

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2022 (6:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on March 8 A.D., 2022, 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  
                      J. Michael Zimmers

                      Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools  
                      Geneice Thompson, Student Board Member

**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 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- 2.4 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)
- 2.5 Real Estate - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5,6)
- 2.6 Security Procedures - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8)

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education adjourn 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), 2.5 Real Estate - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5,6), 2.6 Security Procedures - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).'

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

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

### **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m. and reconvened at 6:43 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present as Ms. Lael-Wolf joined the meeting at 5:33 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 March 8, 2022**

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Michael Zimmers**) Moved to approve the agenda. Member (**Micah Miller**) 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: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": None

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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

Mr. Mares made an announcement that per the Governor's mandate, attendees are required to wear masks while in the meeting space. He further reported that in the case that any attendees refused to comply with the mandate, the meeting would be suspended. He confirmed that all attendees were in compliance before continuing with the meeting.

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

#### **5.2 Student Report**

Ms. Thompson reported that the Student and Family Handbook Committee is scheduled to meet on March 16. She and a few other students will attend the meeting to provide a student perspective.

Additionally, Ms. Thompson reported that the Superintendent's Student Roundtable met recently and discussed metal detectors. Students from the Champaign Public Schools also attended the meeting to provide their thoughts on metal detectors as their schools installed the devices last year. She reported that students from Champaign reported that adjusting to the devices was a little difficult in the beginning. However, the process is much smoother now that students are familiar with it. Students also reported that the Champaign high schools run their metal detectors throughout the school day. There are designated security officers manning the devices throughout the school day. The schools also use the devices for their extracurricular activities. She provided additional information about their procedures and reported that students reported feeling safer now that detectors are in place as students can't escalate fights with weapons any longer. The detectors have also enhanced student and staff relationships by providing more opportunities for interaction during the arrival process.

Ms. Blissett inquired about the AP Study Groups organized by Ms. Thompson and members of the Student Roundtable. Ms. Thompson reported that the study groups met for the first time recently and are going well.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

#### **Celebrate 186**

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

#### *Classified Positions Job Fair*

Superintendent Gill reported that the District will hold a job fair for those interested in obtaining a classified position on Thursday, March 10, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Center, 1900 W. Monroe Street. Individuals interested in open clerical, custodial, food service, paraprofessional and substitute teaching positions are encouraged to attend. Individuals should come prepared to interview. Additionally, those interested in certificated positions are welcome to attend.

#### *Horace Mann Educator of the Year*

Superintendent Gill reported that nominations are being accepted for the Horace Mann Educator of the Year. Nominations are due Friday, March 18, 2022. The winner will be announced in early May.

#### *Sports Radio 1450 Guest Host*

Superintendent Gill reported that she had recently been the guest host on Sports Radio 1450's morning show. She interviewed members of the Student Roundtable, as well as Butler Elementary School Principal Sarah Beveridge and teacher David Curry regarding the upcoming Butler Centennial Celebration.

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

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

- Black Hawk Elementary School - Photos of the work being completed were shared. The metal roof is almost complete. The principal's new office has new furniture. Casework in the library has been installed. Photos of the new reception area were shared, as were photos of the new art room. The casework and flooring have been installed in the new art room. In the main corridor, the new flooring and edge band are being installed.

- Dubois Elementary School - Photos of the exterior of the addition facing Southwest and the new first-floor addition to the school were shared. She reported that sheathing on the exterior walls has been completed. Work to install the roof on the addition is slated to begin in the coming days, as is the interior framing. Two drone photos of progress being made on the exterior brickwork were shared.
- Fairview Elementary School - Photos of the main entrance, art room, library and corridor to the art and music rooms were shared. Windows and doors have been installed on the main entrance. The art room ceiling grids have been installed. The first coat of paint is up in the library. The ceiling grid is expected to be hung in the coming weeks. Painting has begun in the corridor leading to the art and music rooms.
- Sandburg Elementary School - Photos of the principal's office in the front addition, the new music and art room, and the corridor of the classroom addition were shared. Additionally, drone photos of the front office addition and the rear addition were shared. Work to finish the drywall in the music and art room is ongoing.
- Franklin Middle School - Photos of the new front cafeteria extension, classrooms in the rear addition, classroom space in the north classroom addition, the outdoor dining area, the folding wall in the multipurpose room, the cafeteria addition, and two large classrooms in the rear classroom addition were shared. Windows have been installed in the front cafeteria extension. Students have moved into one of the two smaller classrooms in the rear addition. Front windows, flooring, and a folding wall will be installed in the cafeteria addition soon.
- Grant Middle School - Photos of the new outdoor dining area, the new cafeteria extension, a new classroom on the Southside of the cafeteria addition, and drone footage of the outside of the building were shared.
- Jefferson Middle School - Photos of the new addition were shared. Work continues on the roof blocking. A new staircase will be installed in the addition. Once that is installed, work to complete the roof can be finished. The exterior framing on the classroom addition is complete. Ductwork is being installed in the addition, too.
- Washington Middle School - Photos of the interior and exterior of the classroom and cafeteria additions were shared. The roof on the cafeteria addition is almost complete. Windows will be installed soon. Exterior sheathing has been installed on the classroom addition. A crane is being used to place roofing materials on the roof. Framing on the interior walls of the hallway in the classroom addition has begun.
- Southeast High School Auditorium - Photos of work being conducted in the auditorium were shared. She reported that the new concrete floor is being poured one section at a time. Electricians are running new electrical lines in the space. Framing of the stage has also begun.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Old Business**

