

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, January 6, 2025 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on January 6, A.D., 2025, 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 via phone
Buffy Lael-Wolf
Anthony Mares

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent
Phong Duong, Student Representative

CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President Miller called the meeting to order.

1.2 Approval of Remote Attendance by Debra Iams

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion "That Debra Iams be allowed to attend remotely via telephone due to the weather emergency."

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

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

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)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) 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 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), 2.4 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": Austin, Blissett, Mares, Miller

Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Mr. Gilmore and Ms. Lael-Wolf joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m. Ms. Iams joined the meeting by phone at 5:35 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 6, 2025

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Anthony Mares**) Moved to approve the agenda. Member (**Erica Austin**) 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 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

Mr. Duong provided information on the Superintendent's Student Roundtable's Unity Day event. He indicated that the event will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bank of Springfield Center. He then welcomed students back to the second semester of classes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Celebrate 186

Superintendent Gill provided the bi-weekly Celebrate 186 presentation. Copies of the presentation filed with the Official Minutes are available [here](#). The report covered the following topics.

Lanphier High School Building & Construction Trades

Superintendent Gill reported that the Building and Construction Trades program at Lanphier High School has moved into its new space. She shared photos of the new space.

Holiday Magic at Ridgely Elementary School

Mrs. Barnard, a Kindergarten teacher at Ridgely Elementary School surprised each of her students with a new scarf, crocheted by Mrs. Barnard's grandmother. Earlier in the school year, students drew a picture of a scarf which Mrs. Barnard gave to her grandmother who turned the drawings into the crocheted scarves. Superintendent Gill reported that the students were surprised to see their art come to life.

Additionally, the story was featured on the District's social media accounts. The story has exploded on Instagram receiving over 4 million views for the first reel and over 500,000 views for the second reel.

Family Engagement Survey

Terrance Jordan, Director of Community and Family Engagement, reported that Panorama, the District's Family Engagement Survey, is taking submissions through January 10, 2025. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Families are asked to complete one survey for each school their children attend.

Mr. Jordan then noted that the 5 Essentials Survey provided by the State of Illinois will be given later in the Spring. He reported that the 5 Essentials Survey is a part of the district's accountability system.

Real Men Read

Mr. Jordan reported that the Real Men Read Social and Mid-Point Check-in is coming soon. The open-house style event will occur on Thursday, January 9, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the District's administrative office, 3063 Fiat Ave. The program's volunteers will be able to connect, provide feedback about the program, and college their second-semester books.

Virtual Professional Development

Superintendent Gill reported that due to the weather, teachers attended virtual professional development earlier in the day, the first day back from their winter break. She gave a shout-out to the administrators and teachers for their flexibility.

Next, she announced that school would be in session on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. She noted that she, the District's Business Manager, Steve Miller, and Interim Director of Operations and Maintenance, Mike Grossen, drove the streets to ensure they were safe for students and staff before a decision was made about the return to school. She reported that buses may be late for safety reasons. Business Director

Miller reported that he has been following the City of Springfield's app which provides road conditions and details streets that have received snow removal services.

Ms. Lael-Wolf complimented the District's Operations and Maintenance staff for their work to clear parking lots, playgrounds, and sidewalks around the schools. Mr. Grossen reported that his staff had begun clearing lots at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 5, and finished up at their regular time on Monday, January 6. The crews worked around the clock to ensure school staff were able to enter buildings safely.

District Career Fair

The District is hosting a Career Fair on Thursday, January 9, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and then again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office, 3063 Fiat Ave. Superintendent Gill reported that there are immediate openings for teachers, clerical staff, SCOPE staff, bus drivers, civilian sub security, crossing guards, food service staff, substitute teachers, teaching assistants, paraprofessionals, and custodians.

Our Schools Our Future

Superintendent Gill shared photos and an update from the Springfield High School construction project. She reported that the framework for the building's administrative offices is in place. The building will be similar to Lanphier High School. She also shared photos of the new competition gym, storm shelter, and two new math classrooms.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

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. There was no public comment at this time.

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 copies of the Business Office Report for January 6, 2025. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that the evening's report provides a recap of outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois as of December 30, 2024, and the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of November 30, 2024.

Mr. Miller reported outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois for the fiscal year 2025 totaling approximately \$3.2 million as of December 30, 2024. In the Education Fund, the Driver's Education program is due \$29,195 and the State Free Lunch and Breakfast program is due \$11,114. A total of approximately \$1.3 million is due to Special Projects, which includes the Early Childhood Block Grant and IDEA funding. Additionally, there is a total of approximately \$1.8 million due to the Transportation Fund.

Investments in the Capital Projects Fund showed a beginning balance of approximately \$72.9 million. Total revenues in the investment funds, dividends and interest, were approximately \$571,000. Bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$7.3 million. This yielded an ending balance of approximately \$66.1 million.

The District received approximately \$1.1 million in sales tax receipts in November from the August reporting period. Since 2019, the District has received approximately \$62.5 million in sales tax revenues with a 12-month average collection of approximately \$1.1 million. Currently, the District's sales tax money is used to pay the principal and interest of the bonds sold for its capital projects. Mr. Miller reported that as of November 30, 2024, the District has approximately \$4.3 million in its CFST savings account. The next payment of approximately \$9.3 million will be due on June 1, 2025. At that time, the District will have a projected surplus of approximately \$1.9 million in the account. A total of approximately \$12.5 million will be paid in the next two bond payments.

