

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, November 4, 2024 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on November 4, A.D., 2024, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Micah Miller, President
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

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, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:39 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present as Ms. Iams joined the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and Mr. Gilmore joined the meeting at 5:38 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 4, 2024

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: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 7 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": 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 high school students from across the District have a new opportunity with the District-wide Show Choir group, *Collage*. Next, he reported that bands from Lanphier and Southeast High School participated together in the Springfield Halloween Parade. Mr. Duong then provided information about the Superintendent's Student Roundtable's Unity Day planning. Lastly, he shared that he will be attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in the Fall. He plans to major in Computer Science with a minor in Journalism or Sports Media.

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.

Springfield Art Association Outstanding Community Arts Advocate

Superintendent Gill congratulated Terrance Jordan, Director of Family and Community Engagement, for a recent recognition by the Springfield Art Association (SAA). Mr. Jordan was honored as the Outstanding Community Arts Advocate for bringing summertime art programming to District 186 students.

Shadow Hanson

Superintendent Gill reported that Lanphier, Southeast, and Springfield High School students recently participated in a shadowing event with Hanson Professional Services Inc. The students were introduced to the engineering world during the event and participated in hands-on activities that brought engineering to life. She thanked Hanson for partnering with District 186 and surrounding districts on the event.

Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council

Superintendent Gill congratulated Southeast High School student Natalie Harris, who was selected to serve on the Illinois State Board of Education's Student Advisory Council. The Council brings students from the state together to identify and research important topics and issues impacting public school students.

INSPRA 2024 Communication Award

Superintendent Gill reported that the District's social media category entry in the INSPRA 2024 Communication Awards contest, Grad Walk The Halls 2024, was recognized as commendable in the organization's recent award contest. Entries were judged by school communicators from across the country. Superintendent Gill thanked Rachel Dyas, Director of Communications, for creating the social media post and video recognized by the organization.

Lanphier Open House

Superintendent Gill reported that the Lanphier Open House was a huge success. The event drew a large crowd of approximately 600 - 700 people throughout the day. Participants were provided with guided tours of the school. Old yearbooks were sold during the event as a fundraiser. She thanked the community for coming out to support the school.

Empower All Abilities

The annual Empower All Abilities Conference (EAA) will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at Lanphier High School. Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m., with the program scheduled from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Superintendent Gill reported that for over 16 years, the EAA 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, Jordan Toma, a national speaker and author of *I'm Just a Kid with an IEP*. The event will also feature breakout sessions led by regional experts on key topics including autism, ADHD, transition services, and long-term planning.

Superintendent Gill encouraged those interested in participating to visit the District's website for more information and to register for the event.

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. at the District Administrative Office,

3063 Fiat Avenue. On-site interviews will be conducted for future qualifying paraprofessionals. Additionally, there are immediate openings for teachers, clerical staff, SCOPE staff, First Student bus drivers, part-time civilian sub security, crossing guards, Food Service, substitute teachers, teaching assistants, paraprofessionals, and custodial staff.

Our Schools Our Future

Superintendent Gill shared information from current construction projects across the District. This week, she featured an update from the construction at Southeast High School's Spartan Field. She shared photos of the work, including new buildings being constructed and the preparation for the turf to be laid on the football field.

Mike Grossen, Interim Director of Operations and Maintenance, reported that the color coating over the track has also been sprayed and the scoreboard has been installed.

Springfield High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Superintendent Gill reported that she attended the Springfield High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction. Andrew Lam, a nationally recognized retinal surgeon, published author, and Springfield High School graduate, was honored during the event.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

IASB Liaison Report

Ms. Lael-Wolf reported that this month's Illinois Association of School Boards' (IASB) Liaison Report provides members with information about the upcoming school board elections across the state and guidance for new members once the elections are held in April 2025. Additionally, the report provides information about the organization's conference in November in Chicago. She indicated that the report would be shared with the rest of the Board members via email.

Mr. Gilmore provided information on the Delegate Assembly for the IASB conference. He noted that a delegate will need to be selected to attend the Assembly during the conference and vote as directed by the full Board on the resolutions presented during the Assembly. There was then some discussion regarding the Delegate Assembly, the resolutions, and what is required of the delegates. Mr. Miller reported that additional information will be provided and a vote will be taken on the resolutions at the next meeting.

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. 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. The Illinois School Records Act, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act offers very clear protections regarding student information. Out of an abundance of caution, in order to protect student privacy, speakers must refrain from presenting information about specific instances of student discipline as this can be identifiable for the student.

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.

Aaron Graves, President of the Springfield Education Association, addressed the Board regarding school safety.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

9.1 District Report Card Overview

Board members were provided with the District Report Card. Copies are available [here](#) on the Illinois State Board of Education's Illinois Report Card webpage.

Nicole Moody, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided an overview of the data. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Dr. Moody provided a breakdown of the indicators that contribute to the report card score and definitions of the State's designations. She noted that fifteen District 186 schools have a "Commendable" designation. There are five with a "Targeted" designation, five with a "Comprehensive" designation, and five with an "Intensive" designation.

Next, Dr. Moody overviewed attendance trend data. She noted a decrease in chronic truancy and chronic absenteeism over the last three years. She overviewed the 9th Grade on Track data which provides data related to if freshmen end their first year of high school on track to graduate in four years and graduation rate data. She noted that each of the District's high schools showed a double-digit increase in graduation rates for the 2023-2024 school year compared to previous years.