There was no old business at this time.

### **7.2 New Business**

#### **New Sub-District Maps**

Board members were provided with two different draft maps with proposed changes to the sub-districts. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes. The maps are available for public viewing on the Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission's website, in the Board Room of the District's Administrative Center, 1900 W. Monroe street, and in the Board Office, also located at 1900 W. Monroe Street.

Mr. Mares reported that the Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission had created the maps based on census population data from the 2020 census. He further reported that all seven sub-district seats will be up for election in 2023. He indicated that representatives of the Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission are scheduled to attend the March 21, 2022, Board of Education meeting to answer any questions from Board Members. Mr. Mares reported that the changes to the maps are minimal. Each sub-district in the new draft maps includes approximately 15,600 people.

Mr. Mares reported that the Board will vote on a final map in the coming months.

### **City of Springfield Job Fair**

Mr. Miller reported that the City of Springfield will host a job fair on Wednesday, March 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Downtown YMCA. He indicated that a number of seasonal positions will be available during the fair and students are encouraged to apply for those positions.

## **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. The meeting is also available on Cable Channel 22, U-Verse Channel 99 and at the public access streaming link.*

*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.*

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Robert Andrew, regarding school security
- Lacey, regarding school security
- Adam Cook, regarding school safety

## **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

### **9.1 AVID Celebrations**

Board members were provided with a presentation on the AVID celebrations. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Tracy Gage, Director of School Leadership, Wendy Conaway, Principal of Owen Marsh Elementary School, and Nichole Heyen, Principal of Lincoln Magnet School, provided the presentation.

Mrs. Gage provided information regarding the program. She indicated AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. The program is in forty-seven states and sixteen countries. The program promotes best teaching practices in the areas of writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading and prepares students for college and career. She reported that the first AVID class in the District was established in 2005 at Southeast High School. There are currently over 3,000 students in the District enrolled in AVID. Students are typically from the academic middle.

Mrs. Gage reported that the District has two District AVID Goals this school year. The first is to build relational capacity. The second is to see increased usage of organizational tools. The District is also working to build program capacity. An AVID staff developer has been employed with the district since 2018. A contingency of staff attend the annual AVID Summer Institute each year. There are also two AVID workshops each semester, along with monthly professional development for AVID secondary coordinators and elementary school leads. The District has six trained facilitators that have completed the AVID professional learning module training.

Mrs. Conaway provided highlights from Owen Marsh's AVID program. She reported that with respect to District Strategic Goal 1, Expanding opportunities for all students to help them learn and succeed, the school provides students with a boost to the school year. They have launched AVID in grades 3-5 and focus on student leadership. Students are provided with individualized tutoring and interventions. Goal setting is a focus in all academic areas and the school partners with the Boys and Girls Club to provide serves to approximately 30 students. The school has opportunities for growth within AVID and student leadership, inclusion and co-teaching, and lastly, equity.

With respect to District Strategic Goal 2, Enhance academic and emotional support so students can reach their full potential, the school celebrates offering the Second Step SEL building wide. Additionally, SEL learning is included in virtual morning announcements, a BBSS consultant visits and trains staff, a Starter Strings program is offered to students, as is a safe and caring environment. The school provides students with an opportunity to participate in IMSA and focuses on preparing students for college and career. The school sees opportunities for growth around the strategic goal in the areas of relational capacity, cultural relevance, and equity.

Next, Mrs. Conaway reported that Owen Marsh is collectively committed to high student achievement that focuses on student learning for every student everyday. All members of the Owen Marsh community are held accountable for student learning. Lastly, Ms. Conaway provided information on the strong family and community partnerships enjoyed by the school community.