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 11.8 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.8 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 16, 2024

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 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment

Bid #25-03 — Roof Replacement Work - McClernand Elementary School

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

Bid #25-03 - Roof Replacement Work - McClernand Elementary School

11.5 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment

Bid #25-06 — Pest Control Services

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

Bid #25-03 - Pest Control Services

11.6 Approval of Cooperative High School Softball Team

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a cooperative team sponsorship between Lanphier High School, Springfield High School, and Southeast High School for Girls Softball for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 seasons.

11.7 Approval of Course Fees for the 2025-2026 School Year

Resolution: WHEREAS, the goal is to adjust the fees charged in courses at all high schools; and

WHEREAS, the fees are used to support the schools in purchasing consumable supplies for lab activities for the courses;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 approves the attached fees for high school courses.

11.8 Approval of an Agreement with Soliant Health, LLC

Resolution: WHEREAS, District 186 desires services of Soliant Health, LLC for speech/language tele-therapy services; and

WHEREAS, Soliant Health, LLC is appropriately qualified and able to provide 2.0 FTE speech/language tele-therapy services to Springfield Public School District 186 for the sole purpose of covering speech/language pathology vacancies and/or medical leaves;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and Soliant Health, LLC for the time period of January 6, 2025, through May 30, 2025, at a contract rate of \$115.00 per hour as stated in the agreement.

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 **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations, with one change.'

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

12.2 Approval of a Resolution Regarding Illinois Vision 2030

Resolution: WHEREAS, public education plays a defining role in ensuring equal opportunity for children in Illinois and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective duty to ensure that every student, regardless of demographic or geographic identity, has equal access to a quality, public education; and

WHEREAS, we believe that strides need to be proactively made to face challenges and continually improve our public education system; and

WHEREAS, there have been three areas of prioritization identified as integral in improving our public education system: Future-Focused Learning, Shared Accountability, and Predictable Funding; and

WHEREAS, Future-Focused Learning should address: promoting future-driven skills that allow for more college and career exploration; enhancing student safety and well-being; attracting and retaining a high quality and diverse educator pipeline; and promoting curriculum and instructional flexibility to meet the unique needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Shared Accountability should address: reforming the Illinois assessment system to be a timely and useful measure of student proficiency and growth over time; reforming the current accountability system to provide local flexibility for identifying indicators that create a more holistic view of student success; and reforming the mandate process to ensure implementation procedures that promote flexibility and local decision making; and

WHEREAS, Predictable Funding should address: protecting the integrity and funding of the evidence-based funding formula; strengthening public education through pension reforms; and establishing equitable funding sources for Capital and safety needs; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that any education improvement proposal for comprehensive change must be developed and supported by not only the education community, but in collaboration with families, communities, businesses, and others whose priorities reflect the best interests of the students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield Public School District 186 Board of Education joins with the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) , Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), Illinois Principals' Association (IPA), Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD), Illinois Alliance of Special Education Administrators (IAASE), and the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS) in supporting the Vision 2030 education improvement policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Springfield Public School District 186 Board of Education urges the Illinois General Assembly to approve the necessary legislative changes to implement the recommendations under the three pillars of education improvement as contained in the Vision 2030 policy.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, public education plays a defining role in ensuring equal opportunity for children in Illinois and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective duty to ensure that every student, regardless of demographic or geographic identity, has equal access to a quality, public education; and

WHEREAS, we believe that strides need to be proactively made to face challenges and continually improve our public education system; and

WHEREAS, there have been three areas of prioritization identified as integral in improving our public education system: Future-Focused Learning, Shared Accountability, and Predictable Funding; and

WHEREAS, Future-Focused Learning should address: promoting future-driven skills that allow for more college and career exploration; enhancing student safety and well-being; attracting and retaining a high quality and diverse educator pipeline; and promoting curriculum and instructional flexibility to meet the unique needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Shared Accountability should address: reforming the Illinois assessment system to be a timely and useful measure of student proficiency and growth over time; reforming the current accountability system to provide local flexibility for identifying indicators that create a more holistic view of student success; and reforming the mandate process to ensure implementation procedures that promote flexibility and local decision making; and

WHEREAS, Predictable Funding should address: protecting the integrity and funding of the evidence-based funding formula; strengthening public education through pension reforms; and establishing equitable funding sources for Capital and safety needs; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that any education improvement proposal for comprehensive change must be developed and supported by not only the education community, but in collaboration with families, communities, businesses, and others whose priorities reflect the best interests of the students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield Public School District 186 Board of Education joins with the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) , Illinois Association of School

Boards (IASB), Illinois Principals' Association (IPA), Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD), Illinois Alliance of Special Education Administrators (IAASE), and the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS) in supporting the Vision 2030 education improvement policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Springfield Public School District 186 Board of Education urges the Illinois General Assembly to approve the necessary legislative changes to implement the recommendations under the three pillars of education improvement as contained in the Vision 2030 policy.'

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

12.3 Student Discipline

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

- One 8th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Franklin Middle School through the end of the 2025-2026 school year with a program; and that
- One 10th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program; and that
- One 11th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2025-2026 school year without a program.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) 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:

- One 8th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Franklin Middle School through the end of the 2025-2026 school year with a program; and that
- One 10th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program; and that
- One 11th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2025-2026 school year without 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

January 20 - No School - Holiday
January 22-25 - Boys & Girls Basketball City Tournament

13.3 Freedom of Information Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, January 21, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: January 21, 2025