

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, May 20, 2024 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on May 6 A.D., 2024, at 5:31 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
Harrison Gray, 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 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Ken Gilmore**) Moved, Member (**Debra Iams**) 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 7 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Austin, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf
Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:35 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present as Mr. Mares and Mr. Miller joined the meeting at 5:33 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 May 20, 2024

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved to approve the agenda. Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** 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, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller

Those voting "no": None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1 Recognition of Jared Wools, SHS/CACC Student

The Board of Education recognized Jared Wools from Springfield High School for his swift action in helping a teacher at Capital Area Career Center. Doug Dennis, teacher at CACC, shared more information about his medical incident and how Jared helped save his life.

It was noted that Ms. Blissett arrived at 6:43 p.m.

5.2 2024-2025 Student Board Representative Announcement

Mr. Miller announced Phong Dong from Southeast High School will be the 2024-2025 Student Board Representative.

5.3 Student Report

Mr. Gray shared remarks about his time at District 186.

The Board recognized and thanked Mr. Gray for his service with a plaque.

5.4 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.

Mr. Miller shared comments regarding student behavior, alternative education options, the impact of state laws on disciplinary practices, and staff concerns that have been brought to his attention. He reported that he has asked the Superintendent to address the impact of laws on current disciplinary practices.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Moment of silence was observed for the following individuals:

- Linda Johnson, retired first-grade teacher
- Penny Meyers, retired Southeast High School teacher
- Sam Funderburg, Springfield High School student grad

Superintendent Gill shared comments regarding her pride in District 186. She noted that there are also difficulties to address, including student behavior. She spoke to the importance of understanding individual student needs and addressed the impact disruption has on creating a positive school culture. She indicated that the law related to exclusionary discipline changed how schools must address behavior and consequences. She overviewed security measures that have been put in place, including installation of metal detectors, vape detection, additional security cameras, and additional security personnel. She reported that there is a bill in front of the state legislature currently related to school discipline and the escalation of school violence across the State of Illinois. She indicated that she has met with the SEA and IEA leadership recently to address concerns. She has recommended that a joint coalition be created with SEA to work together to address concerns and practices.

Next, Superintendent Gill addressed the importance of the District's alternative programs and partnerships that provide alternative educational opportunities. She discussed space needs of the programs, the use of data to understand individual student needs, the importance of communication, and support of administrators and families. She suggested continuing the practice of participating in "listening tours" of the schools. She thanked teachers and staff for their work.

Ms. Blissett thanked Superintendent Gill for her comments. She offered her support of the work discussed.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

8.1 Public Comment

Mr. Miller asked if there was any public comment. He then read the following statement:

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. The Illinois School Records Act, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act offers very clear protections regarding student information. Out of an abundance of caution, in order to protect student privacy, speakers must refrain from presenting information about specific instances of student discipline as this can be identifiable for the student.

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.

The following individuals addressed the Board regarding school safety:

- Brian Daugherty, teacher, via email
- Kristine Jurgens, teacher
- Mike Anderson, teacher
- Rachael McMillen, community member and former teacher
- Tina Freeman, teacher
- Jennifer Rockwell, SEA representative and teacher
- Aaron Graves, SEA President
- Emelie Cherrone, teacher
- C Douglas, community member
- Breanna Eilers, parent, by phone
- Natasha Langen, teacher

It was noted that Mr. Miller stopped Ms. Jurgens and reminded her to refrain from making comment that could potentially identify students. He also stopped Mr. Anderson. Superintendent Gill noted that in response to one of the speaker's concerns, laws related to Special Education services must be followed. Mr. Miller also made comments related to student struggles, working together to address issues, and his own children's experiences in the schools.

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 the April 2024 Monthly Business Report. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that For the month of April 2024, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$6.6 million and Education Fund expenditures totaled approximately \$11.8 million. Mr. Miller noted that expenditures exceeded revenues by \$5.1 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund revenues were approximately \$171,000 and expenditures were approximately \$1.5 million. Expenditures exceeded revenues by approximately \$1.4 million.

Next, Mr. Miller overviewed the Investment Balances Report, as of April 30, 2024. He reported that the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$58.2 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only (Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, & Working Cash Funds), total cash in the bank was approximately \$16.5 million. Total investments are approximately \$97.3 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$3.1 million. The interest rate on all cash accounts on April 30 was 2.5% or 250 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of April 30, 2024, was approximately \$155.5 million. Mr. Miller noted that the district also shows recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of April as approximately \$949,000 for the January collection period. Mr. Miller reported that total collections of County sales tax proceeds are approximately \$54.6 million.

