

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2023 (6:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on February 21 A.D., 2023, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Anthony Mares, President  
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Erica Austin  
Sarah Blissett  
Buffy Lael-Wolf  
Micah Miller  
Bill Ringer  
Jeff Tucka

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools  
Passion Hood, Student Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

President Mares 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 **(Micah Miller)** 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, Mares, Miller, Ringer

Those voting “no”:       None

### **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:46 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin, Ms. Lael-Wolf, and Mr. Tucka joined the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **3.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Mares 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 21, 2023**

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved to approve the agenda. Member (**Erica Austin**) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, as amended, ‘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, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka  
Those voting “no”:       None

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **5.1 President's Comments**

Mr. Mares 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](mailto:boe@sps186.org).*

#### **5.2 Student Report**

Ms. Hood reported that Boys’ Basketball begins the postseason this week. She indicated that the first games will be held at Rochester High School. She noted that the season for spring sports also begins soon. Lastly, she reported that Peace Rooms will be open to students at each of the high schools beginning in March.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **6.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Gill reported that Lanphier High School teacher, Lori Saathof, recently passed away. A moment of silence was observed for Ms. Saathoff.

#### **Celebrate 186**

Superintendent Gill provided the bi-weekly Celebrate 186 presentation. Copies of the presentation have been filed with the Official Minutes. The following topics were covered by the report.

#### **Food Service Awards**

Superintendent Gill reported that the District's Food Service department was awarded a silver level award in the 2022 Turnip the Beet Award from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its commitment to ensuring the children of Springfield receive high-quality and nutritious meals during the summer months. She congratulated the department and thanked them for their dedication.

#### **NAACP Black Educator of the Year**

Lanphier High School administrator, Alicia Miller, received the 2023 NAACP Black Educator of the Year award. Superintendent Gill reported that Ms. Miller was honored during the group's recent banquet. She spoke to Ms. Miller's positive attributes and congratulated her on the award.

#### **Lanphier High School State Wrestling**

Superintendent Gill reported that Lanphier High School's Ella Miloncus has qualified to compete in the State Wrestling tournament. She is the first female wrestler from the school to qualify for the State meet. Superintendent Gill noted that Ella is also a "straight A" student.

#### **Black History Bowl**

Superintendent Gill reported that the Black History Bowl championship will occur on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at Southeast High School. The event will also be live-streamed.

#### **Art of the Ages: Black History Exhibit**

The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum is hosting the Art for the Ages: Black History Exhibit. The exhibit features art from District 186 students. It runs from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, from February 18, 2023, through March 31, 2023, at the museum, 1440 Monument Avenue.

#### **Rube Goldberg Competition**

The Rube Goldberg Competition for Sangamon County will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at Lincoln Land Community College, Menard Hall Student Union. Superintendent Gill reported that three teams from Dubois and one team from Graham Elementary School will participate in the competition. The award ceremony is slated to begin at 2:30 p.m.

#### **Smart Start Illinois**

The District recently hosted Governor JB Pritzker, Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, Senator Doris Turner, State Representative Sue Scherer, State Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas, State Representative Joyce Mason, and Mayor Jim Langfelder at the Early Learning Center for a press conference about the Governor's plan for pre-k education, Smart Start Illinois. Superintendent Gill reported that Smart Start Illinois is a four-year plan that will provide access to preschool for every three and four-year-old child in Illinois. Funding for the Early Childhood Block Grant will increase by \$75 million this year to support the Governor's initiative.

### **Horace Mann Educator, Administrator & Rising Star Awards**

Superintendent Gill reported that nominations are being accepted until March 1, 2023, for the Horace Mann Educator of the Year, Administrator of the Year and Rising Star Awards. Anyone can make a nomination through the process that has been streamlined over previous years. A letter of recommendation is needed. Superintendent Gill urged those that may be interested in making a nomination to visit the District's website, where additional information and the nomination form link are available.

### **Job Fair**

Superintendent Gill provided information on an upcoming job fair. She noted that the District will host the job fair on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 1900 West Monroe Street. Representatives from First Student will also be in attendance as the company is recruiting bus drivers and monitors for District 186 bus routes. Recruitment for other positions that will take place during the job fair include clerical positions, custodial positions, crossing guards, food service positions, paraprofessionals, security personnel, substitute teachers, teaching positions, and teaching assistant positions.

### **Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update**

Next, Superintendent Gill provided pictures and drone footage of construction work at several schools. She shared the following:

- Lanphier High School - A photo of the inside of the new Lober-Nika Gym was shared. Superintendent Gill reported that the walls and acoustical decking have been installed. The floor will be poured later in the week. Additional photos of the inside of the building featuring finished casework and the outside of the building featuring work being conducted on the area of the building that will be the atrium and commons area were also shared. The steel is being erected on the atrium and commons area.
- Memorial Stadium - Photos of the stadium and field were shared. Concrete around the track will be poured soon. Jason Wind, Executive Director of School Support, reported that the stadium will not be ready for spring sports this year. Spring sports teams will use the facilities at Southeast High School and New Street for competitions. There was some additional discussion regarding spring practices and competitions at the facilities.

