

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, October 21, 2024 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on October 7, 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

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 (**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 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**.

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

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Iams and Mr. Mares joined the meeting at 5:33 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 21, 2024

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

There was no student report at this time.

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.

P4: McNeese Physician Pipeline Program

Superintendent Gill reported that a total of forty-one freshmen from District 186 high schools are a part of the McNeese Physician's Pipeline Program (P4) this year. On Wednesday, October 16, 2024, the students received white coats and were inducted into the program. Students enter P4 as high school freshmen and continue in the program through their senior year, gaining an in-depth understanding of medical school coursework, admissions, critical thinking, and specialty training. She noted that P4 graduate and Lanphier High School alumni, Kanicia Green delivered an uplifting and motivational message during the White Coat Ceremony. She shared her current path as an obstetrics and gynecology resident at the University of Cincinnati Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program.

Jack O Lantern Spectacular

Students from across District 186 participated in carving pumpkins for the recent Jack O'Lantern Spectacular at Washington Park. Superintendent Gill shared photos of students from Lee Elementary School who worked in small groups to put their math skills to use, estimating the weight, height, and circumference of their pumpkins before carving them. Additional photos of Grant Middle School students working together to carve pumpkins were also shared. She noted that several District schools participate in the annual event.

Thank You Friend in Deed

Superintendent Gill thanked the Friend in Deed program for providing homeless families across the District with food baskets during the recent holiday weekend. She noted the organization's significant impact on the Springfield community.

Lanphier High School Open House

Superintendent Gill invited the community to an open house event showcasing the new Lanphier High School building. She noted that the event will occur on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Guests may enter through the school's main entrance facing 11th Street. They will be treated to guided tours of the building. She also noted that the school will celebrate homecoming that same weekend with the homecoming football game scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024, at Memorial Stadium against Normal University High School.

There was some discussion regarding parking for the event and clean up of the outside construction area before the event.

Empower All Abilities

Superintendent Gill reported that the annual Empower All Abilities Conference will be held at Lanphier High School from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 16, 2024. The conference has been a beacon of support, bringing together families, educators, and professionals to empower students with exceptionalities. This year's conference will feature a keynote from social media influencer and author of [I'm Just a Kid with an IEP](#), Jordan Toma. The event will feature breakout sessions led by regional experts on key topics including autism, ADHD, transition services, and long-term planning.

District 186 Career Fair

Superintendent Gill reported that the District will host a Career Fair on Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Center, 3063 Fiat Ave. She noted that several positions have immediate openings, with on-site interviews being conducted for future qualifying paraprofessionals.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

Capital Area Career Center Update

Ms. Blissett reported attending the recent Board of Directors Meeting at the Capital Area Career Center (CACC). She noted that the school plans to implement a Jr. ROTC program for the U.S. Air Force.

IASB Liaison Report

Ms. Lael-Wolf reported that the Illinois Association of School Boards' fall legislative events will run through October. She noted that the Abe Lincoln Division's legislative event recently occurred at Lanphier High School. Several District 186 Board members were in attendance. Legislators in attendance listened to concerns and provided information during the event. Mr. Gilmore will provide feedback to the organization about the event.

Ms. Lael-Wolf also reported that School Board Member Day is November 15, 2024. The organization's Joint Annual Conference will be held November 22-24, 2024. Lastly, with elections slated for early April 2025, IASB has resources available to those interested in running for a position on a school board.

Board Policy Revisions

Superintendent Gill asked for clarification regarding the employee dress code. After some discussion that resulted in a consensus to allow employees to wear denim pants, it was noted that language will be added to the policy to allow employees to wear denim pants without rips or holes. Superintendent Gill indicated that the language will be updated to reflect the discussion and the policy will be brought to the Board for action and inclusion in the new policy manual.

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

9.1 Marsh Elementary School Facility Plans

Board members were provided with a [video](#) and [slides](#) of the Marsh Elementary School Facility Plan presentation. Copies filed with the Official Minutes can be found at the above links.

Paul Wheeler, Principal Architect with Farnsworth Group, Max Dirker, Senior Project Manager with O'Shea Builders, and Wendy Conaway, Principal at Owen Marsh Elementary, addressed the Board and reviewed the school's construction plans.

There was discussion regarding heating and cooling of the building in light of the amount of glass, parking, the new playground, logistical challenges associated with delivery of construction materials to the site, measures used to keep the construction site separate from the current school building, how the area

where the current school is located will be utilized after the new building is complete, as well as how art and historical items from the current school will be used.

BUSINESS REPORT

10.1 Business Report

Board members were provided with the September 2024 Monthly Business Report. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that for the month of September 2024, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$37.2 million and expenditures in the fund totaled approximately \$12.7 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund saw revenues during the same period of approximately \$5.6 million. Expenditures in the Operations and Maintenance Fund were approximately \$1.4 million.

Concerning the Investments Balances Report, as of September 30, 2024, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$103.9 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, which include the Education Fund, Operations and Maintenance Fund, Transportation Fund, and Working Cash Fund, the total cash in the bank was approximately \$74.97 million. Total investments are approximately \$93.9 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$528,000. The interest rate on all cash accounts in September was 2.5% or 250 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of September 30, 2024, was approximately \$197.9 million. The District also shows recorded County Sales Tax proceeds received during the month of September of \$1.2 million for the June collection period. The total sales tax collection since 2019 has been approximately \$60 million.

Mr. Miller then shared graphs comparing the percentages of expenditures in the Education Fund by month during the 2025 fiscal year and an average of the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years' percentages. He provided the same comparison for the combined operating funds.

