

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Tuesday, January 2, 2024 (5:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on January 2 A.D., 2024, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Micah Miller, President  
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Erica Austin  
Sarah Blissett  
Ken Gilmore  
Debra Iams  
Buffy Lael-Wolf  
Anthony Mares

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent  
Harrison Gray, Student Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

President Miller 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 (**Ken Gilmore**) 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: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Miller  
Those voting "no": None

## **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m. and reconvened at 6:43 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin, Ms. Lael-Wolf, and Mr. Mares joined the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **3.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Miller 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 2, 2024**

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved to approve the agenda. Member **(Sarah Blissett)** seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, '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, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller

Those voting "no": None

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **5.1 President's Comments**

Mr. Miller 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](mailto:boe@sps186.org).*

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Melissa Hostetter regarding technology
- Aaron Graves regarding

### **5.2 Student Report**

Student Representative Gray reported that the first basketball game in the new gym at Lanphier High School will take place on Friday, January 12, 2024. He then provided information on the Superintendent's Student Roundtable's Unity Day event. He noted that the event will take place on Monday, January 15, 2024, at Southeast High School. He encouraged students to register during their lunch hours.

Mr. Miller congratulated Harrison on earning his Eagle Scout designation with the Boy Scouts.

## **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 report covered the following topics.

#### **Boys and Girls City Basketball Tournament**

Superintendent Gill reported that the boys and girls City Basketball Tournament will take place from January 17 - 20, 2024, at the Bank of Springfield Center in downtown Springfield. Wednesday and Thursday games are currently scheduled for 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday's games are currently scheduled for 4:00 p.m., 5:40 p.m., 7:20, p.m. and 9:10 p.m. Saturday's games are scheduled for 3:00 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. She noted that the listed times are all approximate as games will begin 20 minutes after the end of the previous game. A full schedule will be determined the week of January 8, 2024. She also reminded parents that minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Jason Wind reported that tickets for the games will go on sale on Tuesday, January 17, 2024, at the high schools and the Bank of Springfield Center. On Wednesday, January 18, tickets will be sold until noon.

#### **Unity Day 2024**

Superintendent Gill reported that the Superintendent's Student Roundtable will host the annual Unity Day event on Monday, January 15, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Commons at Southeast High School. The event is open to all students from Lanphier, Sacred Heart Griffin, Southeast and Springfield High Schools. Students can register during their lunch hours.

#### **Teacher Inservice**

Superintendent Gill shared photos from teacher inservice held on the first day back from winter break.

#### **Our Schools Our Future**

Superintendent Gill shared information about the construction at Lanphier High School. She shared photos of the inside of the new gymnasium, a classroom, and an atrium. She noted that students will move into the completed portions of the building on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

#### **First Student Bus Driver Hiring**

Superintendent Gill asked Mr. Steve Miller, Director of Business Services to provide a brief update on bus driver hiring. Mr. Miller reported that First Student has drivers for all but two of their buses that serve District 186. He noted that First Student was able to change their hiring practices over the last month. Drivers now receive pay for the class time they must attend to obtain their CPL. Nine drivers have been hired over the last month with nine additional in the pipeline. He indicated that the goal is to have an extra 10% hired over what is needed in order to cover sick and vacation days.

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast**

Superintendent Gill reported that the District has a table at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Monday, January 15, 2024. She invited Board members to attend with her.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Old Business**

#### **Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) Liaison Report**

Ms. Lael-Wolf provided information for the monthly IASB Liaison Report. She indicated that she will forward the report to Ms. Hammers for distribution to the full Board. She reported that the deadline for the Share the Success proposals for the 2024 IASB Joint Annual Conference is March 1, 2024. Additionally, volunteers are needed to review those submissions. Board members that may be interested in volunteering to review the submissions should contact Patrick Allen, IASB's representative for the Springfield area. Lastly, Ms. Lael-Wolf shared that information regarding the upcoming division meetings will be published in January for those interested in attending.

### **7.2 New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **8.1 Public Comment**

Mr. Miller asked if there was any public comment. He then read the following statement:

*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.*

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Melissa Hostetter regarding technology in the classroom
- Aaron Graves regarding equity

## **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

There were no presentations to the Board at this time.

## **BUSINESS REPORT**

### **10.1 Business Report**

Board members were provided with the Business Office Report of January 2, 2024. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board website.

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that the evening's report provides information regarding outstanding payments due the district from the State of Illinois as of December 27, 2023, as well as information regarding the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of November 30, 2023.

Mr. Miller reported that outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois for the 2024 fiscal year (FY24) total approximately \$2.36 million as of December 27, 2023, broken down as follows: approximately \$61,400 due the Driver's Education program, approximately \$15,000 for the Career and Technical Education Grant, and approximately \$413,300 due the Special Education programs. Mr. Miller noted that all three of these programs are in the Education Fund. He indicated that as of December 27, 2023, there was also an outstanding amount due the State Free Lunch and Breakfast Food Service program of approximately \$10,300, and approximately \$1.86 million due the Transportation Fund.

For the cash roll forward detail of the Capital Projects Fund, Mr. Miller detailed revenues and expenditures incurred during November 2023. He noted that the report includes information about sales tax revenue and the separate bond transactions within the capital improvements. He reported that the cash roll forward review showed a starting balance of approximately \$167.08 million. November sales tax receipts of approximately \$1.17 million were reported for the August reporting period. Bond draws and expenses for the period totaled approximately \$7.54 million, while dividends and interest for the period were approximately \$253,900. This yielded an ending balance of approximately \$160.96 million.

There was some discussion regarding the outstanding State payments year-over-year from 2022 to 2023.

## **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 (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Sarah Blissett**) 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'.

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

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

### **11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of December 18, 2023**

**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.

### **11.3 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment**

#### **Bid #24-07 — Audio Visual Installation – District Office**

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

Bid #24-07 — Audio Visual Installation – District Office

## **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 **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Micah Miller)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the 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, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller  
Those voting "no": None

Ms. Lael-Wolf asked for additional information regarding the number of new teacher hires that took effect at the start of the new semester. Superintendent Gill reported that there are eight new teachers that have started, with several additional soon-to-be graduates that have signed letters of intent.

### **12.2 Student Discipline**

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

- That one 9th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year with a program; and
- That one 12th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Southeast High School through the end of the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year with a program.'

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board approves the student discipline as discussed in Executive Session and summarized by the Superintendent, as follows:

- That one 9th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year with a program; and
- That one 12th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Southeast High School through the end of the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year with a program.'

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

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

Ms. Blissett asked that the video that the Board created at the beginning of the school year related to behavior be shown again at the middle and high schools.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room**

#### **13.2 Upcoming District Events**

January 3 - School Resumes  
January 9 - School Resumes - Balanced Calendar  
January 15 - No School - Holiday  
January 17-20 - City Tournament

#### **Board Member Announcements**

##### **Kwanzaa Celebration**

Ms. Austin thanked the school administrators that attended the December 28, 2023, Kwanzaa celebration. She reported that over 100 individuals attended the event.

##### **Feitshans and Harvard Park Collection**

Ms. Austin reported that a family with students at Harvard Park and Feitshans Elementary Schools recently lost everything in an apartment fire. She reported that the schools are taking donations and collecting items for the family.

##### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest**

Mr. Gilmore reported that the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest for 5th grade through 12th grade students will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at Zion Baptist Church.

##### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

Ms. Blissett shared that the FAFSA application is now open for students. She encouraged high school seniors to apply. She also shared that the Community Foundation has a number of scholarships available.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Micah Miller, President

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Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: January 16, 2024