

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, February 3, 2025 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on February 3, A.D., 2025, 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 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 **(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 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, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller

Those voting “no”: None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin, Ms. Iams, and Mr. Gilmore joined the meeting at 5:31 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 3, 2025

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 January was very busy with the boys and girls City Basketball Tournament and the Superintendent’s Student Roundtable’s Unity Day event. He noted that the tournament was fun and that Unity Day was successful with excellent attendance. He reported that he had been interviewed by Superintendent Gill during her radio spot on Sports Radio 1450. He then provided information about the season for the new collaborative Show Choir, Collage. Lastly, he provided information about a middle school pep band rally at Southeast High School on February 4, 2025.

There was then a short discussion regarding City Tournament and Unity Day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

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.

Girls Wrestling

Superintendent Gill shared a photo of the District 186 Girls Wrestling team, a co-op of students from each of the District's high schools. She reported that the team recently won the regional championship title in Mount Zion, edging out Glenwood and Vandalia. They now advance on to Sectionals.

Boys and Girls City Basketball Tournament

Superintendent Gill congratulated the Lanphier Lions Boys Basketball team, the Southeast Spartans, and Springfield High School Girls Basketball teams for winning the Bank of Springfield City Tournament. She noted that the girls' teams had a three-way tie with Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. She thanked the tournament sponsors for their support of the event, as well as the high school bands, choirs, cheerleaders, and pom squads for showcasing their talents during the four nights of the tournament.

There was a brief discussion regarding how the bands are seated during the tournament games.

Career Fair

The District is hosting a career fair on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the administrative offices, 3063 Fiat Avenue. The fair will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Openings are available on the Human Resources page of the District's website.

Scholastic Art Winners

Superintendent Gill congratulated the students who received Scholastic Art Awards. She noted that there were 13 Honorable Mentions, 4 Gold Keys, and 8 Silver Keys. She shared a drawing from one of the Gold Key winners, Natasha O'Brien. The students' work will be on display at the Springfield Art Association through February 21, 2025.

2025 Springfield Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

Superintendent Gill reported that the 33rd Annual Springfield Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on Monday, February 17, 2025. She congratulated this year's inductees and Friend of Sport honorees:

Inductees:

- Marke Freeman, Class of 2006, Lanphier High School
- Jason Knoedler, Class of 1998, Springfield High School
- Justin Knoedler, Class of 1998, Springfield High School
- Bob Milnes, Springfield High School Swim Coach
- Brad Owens, Class of 1989, Springfield High School
- Coni Staff, Class of 1970, Springfield High School
- Tim Wilkerson, Southeast High School

Friend of Sport:

- Dave Kane, Class of 1977, Southeast High School graduate and sports journalist
- Tim Schweizer, 1976 Springfield High School and sports journalist

Illinois Football Coaches Association and Illinois Basketball Coaches Association 2025 Inductees

Superintendent Gill congratulated Neal Taylor of Springfield High School who will be honored as an Illinois Football Coaches Association 2025 inductee on March 29, 2025. She also congratulated former District 186 players Steve Dixon of Springfield High School, Rob Dye of Southeast High School, Henry Felton of Southeast High School, Markee Freeman of Lanphier High School, and Alexandria Harden of Southeast High School who have been named to the 2025 list of Illinois Basketball Coaches Association inductees.

Our Schools Our Future

Superintendent Gill shared photos and an update from the Springfield High School construction project including photos of the demo of the old gymnasium and annex hallway, as well as photos of the new competition gym, wrestling room, kitchen, and Band and Choir rooms.

Moment of Silence

Superintendent Gill asked for a moment of silence for a student from Lee School who recently passed away, Christopher Johnson. A moment of silence was then observed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

7.2 New Business

Ms. Lael-Wolf shared the IASB Talking Points for February. She reported that the time of the organization's division meetings will change soon. The program for the meetings will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. going forward. Additionally, once Board of Education elections have taken place in April, the Division Governing Meeting will occur. Officers are elected during this meeting. She encouraged members to consider serving in a Division Officer role.

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 Intensive Schools Progress Monitoring

Board members were provided with copies of a presentation on the Intensive Schools Progress Monitoring. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Nicole Moody, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, reported that the evening's presentation provides a review of the improvement plans and progress for schools with an Intensive School designation. She defined the designation and noted that five schools in the District have this designation, Jefferson and Washington Middle Schools, Feitshans and Harvard Park Elementary Schools, and Lanphier High School. The schools have all completed a four-year Comprehensive Support school improvement cycle, however, their performance remains in the lowest-performing 5 percent. Schools with this designation are subject to more rigorous state-determined action.

Next, Dr. Moody shared the Summative Designations for each of the District's schools. She noted that the academic data is based on both growth and proficiency. She then shared the goals and progress for each of the five schools with the Intensive School designation and overall goals for District schools.

