

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on February 18, A.D., 2025, at 5:33 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Micah Miller, President
Nicole Irlam, Assistant Board Secretary

Erica Austin
Sarah Blissett
Ken Gilmore
Debra Iams
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 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 **(Anthony Mares)** 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": Blissett, Gilmore, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m. and reconvened at 6:39 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present as Ms. Austin and Ms. Iams joined the meeting at 5:34 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 February 18, 2025

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 6 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, 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. Irlam. 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 shared a statement about student loss at Southeast High School and the impact on the school. He indicated that staff and students have come together to support each other.

He then shared that students are excited about Springfield High School's construction project and that Southeast High School students are planning an Olympics-type event. Next, he reported that the District's Show Choir Co-op, Collage, will participate in its first Show Choir competition in the coming weeks. Lastly, he encouraged 11th-grade students to begin preparing for the ACT, which will be given in April.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for Southeast High School student Alaina Daberkow. Superintendent Gill shared a resolution from the school.

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.

Springfield Area Arts Council Poetry Out Loud

Two students from Southeast High School, Ashyla and Jada, are the champion and runner-up for the Springfield Area Arts Council's Poetry Out Loud regional competition. Both students will be competing in the Poetry Out Loud State competition in March.

Lincoln Magnet School & Ball Charter School Boys Basketball

The Lincoln Magnet School and Ball Charter School boys basketball co-op team won the 7th grade State Championship after going into triple overtime.

Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Third through fifth-grade students from across the district experienced the magic of live music recently when they attended an Illinois Symphony Orchestra performance. The experience was made possible through the District's partnerships with the University of Illinois Springfield, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Sangamon Auditorium, and First Student.

State Wrestling Qualifiers

Superintendent Gill congratulated Phoenix Criss from Lanphier High School, Chris Hull from Southeast High School, and Bryce Bryant from Springfield High School for qualifying to compete in the girls (Criss) and boys (Hull and Bryant) State Wrestling meet.

Horace Mann Educator of the Year, Rising Star, and Administrator of the Year Awards

Nominations for the Horace Mann Educator of the Year, Rising Star, and Administrator of the Year awards are being accepted through February 23, 2025. Superintendent Gill noted that the application can be found on the District's website.

Career Fair

The District will host a career fair on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in the lobby of the Administrative Center, 3063 Fiat Avenue, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On-site interviews for future qualifying paraprofessionals will be conducted during the fair.

Kindergarten Preview Night

Parents of children turning five on or before September 1, 2025, are invited to attend Kindergarten Preview Night on April 29, 2025, with their child. Parents are encouraged to check their school boundary area on the District's website or by calling 217-525-3011.

Our Schools Our Future

Superintendent Gill shared photos and an update from Southeast High School Spartan Field, Springfield High School, and Owen Marsh Elementary School. Photos of the concession and restroom building, as well as the team room at Spartan Field were shared. Photos from the work at Springfield High School included photos of work being completed on the new attendance and guidance office, and the new competition gym. A photo of the preparation work to put in an underground water storage tank at Owen

Marsh was also shared. Superintendent Gill reported that the groundbreaking for Owen Marsh will take place on March 11, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

American Sign Language Update

Superintendent Gill invited Dr. Lance Thurman to provide an update on the American Sign Language (ASL) class planned for next year. During his update, Dr. Thurman reported that there are currently about 50 students signed up at each school. There was some discussion about the number of sections, teacher qualifications, and graduation/college requirements.

It was noted that Student Representative Duong left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

7.2 New Business

Superintendent Gill requested feedback regarding the First Student contract extension.

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 February 18, 2025. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that for January 2025, the Education Fund revenues were approximately \$7.8 million. Expenditures in the fund totaled approximately \$18.3 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund revenues for the month were approximately \$400. Expenditures in the Operations and Maintenance Fund were approximately \$2 million.

Concerning the Investment Balances Report, Mr. Miller reported that as of January 31, 2025, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$64.6 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, including the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash Funds, the total cash in the bank was approximately \$41.5 million. Total investments were approximately \$66.6 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$1.3 million. The interest rate on all cash accounts for January was 2.5% or 250 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of January 31, 2025, was \$131.1 million. The District also shows recorded County sales tax proceeds received during January of \$1.2 million for the October 2024 collection period. Total collections of sales tax since 2019 is \$64.9 million.

Mr. Miller then shared a graph comparing the percentages of expenditures in the Education Fund by month in the 2025 fiscal year to the average of the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years, as well as a graph comparing the same information for the combined Education, Operations and Maintenance, and the Transportation Funds.

PUBLIC HEARING

11.1 Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education of the District to Sell Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$110,000,000

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board adjourns into the public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell bonds in an amount not to exceed \$110,000,000'.

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

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

The meeting adjourned into the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

President Miller called the hearing to order. He noted the purpose of the hearing and that the hearing had been duly noticed in the State Journal-Register and the principal office of the Board of Education. opened the discussion and explained that the purpose of the proposed sale of the Bonds is to finance costs to acquire, develop, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, improve, finance, architecturally plan, and install District capital facilities and school sites consisting of buildings, structures and durable equipment, and to acquire and improve real property and interest in real property acquired or expected to be acquired in connection with the capital facilities including but not limited to renovate, repair, equip and build an addition to Springfield High School, and replace the District's existing Owen Marsh Elementary School, with construction of a new facility and costs of legal, financial, bond amount, capitalized interest, printing, and publication costs, and of issuing the bonds.

President Miller then asked if there were any individuals wishing to provide oral or written testimony.

There were no comments or testimony at this time.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, 'That the Board of Education adjourn the public hearing and return to public session.'

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

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

The public session resumed at 7:09 p.m.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

12.1 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 12.2 through 12.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 12.2 through 12.4 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": Austin, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

12.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of February 3, 2025 and the Special Meeting of January 30, 2025

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.

12.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable

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

12.4 Declaration of Surplus Property

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to declare the items on the attached documents as surplus materials to be sold or disposed.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

13.1 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": Austin, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

13.2 Approval of a Change Order for Springfield High School Abatement Phase 2

Change order to abate additional areas within the SHS fan and boiler room that were unforeseen.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractor for the location 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: Springfield High School
Change Order: #1
Amount: \$15,449.44
Contractor: M & O Environmental Co.

Scope of Work: Abate pipe insulation in fan room, boiler flue insulation in boiler room and duct joint sealant in the chase above the annex.

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 Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractor for the location 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

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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: Springfield High School
Change Order: #1
Amount: \$15,449.44
Contractor: M & O Environmental Co.

Scope of Work: Abate pipe insulation in fan room, boiler flue insulation in boiler room and duct joint sealant in the chase above the annex.'

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

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

13.3 Student Discipline

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

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.'

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

14.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, March 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

14.2 Upcoming District Events

March 3 - No School - Pulaski Day
March 17-21 - Spring Break for Regular Calendar

14.3 Freedom of Information Report

Board Member Announcements

Ms. Iams shared that Sandburg Elementary School will host a Chili Supper on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Mr. Gilmore shared information regarding the Springfield High School Booster Club Red and Black Gala, taking place on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Ms. Austin provided a reminder about Black History Month events taking place throughout the community. She encouraged attendance. Superintendent Gill and Dr. Nicole Moody then shared information about Black History Month activities and work the District's Curriculum Council has completed in support of Black History.

Lastly, Superintendent Gill thanked the Operations and Maintenance staff for their work to keep the District's facilities safe during recent weather events.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, March 10, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: March 10, 2025