

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, November 18, 2024 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on November 18, 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
Phong Duong, 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 **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** 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, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:33 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin, Ms. Iams and Mr. Mares joined the meeting at 5:32 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 November 18, 2024

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Anthony Mares**) Moved to approve the agenda. Member (**Debra Iams**) 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 reported that the District's new show choir, Collage, recently held tryouts. The tryouts were well attended. He indicated that he was selected to play saxophone for the show choir band.

Additionally, the Superintendent's Roundtable recently selected two charities to support for Unity Day. He indicated that the charities will be announced in December. The group continues with preparations for the event which will take place on January 25, 2025, at the Bank of Springfield Center.

Lastly, Mr. Duong reported that Southeast High School recently hosted the annual alumni basketball game. The game was well attended.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Miller reported that Superintendent Gill had lost her voice. As such, Terrance Jordan, Director of School Leadership and F.A.C.E., provided the evening's Superintendent's Report and Celebrate 186 slides.

Celebrate 186

Mr. Jordan then provided the bi-weekly Celebrate 186 presentation. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#). The report covered the following topics.

Springfield Housing Authority STARS

Mr. Jordan reported that the Springfield Housing Authority has teamed up with the school district to create an after-school program for students who live in Johnson Park. Students will be immersed in this program for the next six weeks, getting to experience hands-on activities and connections within our community.

Springfield First Citizen Award

Mr. Jordan reported that he, Superintendent Gill, Ms. Dyas, and approximately 300 people from the community packed Erin's Pavilion at Southwind Park for the Springfield First Citizen Award presentation and ceremony recently. He noted that twenty-five individuals were nominated for the award.

Mr. Jordan reported that Ms. Joan Bortolon was named the First Citizen for her contributions to local veterans. Ms. Bortolon is the President of the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight organization. She has personally organized the details of more than 70 honors flights for 60,000 veterans over the last 15 years.

Empower All Abilities Conference

Mr. Jordan reported that the 2024 Empower All Abilities Conference was held this past Saturday. He noted that the event was nothing short of amazing. Approximately 200 attendees gathered to connect, learn, and grow together. Keynote speaker, Jordan Toma, captivated the audience with his powerful story. Families participated in breakout sessions tailored to their needs and explored a large resource fair filled with vendors and tools to support their children.

Raking Leaves for Veterans

Springfield High School's National Honor Society students continued their tradition of raking leaves for local veterans and their families on Veterans Day. Students raked over 200 bags of leaves.

School Board Members Day

Mr. Jordan reported that Friday, November 15, 2024, was School Board Members Day in Illinois. The day honors leaders who volunteer their time and dedication to shape the future of education in their communities. Mr. Jordan thanked the Board members for their service.

Our Schools Our Future

Mr. Jordan shared photos of Southeast High School's Spartan Field. He reported that the scoreboard and jumbotron have been installed. The renovation also includes a new press box, which has been added and will provide a temperature-controlled environment. Mr. Jordan noted that track and field events will be held at the new facility in the Spring of 2025.

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.

7.3 Board Policy Updates

Board members were provided with drafts of updates to several Board Policies. Mr. Miller reported that the updates are routine and suggested by IASB's PRESS Policy Service. Superintendent Gill reported that she has provided each of the members with a summary of the updates. Mr. Miller reported that the policies will be presented for approval at the December 2, 2024 meeting.

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 October 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 October 2024, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$8.95 million. Expenditures in the fund were approximately \$13.6 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund saw revenues over the same period of approximately \$420,000 and expenditures of approximately \$1.8 million.

For the Investment Balances Report, Mr. Miller reported that as of October 31, 2024, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$102.6 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, which include the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash funds, total cash in the bank was approximately \$63.9 million. Total investments are \$93.9 million. Year-to-date interest on all cash accounts for October was approximately \$759,000. The interest rate on all cash accounts for October was 2.5% or 250 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of October 31, 2024, was \$196.6 million. The District also shows recorded County sales tax proceeds received during October of \$1.1 million for the July collection period. Total collections of sales tax since 2019 are approximately \$61 million.

Mr. Miller then shared two graphs comparing the percentages of expenditures in the Education Fund by month in fiscal year 2025 to the average of the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years' percentages and the same comparison for the Education, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation Funds combined. He noted that the District's goal is to spend 95% of the budget.

10.2 Tax Levy Presentation

Board members were provided with copies of a presentation on the 2024 tax levy. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Mr. Miller provided information about the levy. He overviewed the timeline for filing the levy with the County and the requirements associated with the filing of the levy. He noted that local property taxes represent approximately 51% of the budgeted revenues and approximately 46% of the Education Fund revenues.

Mr. Miller then provided information on the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), including a historical representation of the Consumer Price Index, which impacts the levy. He also provided background information on the Truth in Taxation Act, which provides procedures for public notice and public hearings on the levy. He overviewed the requirements set forth in the act. He indicated that while the District is not required to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing, it chooses to do so as a best practice for full disclosure and transparency reasons. He provided last year's levy amount and the amount received. He reported that this year's levy will extend last year's amount by 4.75%, which includes a balloon to take into account new property that may be built over the next year. He then discussed the tax extension limit, the District's Fund Balance, fund distribution, the average homeowner property tax increase, and resolutions that will be required.

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 **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Erica Austin)** 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 November 4, 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 Travel for Southeast High School Band

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Southeast High School Band has requested permission to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana, to perform at Circle Center Mall and attend a masterclass at the University of Indianapolis; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast High School Band 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 Southeast High School Band has permission to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 25, 2025.

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 **(Debra Iams)** 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 the District's Position Regarding the Illinois Association of School Board's Delegate Assembly Resolution Recommendations

Discuss the following resolutions and provide direction for the Board representative at IASB's annual conference.

IASB Position - Do Adopt

- 1. Dual Language
- 2. EBF Authorized Charter School Funding
- 3. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Accountability
- 4. Faith's Law — Centralized State Agency for EHRs
- 5. Health Care Coverage
- 6. Polling Place— Amendment to Position Statement 7.08

IASB Position - Do Not Adopt

- 7. Cell Phone Usage
- 8. Office of Inspector General
- 9. Faith's Law — EHRs for Current Employees

10. Criminal Background Check

More information is available at:

<https://www.iasb.com/getmedia/a9e4a69e-9aea-4efb-9110-f10ab9a0e058/2024-Resolutions-Committee-Report-Web.pdf>

Resolution: That the Board's representative, Ken Gilmore, will represent the District's position at the IASB Conference as discussed and agreed upon by the Board of Education.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board's representative will represent the District's position to follow the recommendation at the IASB Conference as discussed and agreed upon by the Board of Education.'

There was then some discussion regarding the IASB's recommendations. There was agreement that the Board will support each of the IASB position 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

12.3 Student Discipline

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

- One 7th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Washington Middle School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program; and that
- One 8th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Grant Middle School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year without a program; and that
- One 8th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Jefferson Middle School through the end of the 2024-2025 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 first semester of the 2025-2026 school year without a program.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Anthony Mares**) Moved, Member (**Sarah Blissett**) 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 7th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Washington Middle School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program; and that
- One 8th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Grant Middle School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year without a program; and that
- One 8th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Jefferson Middle School through the end of the 2024-2025 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 first semester 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 — Monday, December 2, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

November 28-29 - No School - Thanksgiving

December 23-January 6 - No School - Winter Break

December 23-January 13 - No School for Graham & Southern View - Winter Break

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, December 2, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: December 2, 2024