \$9.68 million. In the Operations and Maintenance Fund, revenues during the month of December were

approximately \$83,000 and expenditures totaled approximately \$1.29 million. Year-to-date, Operations and Maintenance Fund expenditures have exceeded revenues by approximately \$600,000.

Next, Ms. Burris provided information on the Investments Balances Report. She indicated that as of December 31, 2021, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$61.56 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, the total cash in the bank was approximately \$27.66 million. Total investments were approximately \$65.23 million. Earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was just under \$191,000. The interest rate on all cash accounts as of December 31, 2021, was 0.35%. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of December 31, 2021, was \$126.78 million. For operating funds only, the balance was \$27.66 million. Lastly, the District also shows County sales tax proceeds received during the month of December of \$1.04 million dollars for September collections. Total collections thus far for FY22 are \$6.38 million, with overall total collections of \$23.75 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 11.5 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Erica Austin**) Moved, Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.5 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0.**

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

11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of January 4, 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, special 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 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment

Bid #22-05 — HVAC Improvements – Springfield High Science Wing

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion:

Bid #22-05 — HVAC Improvements – Springfield High Science Wing

11.5 Declaration of Surplus Property

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to declare the items on the attached document as surplus materials to be sold or disposed.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

12.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

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

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) 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: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, February 7, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

13.2 Freedom of Information Report

Board members were provided with a copy of the Freedom of Information Act Report for the weeks covering December 31, 2021, through January 13, 2022. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board website.

13.3 Alliance Legislative Report – 102-26

Available at <https://www.iasb.com/advocacy/legislative-reports/>

A moment of silence was observed for Diedra Silas, a Springfield Public Schools graduate and Department of Children and Family Services caseworker that was recently killed during a home visit.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Mares declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, February 7, 2022. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Anthony Mares, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: February 7, 2022