

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Monday, March 29, 2022 (6:00 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on March 29 A.D., 2022, at 6:04 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Anthony Mares, President  
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Micah Miller  
Bill Ringer  
J. Michael Zimmers

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

President Mares called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2.1 Planned Consolidation of Hazel Dell and Laketown Elementary Schools and Proposal to Include Southern View Elementary School**

Resolution: That the Board of Education adjourns into the Public Hearing regarding the Planned Consolidation of Hazel Dell and Laketown Elementary Schools and Proposal to Include Southern View Elementary School and upon conclusion of the Public Hearing, the meeting will adjourn.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Michael Zimmers)** Moved to approve the agenda. Member **(Bill Ringer)** seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, 'That the Board of Education adjourns into the Public Hearing regarding the Planned Consolidation of Hazel Dell and Laketown Elementary Schools and Proposal to Include Southern View Elementary School and upon conclusion of the Public Hearing, the meeting will adjourn.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Mares, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": None

The Board adjourned into the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Superintendent Gill provided an overview of the planned consolidation and proposal to include Southern View Elementary School. Board members were provided with copies of the presentation. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the District's Youtube channel, SPS Channel22.

Superintendent Gill reported that the evening's hearing is the first of three public hearings that the Board of Education will hold regarding the recommended consolidation. She indicated that the other hearings will be held on April 6, 2022, at Southern View and on April 12, 2022, at Laketown. She reported that the presentations at each of the hearings will be the same and each hearing will provide an opportunity for the community to provide input about each of the three schools.

Superintendent Gill then introduced a panel of individuals that have been working on the Facilities Plan, and consolidation of Laketown and Hazel Dell, in particular, including, Darrel Schaver, District 186, Director of Operations and Maintenance, Mike Grossen, District 186, Director of School Leadership & Facilities Planning, Todd Cyrulik, Principal, Lead Designer and Director of Education Design Studio, BLDD Architects, Tim Hickey, Preconstruction Manager, O'Shea Builders, David Leonatti, Principal/Owner, Melotte, Morse, Leonatti, Parker, LTD. (MMLP), and Mark Vasconcelles, Veenstra and Kim, Inc.

Superintendent Gill indicated that in conjunction with the Board-approved Our Schools Our Future Master Facilities Plan, consolidation of Hazel Dell and Laketown Elementary Schools on a new site is recommended. Additionally, due to the facility needs and location of Southern View Elementary, it is recommended that Southern View also be included in the consolidation into a new state-of-the-art facility on the south side of Springfield.

Next, she provided information on how the recommendation was developed. She reported that the District held nine community engagement sessions from February through November of 2017. The sessions covered the following topics: the current state of the District's facilities, 21st century programs and designs, planning principles, educational standards, prioritization, final vision document, a review and draft plan options, and final draft plan review and selection. She reported that the facility plan was created using the planning principles, educational standards, and other feedback from the Community Engagement sessions. She indicated that funding for the projects is from the one percent countywide sales tax passed in November 2018, the first voter-approved increase for school funding in 34 years. She reported that the sales tax garners over \$10 million per year to support school construction needs. She overviewed other ongoing construction projects.

Superintendent Gill then overviewed the Facilities Planning Principles. She reported that the five principles guiding the planning are as follows: Equitable - Each facility will be equipped with an auditorium, media center, science labs, kitchen/cafeteria and spaces for arts and athletics; Student Centered - Students are active participants in the learning process. As such, we will be purposeful with the selection of furniture, fixtures and equipment and students will be provided with the ability to access technology; Safe and Secure - Buildings will be built with the goal of having transparent environments, that are easily observed and have controlled access while also providing a feeling of home; Up-to-date infrastructure - Buildings will have high quality and sufficient quantity of electrical lighting. They will be equipped with adequate outlets for various technologies, providing students the ability to connect to a global community of learners; Welcoming environment - Buildings will have beautiful aesthetics and inviting exteriors. School pride will be displayed with appropriate color palettes for the various grade levels.

Next, Superintendent Gill overviewed consolidation considerations. She provided the functional suitability scores for the three schools: Hazel Dell - 47%, Laketown 48% and Southern View 50%. She indicated that each school has major structural issues. She reported that Hazel Dell and Laketown do not have air conditioning and that electrical constraints related to the age of the Southern View building impact the air conditioning at that building. She reported that the cost of renovation at Southern View has impacted the decision to include it in the consolidation plan, as has the decrease in the student population. She indicated that a new school will be comparative in size to Lindsey or Harvard Park Elementary Schools.

