

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, October 16, 2023 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on October 16 A.D., 2023, 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)
- 2.4 Real Estate - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5,6)

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), 2.4 Real Estate - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5,6).'

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

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

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:32 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin, Ms. Iams, and Ms. Lael-Wolf joined the meeting at 5:31 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 October 16, 2023

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.

5.2 Student Report

Mr. Gray reported that during the last Superintendent's Student Roundtable meeting, students met in the new administration building. Students discussed the need for a second meeting each month to plan the upcoming Unity Day event. The extra meetings will take place on the third Wednesday of each month.

Next, Mr. Gray reported that the first quarter will end on Friday, October 20, 2023. Students will be dismissed 60 minutes early on Thursday, October 19, 2023. There is no school on Friday, October 20, 2023, for parent-teacher conferences.

Springfield High School's National Honor Society will rake leaves for veterans on Friday, November 10, 2023. Veterans interested in having their leaves raked or those interested in donating leaf bags can email Ben Kramer, bkramer@sps186.org.

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.

National Principals' Week

Superintendent Gill thanked the District's principals for their work in honor of National Principals' Week. She then read a proclamation from the Illinois Principals Association.

There was then some discussion regarding the new math curriculum. Several board members reported visiting schools to see students working with the new math curriculum. Ms. Lael-Wolf reported visiting Fairview where students in Ms. Jett's class were very engaged. Ms. Austin reported being in Ms. Capranica's class for the demonstration. Ms. Iams reported being in Mrs. Schweska's class at Black Hawk Elementary. Mr. Gilmore visited Ms. Capranica's room, Ms. Sweska's room, and Ms. Schmideler at Lindsay Elementary. Ms. Blissett reported visiting Ms. Jett's classroom.

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist & Commendation

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has announced its list of semi-finalists and commended high school students recognized for outstanding academic achievement. Superintendent Gill congratulated one Springfield High School student selected as a semi-finalist and three who each received letters of commendation.

Springfield High School Golf

Superintendent Gill congratulated Julian Valenti and James Oh from Springfield High School for placing 35th at the Class 3A State Championship Golf Tournament. She noted that Julian also had a hole-in-one this year.

Project Lead the Way at Washington Middle School

Superintendent Gill reported that Washington Middle School Project Lead the Way students practiced their medical detective skills with patient volunteers recently. Mrs. Winskill led students through medical testing and diagnosing patients.

Hispanic Heritage Culminating Event

Lincoln Magnet School hosted a Hispanic Heritage Culminating Event on Friday, October 13, 2023. Over sixty students participated in fun crafts, trivia, Zumba dancing, and enjoyed snacks.

New Bus Safety Arms

The District, in partnership with First Student, has installed newly allowed stop arm extensions on 20 school buses, which will better alert motorists to the presence of children. New legislation sponsored by Senator Doris Turner now allows school districts and buses across the state to be equipped with up to two additional safety arms. The arms are not required. The arms on District buses are being installed thanks to a \$10,000 donation from the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) and their signatory contractors.

District 186 Career Fair

The District will host a career fair on Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and then again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office, 3063 Fiat Avenue. There are immediate openings for Clerical, Crossing Guards, Food Service, Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants, and Paraprofessionals.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

Superintendent Gill shared information about construction at Lanphier High School. She shared photos of work completed on the Gardner Gym and storm shelter. She noted that the flooring, lines, coating, and curing are almost complete. In the Lober-Nika Gym, the wood is acclimating before work begins on the floor later in the week.

In the new auditorium, the roof deck is complete. Crews are now working on the catwalk. Concrete work on the rest of the seating area will be underway soon.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

7.2 New Business

Ms. Lael-Wolf reported that the Board will need to select a delegate for the Illinois Association of School Boards' (IASB) Joint Annual Conference. The delegate will submit the Board's vote on five resolutions. She indicated that Board members have been provided with the resolutions for review. The resolutions will be discussed at the November 6, 2023, regular meeting. She reported that the Board will then need to decide how the delegate should vote during the conference Delegate Assembly.

Next, Ms. Lael-Wolf asked for a volunteer to serve as the delegate. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Gilmore has volunteered to serve in this capacity. Ms. Lael-Wolf reported that Mr. Gilmore's name will be submitted to the IASB.

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.

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 the Business Office Report of October 16, 2023. 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 for the month of September 2023, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$33.0 million. Education Fund expenditures for the month totaled approximately \$10.9 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund saw revenues of approximately \$5.3 million. Expenditures for the fund totaled approximately \$1.5 million.

For the Investment Balances Report, as of September 30, 2023, the district had a combined cash balance of approximately \$116.5 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only (Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash Funds), the total cash in the bank was approximately \$68.1 million. Total investments were approximately \$119.2 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$1.8 million. The interest rate on all cash accounts on September 30, 2023, was 2.5% or 250 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of September 30, 2023, was approximately \$235.7 million. Mr. Miller noted that the district also shows recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of September 2023 of approximately \$1.2 million for the June collection period. There were total collections of approximately \$46.6 million.