Dr. Moody then overviewed academic data. She reported that the academic data is based on student growth and proficiency. She provided information regarding the continuous improvement model followed by the district to help students see continued growth and proficiency. She shared charts with IAR data comparing District 186 third through eighth-grade student averages in growth and proficiency standards to state averages, as well as SAT proficiency data for 11th-grade students as compared to state averages.

Dr. Moody then shared celebrations from the District's report card. She noted that chronic absenteeism is at its lowest rate across the district since 2020. She reported that the gains in this have been made possible by a focused approach to providing students and families with support throughout the year. Additionally, the District's graduation rate increased 11 percentage points overall since 2024 with nearly double-digit graduation rate growth at each high school. She attributed this growth to working with each student to monitor and support college and career readiness data. She shared that overall, the district's third through eighth-grade students' IAR proficiency growth increased by three percentage points in reading and one percentage point in math. New teaching practices and curricula in reading and math have contributed to this growth. Also, Southeast and Springfield High School realized increases in both reading and math on the SAT Proficiency Growth measure. Fifth, eighth, and eleventh-grade students increased their science proficiency and enrollment in CTE is at its highest level since the district began collecting data.

Next, Dr. Moody provided information about the district's improvement plan. She noted the goal of the improvement plan is to align toward a college and career readiness vision. She explained the multi-tiered system of support provided to students.

Ms. Blissett asked if chronic absenteeism is more common in one grade than others. Dr. Moody reported that it is not prevalent among one grade over another. Her team reviews and analyzes the data for individual groups of students to address why the rate may be higher in some groups than others and how students and families can best be supported.

There was then some discussion about school improvement plans and the effectiveness of individual programs, how teachers are included in the improvement planning, the timeline for the adoption of school improvement plans, and how chronic absenteeism and chronic truancy rates figure into the report card designations.

BUSINESS REPORT

10.1 Business Report

Board members were provided with the Business Office Report for November 4, 2024. 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 information regarding outstanding payments due to the District from the State of Illinois as of October 30, 2024, and the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of September 30, 2024.

Mr. Miller reported that outstanding payments due to the District from the State of Illinois for FY25 total approximately \$447,000 as of October 30, 2024. Concerning the Education Fund, there is approximately \$29,000 due to the Driver's Education program and approximately \$406,700 due to the Early Childhood Black Grant funding. Additionally, there is a total of approximately \$11,000 due to the State Free Lunch and Breakfast program.

The Capital Projects Fund revenues and expenditures incurred during the month of September were then shared. Investments for the Capital Projects Fund show a beginning balance of approximately \$85.5 million. Total revenues in the investment funds, dividends and interest, were approximately \$20.2 million. Bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$23.5 million. This yielded an ending balance of approximately \$82.2 million.

During September 2024, the District received approximately \$1.2 million in sales tax receipts. These were from the June reporting period. Since 2019, the district has received approximately \$60.2 million in sales tax proceeds with an average monthly collection for FY24 of approximately \$1.1 million. Currently, the District's sales tax money is used to pay the principal and interest of bonds sold for its capital projects. As of September 30, 2024, the District had approximately \$5.5 million in its County Facilities Sales Tax (CFST) savings account. The next payment of approximately \$3.4 million will be due the District on December 1, 2024. At that time, the District will have a projected surplus of approximately \$3.3 million in the CFST savings account. A total of approximately \$12.6 million will be paid in bond payments during FY25, with a projected surplus of approximately \$186,000 after the June 1, 2025 payment.

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 11.3 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Debra Iams)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.3 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 6 - 0**.

Those voting "aye":	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 21, 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.

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 **(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: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 6 - 0**.

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

12.2 Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Public Notice and Holding of a Public Hearing Regarding Truth in Taxation Law

The law requires the school district to notify the public and to hold a hearing regarding the adoption of the aggregate tax levy if it exceeds 105% of the previous year's tax extension. The estimated aggregate tax levy represents a 4.75% increase.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Truth in Taxation Law requires taxing districts to estimate the amount to be extended upon the levy of the preceding year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby determines that the amount of money estimated to be necessary to be raised by property taxes will be \$124,363,526.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to give public notice of such public hearing and the intent of the Board of Education to adopt an aggregate levy in an amount that is not more than 105% of the amount of property taxes extended or estimated to be extended upon the levy of the preceding year.

ORIGINAL - Motion

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

WHEREAS, the Truth in Taxation Law requires taxing districts to estimate the amount to be extended upon the levy of the preceding year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby determines that the amount of money estimated to be necessary to be raised by property taxes will be \$124,363,526.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to give public notice of such public hearing and the intent of the Board of Education to adopt an

aggregate levy in an amount that is not more than 105% of the amount of property taxes extended or estimated to be extended upon the levy of the preceding year.’

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 6 - 0**.

Those voting “aye”: Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting “no”: None

12.3 Approval of a Revision to Board Policy

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 policy.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) 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 policy.’

There was a brief discussion regarding the changes to the policy.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1. The motion **Carried 5 - 0 - 1**.

Those voting “aye”: Blissett, Gilmore, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting “no”: None
Those “abstaining”: Iams

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 9th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year without a program, and that
- One 9th-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 9th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Southeast 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 9th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year without a program, and that
- One 9th-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 9th-grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Southeast 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: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 6 - 0**.

Those voting “aye”: Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
 Those voting “no”: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, November 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

November 5 - No School - Election Day
 November 11 - No School - Veterans Day
 November 28-29 - No School - Thanksgiving

13.3 Freedom of Information Act Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, November 18, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: November 18, 2024