### **Due Diligence Committee**

Superintendent Gill reported that pest inspections on the HD Smith building are complete. There were no findings from the inspections. Additionally, no endangered species have been identified in the area. Radon inspections are also complete. The radon levels were all within normal range. The ALTA survey is almost complete. The survey is a detailed land parcel map, showing all existing improvements of the property, utilities, and significant observations within the insured estate. She noted that this is important for the title work.

Next, Superintendent Gill reported that personnel from the Technology Department also inspected the building. New switches will need to be purchased and installed. Geotechnical borings for structural and environmental studies will be conducted by MET Company in the coming days. Lastly, Superintendent Gill reported that Zach Knight, an environmental specialist with Farnsworth Group, reviewed the draft No Further Remediation (NFR) letter from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and reports from PSI Initech with the Due Diligence Committee recently.

Mr. Miller asked if updated fiber optic cables will need to be installed. Darrell Schaver, Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance, reported that information related to fiber optic cables hasn't been provided yet. Superintendent Gill reported that additional environmental borings will be completed while the structural borings are being done. There was some additional discussion regarding the environmental study that had been completed by PSI Initech and the timeline.

### **Social Emotional Learning Overview**

Superintendent Gill provided an overview of social emotional learning (SEL). She outlined relevant acronyms and the three-tiered system of support utilized by the District to deliver social emotional learning. She noted that the Universal Team provides Universal Supports to all students. The Secondary Systems Team provides small group support to students that need a little more support. The team also processes data and determines overall intervention effectiveness. The Problem Solving Team uses Functional Behavior Assessments (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP) to provide individual support. In addition to these teams, the Tertiary Systems Team uses process data to determine the individual intervention effectiveness, create complex FBAs and BIPs, as well as provide wrapping services to students with the most needs.

Superintendent Gill then overviewed the indicators of schoolwide SEL. She noted that when fully implemented, schoolwide SEL is evidenced in 10 areas: SEL instruction, academics, youth voice, classroom climate, adult SEL, supportive discipline, integrated supports, family partnerships, community partnerships, and continuous improvement. She then gave specific examples of how these are integrated into the various school grade levels.

Superintendent Gill reported that in pre-k through elementary, Second Step SEL curriculum is used. A multi-tiered support system (MTSS) is used to identify students in need of additional SEL support. Schools used welcoming rituals and optimistic closures each day with students. There are circles and class meetings to build community and resolve conflict. A Mosaic clinician from Memorial Behavioral Health is in eight elementary schools. In addition to these supports, Superintendent Gill noted the importance of community partnerships that have been developed. She also reported that each elementary school has a full-time school social worker and a traveling school psychologist. The elementary schools use skills based coaching, have social academic intervention groups (SAIG), provide mentoring opportunities, and have SEL integrated into the classroom libraries. Four elementary schools have Braided Behavior Support (BBSS) Strategists on staff. Each of the elementary schools also has a BBSS coach and team. The Reading Department also provides SEL read alouds to complement Black History Month.

Next Superintendent Gill reported that each of the elementary schools uses universal SEL screening with mySAEBRS used for individual screening and Panorama used for staff and student climate surveys. Tier 3 services at the elementary level include individual short-term solution-focused counseling, WRAP/Renew plans, and FBA/BIPs.

With respect to the middle schools, the Second Step SEL curriculum is available and being piloted. Mosaic services are available in four middle schools. MTSS and Early Warning and Intervention Monitoring Systems (EWIMS) are used to identify students in need of additional SEL support. Additionally, each middle school has a 1.5 FTE for site-based social workers to serve Individual Education Plan minutes and support SEL needs. Each school also has a traveling school psychologist. Like the elementary schools, the middle schools have universal SEL screening, with mySAEBERS used as an individual SEL screener and Panorama used to survey staff and students about school climate. Middle

schools also use circles for community building and conflict resolution, skills based coaching, small groups, provide mentoring, use welcoming rituals and optimistic closures, have a student voice team, and community partnerships. There is a BBSS team and BBSS strategist at each school. Grant Middle School has a SWIS Room, which has provided a model for expansion into the other middle schools during the 2023-2024 school year. Also like the elementary schools, the middle schools provide individual short-term solution-focused counseling, WRAP/Renew Plans, and FBA/BIP.