Mr. Miller then presented a graph that tracks the percentage spent out of the Education Fund for fiscal year 2024 with a comparison to expenditures from the Education Fund for fiscal year 2023. He noted that it is his intent to present an updated graph monthly during the second regular Board meeting. He then provided an explanation of how to read the graph and provided additional information regarding fiscal year 2023 spending.

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 11.7 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Erica Austin)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.7 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 October 2, 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 the Release of Executive Session Minutes from January 3, 2023, through June 20, 2023

Resolution: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to publicly release the executive session minutes of the following Board meetings (except for portions of such minutes that have been redacted for the reason that the need to maintain confidentiality of certain personnel information continues to exist):

Regular Meeting of January 3, 2023
Regular Meeting of January 17, 2023
Regular Meeting of February 6, 2023
Regular Meeting of February 21, 2023
Regular Meeting of March 7, 2023
Regular Meeting of March 20, 2023
Regular Meeting of April 3, 2023
Special Meeting of April 10, 2023
Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023
Regular Meeting of May 1, 2023
Special Meeting of May 11, 2023
Regular Meeting of May 15, 2023
Regular Meeting of June 5, 2023
Regular Meeting of June 20, 2023

11.4 Approval of a Resolution Regarding Verbatim Recordings from January 3, 2023, through June 20, 2023

Resolution: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to extend non-disclosure of the recordings of the closed Executive Session portions of the Board's regular and special meetings set forth below for the reason that the need to maintain confidentiality continues to exist and to authorize and direct the Board Secretary to destroy such recordings on or after the identified dates:

Regular Board Meeting Date — Authorized Destruction Date

January 3, 2023 — July 4, 2025

January 17, 2023 — July 18, 2025

February 6, 2023 — August 7, 2025

February 21, 2023 — August 22, 2025

March 7, 2023 — September 8, 2025

March 20, 2023 — September 21, 2025

April 3, 2023 — October 4, 2025

April 10, 2023 — October 11, 2025

April 17, 2023 — October 18, 2025

May 1, 2023 — November 2, 2025

May 11, 2023 — November 12, 2025

May 15, 2023 — November 16, 2025

June 5, 2023 — December 6, 2025

June 20, 2023 — December 21, 2025

11.5 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable

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

11.6 Approval of Travel for Springfield High School Show Choir

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Springfield High School Show Choir has requested permission to travel to Davenport, Iowa, to compete at "The Big Dance," the Davenport North High School show choir invitational; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield High School Show Choir agrees to raise all necessary funds and abide by all rules and regulations of Springfield School District 186;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield High School Show Choir has permission to travel to Davenport, Iowa, on January 27, 2024.

11.7 Approval of Travel for Springfield High School Show Choir

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Springfield High School Show Choir has requested permission to travel to Keokuk, Iowa, to compete at the "Power City Classic," the Keokuk High School show choir invitational; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield High School Show Choir agrees to raise all necessary funds and abide by all rules and regulations of Springfield School District 186;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield High School Show Choir has permission to travel to Keokuk, Iowa, on February 10, 2024.

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 (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) 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

12.2 Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Springfield Regarding Infrastructure Improvements

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached intergovernmental agreement with the City of Springfield regarding infrastructure improvements near Lanphier High School.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached intergovernmental agreement with the City of Springfield regarding infrastructure improvements near Lanphier High School.'

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:

- That one 8th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Grant Middle School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year without a program; and
- That two 8th grade students be hereby expelled from further attendance at Jefferson Middle School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year with a program; and
- That one 9th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2023-2024 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:

- That one 8th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Grant Middle School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year without a program; and
- That two 8th-grade students be hereby expelled from further attendance at Jefferson Middle School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year with a program; and

- That one 9th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2023-2024 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

Board of Education Member Announcements

Vaccination and Physical Exam Exclusions

Superintendent Gill reported that students without state-required physical examinations or vaccinations were excluded from attending school earlier in the day, in keeping with the State of Illinois’ exclusion date. The District had 135 students that had to be excluded. Those students will not be allowed to return to school until the required paperwork is received. Students can get their school work and make up any missed work while they are excluded.

Superintendent Gill thanked the school nurses for their work to see that students were in compliance.

Breast Cancer Documentary

Ms. Austin invited the public to attend SIU School of Medicine’s documentary, “The Many Faces, Races and Paces of Breast Cancer” on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Camp 1908, 1100 South Grand Avenue. She indicated that she is one of the individuals featured in the documentary.

Lanphier High School National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Mr. Miller thanked Lanphier High School staff for recently inviting and welcoming him and Ms. Blissett to the school’s National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

5th Annual HBCU College Fair

Ms. Austin reported that the 5th Annual Historic Black Colleges and Universities College Fair will take place on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at Union Baptist Church.

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

13.2 Upcoming District Events

October 19 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal

October 20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School

13.3 Freedom of Information Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, November 6, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: November 6, 2023