Mrs. Heyen provided highlights from Lincoln Magnet School. She reported that with respect to District Strategic Goal 1, the school celebrates being an AVID Site of Distinction. The school is also an Apple 1:1 Distinguished School. Students are provided with challenge-based learning, Tier I, II, and III supports, a robust fine arts and technology program, and is recognized as a National Leadership School of the Year. The school sees opportunities for growth in strengthening Tier I interventions and enhancing college and career opportunities school-wide.

Next, Mrs. Heyen reported that with respect to District Strategic Goal 2, the school celebrates being able to provide Second Step and a family guidance center school-wide. The school offers a BBSS morning support room, collaborative student groups, student-led recognition initiatives, guided tutorial and academic interventions, the W.E.B "Where Everyone Belongs" program, and uses Panorama data and connections to support students. The school sees opportunities for growth and improvement in relational capacity and enhanced SEL implementation.

The school has a collective commitment to developing thoughtful and engaging lessons that leverage the technology, integrate WICOR and challenge students to develop interactive projects that reinforce learning. Mrs. Heyen then highlighted the school's strong family and community partnerships.

Mrs. Gage overviewed future planning for the AVID program in District 186. She reported that goals center around increasing AVID elective enrollment, revisiting the student recruitment process, monitoring the effectiveness of the program through assessments, surveys, and data analysis, and aligning the work of the Teaching and Learning Department to ensure every District 186 student graduates with the necessary life and academic skills to pursue their career path.

## **BUSINESS REPORT**

### **10.1 Business Reports**

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

Mr. Tom Osborne, Director of Business Services, reported that the beginning balance of sale tax and bond cash and investments dollars totaled just over \$85 million with total monthly revenues of approximately \$1.13 million. Expenses are approximately \$4.75 million. This leaves an ending cash and investments balance in the capital projects fund cash roll forward of approximately \$82.1 million.

Next, Mr. Osborne provided information on outstanding State payments. He indicated that there is an FY22 balance due in Special Projects of approximately \$344,000. Total outstanding State payments from the State of Illinois due to the District as of February 28, 2022, were approximately \$446,000.

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

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Mike Zimmers**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.6 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

There was some discussion regarding the MOSAIC project funding.

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

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": None

**11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2022**

**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, special 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 of.

**11.5 Approval of an Agreement Regarding the MOSAIC Project**

MOSAIC contract

MOSAIC Mental Health Services: Meaningful Opportunities for Success and Achievement through Service Integration for Children (MOSAIC)

The MOSAIC project is a children's mental health initiative. The District partners with the Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois d/b/a Memorial Behavioral Health (ABH), an affiliate of Memorial Health System and Illinois not-for-profit corporation, on behalf of the MOSAIC project, a children's mental health initiative.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 is interested in strengthening cooperative interagency planning and community-based services; and

WHEREAS, the MOSAIC mission is to braid resources together to cultivate the social and emotional health of children and families in the Springfield community; and

WHEREAS, an Agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and MOSAIC has been developed to support children's social-emotional well-being;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 approve the agreement with MOSAIC to collaborate and share responsibilities as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding that demonstrates the working relationship between the District and MOSAIC for the 2021-2022 school year effective July 19, 2021, through July 19, 2022.

**11.6 Approval of an Agreement with DotCom Therapy**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, District 186 desires services of DotCom Therapy of Madison, Wisconsin for speech/language tele-therapy services; and

WHEREAS, DotCom Therapy is appropriately qualified and able to provide an additional 0.8 FTE speech/language tele-therapy services to Springfield Public School District 186 for the sole purpose of covering speech/language pathology vacancies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and DotCom Therapy for the time period of February 28, 2022, through May 27, 2022, at an estimated contract rate of \$24,484 to be paid in estimated monthly payments of \$8,463 as stated in the agreement.

## **ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS**

### **12.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations**

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) 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: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0.**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Zimmers  
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.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) 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 as follows: '.

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

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": None

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, March 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room**

### **13.2 Upcoming District Events**

March 21-25 - No School - Spring Break

### **13.3 Freedom of Information Report**

Board members were provided with a copy of the Freedom of Information Act Report for the weeks covering February 18, 2022, through March 3, 2022. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board website.

Mr. Zimmers congratulated Sacred Heart-Griffin High School for winning the Supersectional Boys Basketball Tournament and advancing to the State Tournament.

Ms. Austin commended several schools for their Black History Month activities. Ms. Lael Wolf asked when Ms. Austin's next Get On The Bus college will take place. Ms. Austin reported that the next trip is scheduled for March 23, 2022, to Lincoln College.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Mares declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, March 21, 2022. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Anthony Mares, President

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Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: March 22, 2022