Next, she provided a host of benefits associated with the recommended consolidation, including that a new school will empower students and families, provide an opportunity to partner with the University of Illinois Springfield on a teacher pipeline program for student teachers to complete their training, provide the needed space to increase programming for after school programs, and allow for financial expediency as services will be provided in one school vs. staff having to travel between smaller buildings.

Superintendent Gill reported that a site analysis was completed on Hazel Dell and Laketown in conjunction with the Facilities Plan. She reported that the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District (SCRD) has recommended building on the newly proposed site as that site has updated sewer and water systems in place that can accommodate a large school. She indicated that the SCRDR reports that there are capacity issues with the sewer systems on the current school sites that won't allow for facilities with larger student populations. If a larger school were to be built on one of the sites, it likely will cause issues for the surrounding homes. Upgrading at these sites would cost more than building on the new site. She reported that the District intends to ensure the current sites are utilized in some manner that takes into account the surrounding communities. She stated that the District will continue to upkeep each of the properties.

Superintendent Gill provided benefits of building a new school on a new site which included that a new school will provide a safe and secure environment. A new school will be student centered, eliminating nine mobile units. It will be functional and provide separate areas for a library, cafeteria and gym. Additionally, a new building will provide separate drop offs for cars and buses and provide ample parking for staff and visitors. She reported that infrastructure at two of the three schools is of issue, as two of the three schools do not have air conditioning. A new school will provide an updated HVAC system. Additionally, students will not be displaced if a new building is built on a new site. A new site will provide the opportunity to keep students in their current buildings while construction is completed on the new building, ensuring students and staff only have to change buildings one time.

Superintendent Gill then discussed the site selection and shared photos of the proposed 11th Street property. She shared an aerial photo of the current boundaries of Southern View, Laketown and Hazel Dell Schools. She provided benefits of the proposed property, including readiness of the site, which will save a significant amount of money when compared to the updates and preparation that would be needed at the current school sites. Additionally, the site has a building that will allow the District to consolidate administrative offices, which are currently spread across four sites. The property has approximately 34 acres.

Superintendent Gill indicated the importance of working together with the school and larger community to plan a building that will meet all of the needs of the students, staff and community. She overviewed the layout of the 11th Street site and shared photos of potential layouts, and examples of interior spaces from other schools recently built. She indicated that a new building and larger population will provide students

with opportunities that are unavailable in a smaller school setting. She indicated that a new building is likely to have a community room, literacy lab, and collaboration spaces for students and teachers. She reported that conversations will need to take place with the community about what will happen to the current sites. Additional conversations will need to take place amongst staff to determine if a traditional or year-round school calendar model will be used at the new school.

Next, Mr. Cyrulik discussed how providing an equitable educational environment was at the forefront of the decision making process for the Facilities Plan recommendations and how that also played into the decision to recommend including Southern View in the consolidation. Then, Mr. Leonatti and Mr. Vasconcelles provided information on the Laketown, Hazel Dell and Southern View sites that would impede building on the sites versus the proposed 11th Street site. Mr. Vasconcelles reported that there are three major issues with the sites that prevent them from being considered for a new site including, at Laketown, the need to build a water containment pond, the lack of sidewalks at each site and because of the age of the schools and sewers associated with them, the size of the current sewer pipes and pumps may not be big enough to handle the increase in the flow from a larger building.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **3.1 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 unrelated to this evening's public hearing topic, that commenter is invited to contact the Board office. 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 in an appropriate manner. We thank you for following this rule.*

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Mike Haverner addressed the Board regarding reinstating librarians at each elementary school
- Diana Haverner requested information about a timeline for the proposed construction
- Teresa Matteson regarding staff input for the newly proposed school design
- Jane Carruthers regarding the size of a new school
- Charles Perino regarding what will happen to the current sites and the possibility of the Springfield Park District taking them over.
- Janice Perino regarding the design of a new building.
- Connie Magee regarding soil mitigations at the 11th Street property.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **4.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, April 4, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Mares declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, April 18, 2022. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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Anthony Mares, President

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Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: April 4, 2022