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 11.9 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 11.9 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 7, 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 Approval of a Resolution to Repay and Reborrow a Loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund

The School Code of Illinois allows for a transfer of funds to accommodate cash flow conditions. This resolution repays a loan in the amount of \$4,300,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund. A new loan is approved in the amount of \$4,300,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Ed Fund.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Article 20 of the School Code authorizes transfers from the Working Cash Fund to any fund of the District for which taxes are levied; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously approved a loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund in the amount of \$4,300,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the District collected total taxes in the Education Fund of \$82,225,533; and

WHEREAS, the District anticipates collection of total taxes in the Education Fund during 2024 in amounts at least equal to those received in 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Final repayment shall be made from the Education Fund to the Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$4,300,000; and
2. Upon completion of the action authorized above and in anticipation of the total taxes to be received during 2024 in the Education Fund; a new loan is hereby approved from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund in the amount of \$4,300,000.

11.5 Approval of a Resolution to Repay and Reborrow a Loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund

The School Code of Illinois allows for a transfer of funds to accommodate cash flow conditions. This resolution repays a loan in the amount of \$2,500,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. A new loan is approved in the amount of \$2,500,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Article 20 of the School Code authorizes transfers from the Working Cash Fund to any fund of the District for which taxes are levied; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously approved a loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the District collected total taxes in the Operations and Maintenance Fund of \$15,553,513; and

WHEREAS, the District anticipates collection of total taxes in the Operations and Maintenance Fund during 2024 in amounts at least equal to those received in 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Final repayment shall be made from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000; and
2. Upon completion of the action authorized above and in anticipation of the total taxes to be received during 2024 in the Operations and Maintenance Fund; a new loan is hereby approved from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000.

11.6 Approval of a Resolution to Repay and Reborrow a Loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Retirement Fund

The School Code of Illinois allows for a transfer of funds to accommodate cash flow conditions. This resolution repays a loan in the amount of \$2,500,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Retirement Fund. A new loan is approved in the amount of \$2,500,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Retirement Fund.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Article 20 of the School Code authorizes transfers from the Working Cash Fund to any fund of the District for which taxes are levied; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously approved a loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Retirement Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the District collected total taxes in the Retirement Fund of \$3,343,707; and

WHEREAS, the District anticipates collection of total taxes in the Retirement Fund during 2024 in amounts at least equal to those received in 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Final repayment shall be made from the Retirement Fund to the Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000; and
2. Upon completion of the action authorized above and in anticipation of the total taxes to be received during 2024 in the Retirement Fund; a new loan is hereby approved from the Working Cash Fund to the Retirement Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000.

11.7 Approval of a Resolution to Repay and Reborrow a Loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Self-Insurance Fund

The School Code of Illinois allows for a transfer of funds to accommodate cash flow conditions. This resolution repays a loan in the amount of \$4,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Self-Insurance Fund. A new loan is approved in the amount of \$4,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Self-Insurance Fund.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Article 20 of the School Code authorizes transfers from the Working Cash Fund to any fund of the District for which taxes are levied; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously approved a loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Self-Insurance Fund in the amount of \$4,000,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the District collected total taxes in the Educational, Operations & Maintenance and Transportation Funds of \$104,068,962; and

WHEREAS, the District anticipates collection of total taxes in the Educational, Operations & Maintenance and Transportation Funds during 2024 in amounts at least equal to those received in 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Final repayment shall be made from the Self-Insurance Fund to the Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$4,000,000; and
2. Upon completion of the action authorized above and in anticipation of the total taxes to be received during 2024 in the Educational, Operations & Maintenance and Transportation Funds; a new loan is hereby approved from the Working Cash Fund to the Self-Insurance Fund in the amount of \$4,000,000.

11.8 Approval of a Resolution to Repay and Reborrow a Loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund

The School Code of Illinois allows for a transfer of funds to accommodate cash flow conditions. This resolution repays a loan in the amount of \$2,250,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund. A new loan is approved in the amount of \$2,250,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Article 20 of the School Code authorizes transfers from the Working Cash Fund to any fund of the District for which taxes are levied; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously approved a loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund in the amount of \$2,250,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the District collected total taxes in the Transportation Fund of \$6,309,646; and

WHEREAS, the District anticipates collection of total taxes in the Transportation Fund during 2024 in amounts at least equal to those received in 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Final repayment shall be made from the Transportation Fund to the Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$2,250,000; and

2. Upon completion of the action authorized above and in anticipation of the total taxes to be received during 2024 in the Transportation Fund; a new loan is hereby approved from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund in the amount of \$2,250,000.

11.9 Approval of an Agreement with The Gym

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield High School requires temporary physical education space due to construction; and

WHEREAS, The Gym has adequate space available for two of the four physical education sections each hour;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement with The Gym from October 22, 2024, through May 30, 2025, at a total cost of \$6,000.

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, 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 Change Order for Harvard Park Elementary School

Change order to convert existing tennis courts to parking for District use

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Harvard Park Elementary School

Change Order: #1

Amount: \$14,211.44.

Contractor: Seward Masonry

Scope of Work: Replace bricks as needed and repair the parapet wall on the north side.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Harvard Park Elementary School

Change Order: #1

Amount: \$14,211.44.

Contractor: Seward Masonry

Scope of Work: Replace bricks as needed and repair the parapet wall on the north side.'

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 Approval of a Revision to Board Policies

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 maintains a Board Policy manual giving direction to the District; and

WHEREAS, such policy manual reflects case law, legal rulings, legislation, and district practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the attached reviewed and revised policies.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 maintains a Board Policy manual giving direction to the District; and

WHEREAS, such policy manual reflects case law, legal rulings, legislation, and district practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the attached reviewed and revised policies.'

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

12.4 Student Discipline

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

- One 11th-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 2024-2025 school year without a program.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) 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 11th-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 2024-2025 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 — Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

November 5 - No School - Election Day

November 11 - No School - Veterans Day

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, November 4, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: November 4, 2024