Mr. Miller then shared two graphs comparing the percentages of Expenditures in the Education Fund, Operations and Maintenance Fund and Transportation Fund by month in FY23 and FY24.

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 (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) 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'.

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 May 6, 2024

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 items on the attached document as surplus materials to be sold or disposed.

11.5 Approval of the Student and Family Handbook for the 2024-2025 School Year

That the Board of Education approves the reviewed and revised Student and Family Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year.

Resolution: WHEREAS, it is required to review the Student and Family Handbook annually; and

WHEREAS, a committee consisting of parents, administrators, teachers and secondary students reviewed and revised the Student and Family Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the newly reviewed and revised Springfield Public Schools Student and Family Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year.

11.6 Approval of a Contract with Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

AVID is a school-wide College and Career Readiness System that prepares students for life after high school. Springfield School District 186 utilizes AVID's College and Career Readiness framework to ensure all K-12 students are provided with a foundation of rigorous academic preparedness, student agency, and opportunity knowledge.

The AVID Elective class, housed in the middle and high schools, instills skills and behaviors for academic success, develops strong organizational skills, provides intense support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, creates a positive peer group for students, and develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination. The AVID Elective class structure allows its students to experience AP and Dual Credit courses with the support necessary for success.

During the 2024-2025 school year, AVID will be provided in twenty-three elementary schools (including Ball Charter), seven middle schools (including Ball Charter), three high schools, and alternative programs.

Resolution: WHEREAS, AVID and Springfield Public School District 186 have previously signed an AVID agreement to support AVID programming; and

WHEREAS, schools are eager and committed to participate in the continued development of the AVID System for the 2024-2025 school year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the AVID Contract Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year for a total of \$134,856 to be paid from budgeted funds and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Springfield Ball Charter School is included in the AVID Contract Agreement and will pay \$18,975 for their portion.

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

12.2 Approval of Travel Expenses for Board Members (State Conference)

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves travel expenses as follows for the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference from November 22-24-2024:

Erica Austin
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Sarah Blissett
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Ken Gilmore
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Buffy Lael-Wolf
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Anthony Mares
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Micah Miller)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education approves travel expenses as follows for the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference from November 22-24-2024:

Erica Austin
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Sarah Blissett
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Ken Gilmore
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Buffy Lael-Wolf
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80

Anthony Mares
Registration - \$520.00
Hotel - \$825.00
Transportation \$80.'

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

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 **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution: '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, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Celebrate 186

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

Jefferson Middle School Boys Track

The Jefferson Middle School Boys Track team took second place in the IESA State Track Meet. Superintendent Gill congratulated the team on their season and accomplishments.

Washington Middle School Boys Track

The Washington Middle School 7th grade boys relay team took first place in both the 4x200 and 4x400 relays at the IESA State Track Meet. Superintendent Gill congratulated the team on their season and accomplishments.

Lanphier High School Brick Sale

Lanphier High School will host a brick sale fundraiser on Friday, June 14, 2024. Bricks from the Lober Nika Gym and Edison School will be available for \$15 per brick or \$20 with a commemorative plaque. Sections of the Lober Nika Gym floor will also be available for purchase in small bundles for \$20 per bundle.

Graduation Walks

Approximately 175 of this year's graduates from Lanphier, Southeast and Springfield High School recently participated in the 2nd annual grad walk. Graduates walked the halls of the District's elementary and middle schools to celebrate their accomplishments and to inspire young learners. The event was a resounding success with staff and students sharing how much the experience meant to them. Superintendent Gill reported that the District is excited to continue the tradition which promotes college and career readiness.

Graduation

Superintendent Gill provided information regarding the upcoming graduation ceremonies. She reported that District 186 graduation ceremonies will take place on Friday, May 31, 2024 and Saturday, June 1, 2024 at the Bank of Springfield Center in downtown Springfield. Lawrence Education Center's ceremony will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2024. On Saturday, June 1, 2024, Lanphier High School's ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m., Southeast High School's ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. and Springfield High School's ceremony will be held at 5:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, June 3, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

May 24 - Last Day of School - Regular Calendar

June 5 - Last Day of School - Balanced Calendar

June 1 - Graduation

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, June 3, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: June 3, 2024