At the high school level, there are BBSS student voice teams, a BBSS strategist (LHS and SSS), PEACE rooms, skills based coaching, SAIG groups, mentoring, Mosaic services, community partnerships, two full-time social workers per school, a traveling school psychologist, welcoming rituals and optimistic closures. Universal SEL lessons are available at each high school, too. As with the elementary and middle schools, mySAEBRS is used as an individual SEL screener and Panorama is used to survey students and staff about school climate. MTSS/EWIMS is used to identify students in need of additional support. Tier 3 services are also provided at the high school level through individual short-term solution focused counseling, WRAP/Renew Plans, and FBA/BIP.

Superintendent Gill reported that staff are provided with SEL related professional development through the BBSS academies. She included a list of BBSS academy topics and noted that the academies are open for staff to attend. Staff are also provided with trauma training, which includes de-escalation and self care training, in addition to training provided through partnerships with the YMCA and the Springfield Resiliency Initiative. BBSS coaches and strategists have additional SEL training opportunities. These individuals participate in quarterly meetings and book studies. Principals also participate in book studies, have a Panorama Playbook, have training in restorative practices and threat assessment.

At the school/staff level, there is PBIS Tier 1 and Tier 2 training, a BIST consultant, training on trauma in the educational setting, responsive classrooms, Second Step curriculum training, a Panorama Playbook, CPI training, and AVID-Relational capacity training.

Adult SEL includes an employee assistance program, BBSS academies with staff content, a District crisis team and inclusion of SEL in SMART Goal #3 of the District/School Improvement Plans.

Superintendent Gill then delivered a message regarding school safety and student behavior expectations. She emphasized that fighting will not be tolerated. She asked families to assist with addressing behavior expectations with their children. Ms. Hood reported that students have started to look out for each other. She noted that students seem to be embracing "See something, say something." Board members then each spoke in support of the message given by Superintendent Gill.

## **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 Revisions**

Board members were provided with drafts of revisions to Board Policies 465.10 - Safety Program, 705.06 - Attendance, 705.12 - Attendance, and 705.14 - Attendance. Superintendent Gill noted that the revisions

to the policies are presented for first reading. She noted that the policies will be presented for approval during the March 6, 2023 meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **8.1 Public Comment**

Mr. Mares read the following statement outlining requirements related to public comment:

*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 Reports**

Board members were provided with the January 2023 Monthly Business Report. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Tom Osborne, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported that for the month of January 2023, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$7.96 million. Expenditures totalled approximately \$10.4 million in the Education Fund for that same time period. The Operations and Maintenance Fund revenues were approximately \$225,000 for the month. Expenditures were approximately \$1.19 million in the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

With respect to the Investments Balances Report, Mr. Osborne reported that as of January 31, 2023, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$84.59 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, total cash in the bank was approximately \$48.6 million. Total investments were approximately \$66.6 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$1.365 million. The interest rate on all cash accounts on January 31, 2023 was 1.0% or

100 basis points. The new rate has increased to 2.5%. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of January 31, 2023 was approximately \$151.2 million. The district also shows recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of January of approximately \$1.1 million for the October collection period. Total collections for FY23 to date are approximately \$7.8 million with total collections of approximately \$37.7 million.

## **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 11.5 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.5 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, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka

Those voting "no": None

### **11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of February 6, 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 Payroll and Bills Payable**

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

### **11.4 Declaration of Surplus Property**

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

### **11.5 Approval of the Renewal of the Workers' Compensation Claims Administration Agreement**

Renewal of Worker's Compensation Claims Administration with Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc. (CCMSI) at a rate of \$55,000 per year, which is unchanged from the prior 2-year rate.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, the District requested a renewal proposal from Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc. (CCMSI) for Worker's Compensation Claims Administration; and



WHEREAS, the District has received an acceptable proposal for said services from CCMSI;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a two-year renewal from CCMSI as submitted.

## **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 (**William Ringer**) Moved, Member (**Micah Miller**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends 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, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka  
Those voting "no": None

### **12.2 Student Discipline**

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

- That one 7th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Franklin Middle School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year with a program and
- That one 6th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Grant Middle School through the end of the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year with a program and;
- That one 7th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Grant Middle School through the end of the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year with a program and;
- That one 7th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Grant Middle School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year with a program and
- That one 7th grade student 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Southeast High School through the end of the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year with a program and;
- That one 10th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Southeast High School through the end of the 2023-2024 school year without a program.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) 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: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Ringer, Tucka

Those voting “no”:       None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room**

**13.2 Upcoming District Events**

March 6 - No School - Holiday

March 20-24 - No School - Spring Break - Regular Calendar Schools

March 27-April 14 - No School - Spring Break - Balanced Calendar Schools

**13.3 Freedom of Information Report**

**Board Member Announcements**

Board members then provided information about visits each had recently made to various schools. Ms. Austin invited high school students to join her on a college visit on March 6, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Mares declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

---

Anthony Mares, President

---

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: March 7, 2023