Ms. Lael-Wolf asked if additional updates would be forthcoming. Dr. Moody reported that the District is required to provide updates at least three times per year to the Board. There was then discussion about the impact of school culture, trauma-informed teaching and training provided for that, SEL practices and each school's SMART goals. Ms. Lael-Wolf asked that additional information be provided to the Board regarding implementation practices for culturally relevant and trauma-informed teaching at each of the five schools. Alicia Miller, Principal of Lanphier High School, provided information on the implementation of culturally relevant teaching within her building. She reported that staff have engaged in book studies. They also have an AVID coordinator who provides teachers with training, which is followed up with additional training during school improvement days and faculty meetings. She invited Board members to visit Lanphier for a learning visit.

There was then discussion about how goal progress is measured. Vincent Turner, Principal of Washington Middle School, addressed the Board regarding these measures. He noted that SEL and trauma-informed practices are embedded in the school's practices, even though they aren't specifically mentioned in the goals, which provide a more overarching view of the school's work. Mr. Miller spoke to the importance of improvement, setting achievable goals, and school culture. He commended the principals for the improvement their schools have seen. Ms. Blissett asked that the next presentation include trend data.

9.2 ACT Information

Board members were provided with copies of a presentation on the Intensive Schools Progress Monitoring. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Jamar Scott, Chief Equity and School Improvement Officer reported that the evening's presentation will provide an overview of information related to ACT testing. Mr. Scott noted that the District's 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade high school students will take the ACT on April 16, 2025, with a make-up date of April 23, 2025. Juniors will take the full ACT comprising English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing portions. Freshmen and Sophomores will take PreACT Secure tests which include English, Math, Reading, and Science. He then shared ACT college readiness benchmark scores by subject. He explained that these are an indicator of a student's chance of obtaining a "C" grade or higher in specific subjects during their freshman year of college. He reported that STEM majors need a 26 composite score, while liberal arts majors need a composite score of 20.

Next, Mr. Scott provided information about the amount of time provided to students for each section of the test, the number of questions on each section, and the pacing for each section. He provided a domain comparison for the SAT versus the ACT and then shared copies of the ACT preparation guide provided to students as well as information for free online preparation resources.

Ms. Blissett asked about the support available to students who may struggle with the preparation for the test. Mr. Scott reported that teachers provide guidance to students on the use of the provided tools and have copies of the books so they can be incorporated into daily instruction. Mr. Miller noted that the preparation materials are user-friendly.

BUSINESS REPORT

10.1 Business Report

Board members were provided with copies of the Business Office Report for February 3, 2025. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that the evening's presentation provides an overview of outstanding payments due the district from the State of Illinois as of January 29, 2025, and the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of December 31, 2024.

Mr. Miller noted that outstanding payments due the district from the State of Illinois for the 2025 fiscal year total approximately \$417,000, as of January 29, 2025. For the Education Fund, there is approximately \$25,000 due to Other State Programs and \$8,031.72 due to the State Free Lunch & Breakfast program. A total of approximately \$383,688.00 is due from Special Projects. This includes Early Childhood Block Grant Funding.

Mr. Miller then shared the Capital Projects Fund revenues and expenditures incurred during the month of December 2024. He reported that investments for the Capital Projects show a beginning balance of approximately \$66.2 million. Total revenues in the investment funds, dividends and interest, were approximately \$404,000. Bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$7.2 million. This yielded an ending balance of approximately \$59.3 million.

Next, Mr. Miller reported that the district received approximately \$1.1 million in Sales Tax receipts in December 2024, which were from the September reporting period. Since 2019, the district has received approximately \$63.6 million in sales tax receipts with a 12-month average collection of approximately \$1.1 million. He noted that currently, the district's sales tax money is used to pay the principal and interest of the bonds sold for its capital projects.

Lastly, Mr. Miller shared information about the CFST savings account. He noted that as of December 31, 2024, the district has approximately \$5.5 million in its CFST savings account. The next payment of approximately \$9.3 million will be due on June 1, 2025. At that time the district will have a projected surplus of \$1,931,644 in the CFST savings account. A total of approximately \$12.5 million will be paid in the next two bond payments.

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 **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** 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: 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 January 21, 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.

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 **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** 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 The Resolution authorizes the issuance of general obligation alternate bonds of Springfield School District No. 186, Sangamon County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$110,000,000 pursuant to the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, sets a public hearing to be held pursuant to the Bond Issue Notification Act for the bonds, and authorizes publication in the State Journal-Register of the resolution, and publication of a notice for the public hearing.

Approval of a Resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation alternate bonds of Springfield School District No. 186, Sangamon County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$110,000,000 pursuant to the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, as amended and calling for a public hearing to be held pursuant to the Bond Issue Notification Act for said bonds

Resolution: BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

February 17 - No School - Presidents' Day

13.3 Freedom of Information Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, February 18, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: February 18, 2025