

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Thursday, January 30, 2025 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on January 30, A.D., 2025, at 5:35 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Micah Miller, President
 Nicole Irlam, Assistant Board Secretary

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

 Jennifer Gill, Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President Miller called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.1 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

3.1 Approve the Agenda for January 30, 2025

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved to approve the agenda. Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** 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

DISCUSSION

4.1 Required Board Training – Understanding School Improvement

Board members were provided with copies of documents related to the evening's presentation. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Mr. Nick Heckel from the Illinois State Board of Education introduced himself and shared the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Heckel provided an overview of the report card, designation process, and the intensive designation. He shared that we have five schools designated as intensive. Feitshans Elementary School, Harvard Park Elementary School, Jefferson Middle School, and Washington Middle School are in the first year of implementation. Lanphier High School is in the planning year.

Mr. Heckel reviewed the continuous school improvement model. There was discussion regarding the school leadership team and stakeholder advisory group. Superintendent Gill and Dr. Nicole Moody provided information about our structure and process. Mr. Heckel discussed how the Board can engage in the conversation about the school improvement process. He provided questions and strategies. He also explained the difference between the school improvement plan and the District improvement plan.

Mr. Heckel then discussed the use of a needs assessment to inform the school improvement plan. It is conducted by the American Institute of Research. It includes the following areas of school improvement: leadership and vision; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; culture and climate; and targeted instruction and support. There was discussion about funding this assessment. Mr. Heckel shared the funding provided for schools designated as targeted, comprehensive, or intensive.

Mr. Heckel shared information regarding the use of data benchmarks and progress monitoring. He provided information about root cause analysis and the use of SMART goals. He reviewed components of good SMART goals and how to monitor them.

Lastly, Mr. Heckel discussed implementing and monitoring the school improvement plan. He shared additional questions and resources for the Board regarding the school improvement plan process.

Superintendent Gill and Mr. Larry McVey shared how the District assists schools with all of the available resources and provides support throughout the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1 Public Comment

Mr. Miller asked if there was any public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, February 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, February 3, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Nicole Irlam, Assistant Board Secretary

Dated: February 18, 2025