

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, May 5, 2025 (5:15 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on May 5, A.D., 2023, at 5:15 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present:	Micah Miller, President Julie Hammers, Board Secretary Erica Austin Kristin Barnett Sarah Blissett Ken Gilmore Debra Iams by phone Buffy Lael-Wolf Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools Phong Duong, Student Board Member
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CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President Miller called the meeting to order.

1.2 Approval of Remote Attendance by Debra Iams

Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion "That Debra Iams be allowed to attend remotely via telephone for medical reasons."

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.1 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

3.1 Approve the Agenda for May 5, 2025

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved to approve the agenda. Member **(Erica Austin)** 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, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting "no": None

REPORT OF THE CANVASS OF VOTES

4.1 Declaring the Results of the Election on April 1, 2025

Ms. Hammers reported the results of the Consolidated Election held on April 1, 2025, as prepared by the Sangamon County Election Office.

- In sub-district 1, for a full 4-year term, Kristin Barnett received 1,654 votes. Anthony Mares received 1,001 votes. Ms. Barnett was declared the winner.
- In sub-district 2, for a full 4-year term, Micah Miller received 1,386 votes and was unopposed. Mr. Miller was declared the winner.
- In sub-district 6, for a full 4-year term, Erica Austin received 1,046 votes and was unopposed. Dr. Austin was declared the winner.

ADJOURN SINE DIE

5.1 Adjourn Sine Die

Resolution: That the Board of Education adjourn sine die.

Original - Motion

Member **(Micah Miller)** moved, Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education adjourns sine die.'

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

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting "no": none.

The meeting adjourned *sine die* at 5:22p.m.

SEATING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

6.1 Seating of the Board of Education

At this time, Ms. Barnett came forward to take her seat and receive her nameplate.

OATH OF OFFICE

7.1 Oath of Office

Superintendent Gill asked Ms. Austin, Ms. Barnett and Mr. Miller to stand to take the Oath of Office, as follows:

"I, (name of member or successful candidate), affirm that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District #186, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further affirm that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district's assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting and;

I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels."

The Board members introduced their family and friends in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

8.1 Roll Call

Superintendent Gill called the meeting to order at 5:24 p.m. and the roll was taken. It was noted that the following members were present: Erica Austin, Kristin Barnett, Sarah Blissett, Ken Gilmore, Debra Iams, Buffy Lael-Wolf, and Micah Miller.

Superintendent Gill thanked Mr. Miller and Dr. Austin for their service as President and Vice President over the past year.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Nominations for President of the Board of Education

The Superintendent will accept nominations for president.

Resolution: That the Board of Education nominate and elect a Board President for a one-year term.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Ken Gilmore)** moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education nominate and elect a Board President for a one-year term. New president assumes the duties of presiding officer.' Mr. Gilmore then nominated Erica Austin for President. Sarah Blissett seconded the nomination.

Superintendent Gill then called for additional nominees three times. There were no other nominations.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: 6 - 0 - 1. The motion **Carried**.

Those voting “aye”: Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting “no”: None
Those abstaining: Iams

Dr. Austin was declared President. Dr. Austin thanked the other members, her family, and friends in attendance for their support.

With this declaration, Superintendent Gill turned the meeting over to Dr. Austin to continue with nominations for the other offices.

9.2 Nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Education

The President will accept nominations for vice-president.

Resolution: That the Board of Education nominate and elect a Vice-President for a one-year term.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Erica Austin**) moved, Member (**Sarah Blissett**) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ‘That the Board of Education nominate and elect a Vice President for a one-year term.’ Dr. Austin then nominated Buffy Lael-Wolf for Vice President. Sarah Blissett seconded the nomination.

Dr. Austin then called for additional nominees three more times. There were no additional nominees.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: 7 - 0. The motion **Carried**.

Those voting: Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting: None

Ms. Lael-Wolf was declared the Vice-President. She thanked her fellow Board members for the opportunity to serve the Board and District in this manner.

9.3 Nominations for Secretary

The President will accept nominations for Secretary.

Resolution: That the Board of Education nominate and elect a Board Secretary.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) moved, Member (**Micah Miller**) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ‘That the Board of Education nominate and elect a Board Secretary for a one-year term.’ Buffy Lael-Wolf nominated Julie Hammers, with a second by Micah Miller. Dr. Austin then called for any other nominations three additional times. There were no additional nominations.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: (7) Nay: (0). The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting “aye”: Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting “no”: none.

Ms. Hammers was declared Board Secretary.

9.4 Nominations for Assistant Secretary

The President will accept nominations for Assistant Secretary.

Resolution: That the Board of Education nominate and elect an Assistant Board Secretary.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education nominate and elect an Assistant Board Secretary for a one-year term.' Buffy Lael-Wolf nominated Nicole Irlam, with a second by Sarah Blissett. Dr. Austin then called for any other nominations three additional times. There were no additional nominations.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: (7) Nay: (0). The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye":	Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting "no":	none.

Ms. Irlam was declared Assistant Board Secretary.

9.5 Appointment of Treasurer

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Steven Miller be appointed Treasurer to the Board of Education.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Steven Miller be appointed Treasurer to the Board of Education.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: (7) Nay: (0). The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye":	Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting "no":	none.

9.6 Adoption of Board Policies and Code of Conduct

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board re-adopt Board Policies as currently in effect, that the Board observe Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised, except as otherwise provided by Board Policies or statute, that Roll Calls be made on a rotating basis and that the Board shall adhere to the attached Code of Conduct.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Erica Austin)** Moved, Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board re-adopt Board Policies as currently in effect, that the Board observe Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised, except as otherwise provided by Board Policies or statute, that Roll Calls be made on a rotating basis and that the Board shall adhere to the attached Code of Conduct'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye":	Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
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Those voting “no”: none.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Executive Session

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves adjournment to Executive Session to consider the following items:

- 10.1 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9, 10)
- 10.2 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- 10.3 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- 10.4 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Kristin Barnett)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session to consider the following matters: 10.1 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9, 10), 10.2 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 10.3 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), 10.4 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 7 - 0**.

Those voting “aye”: Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting “no”: None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:37 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

11.1 President's Comments

Ms. Austin 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.

11.2 Student Report

Mr. Duong noted that the end of the school year and his term as Student Representative to the Board are quickly approaching. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent students throughout the District. He noted that his involvement in the Superintendent's Student Roundtable has been rewarding. He reported that he is looking forward to the Grad Walk later in the month and graduation. He indicated that he has received a full ride to the University of Illinois Springfield.

Individual Board members thanked Mr. Duong and congratulated him.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

12.1 Superintendent's Report

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for four children from Chatham who passed away on April 28, 2025, in an accident at their after-school program. Superintendent Gill read a statement before the moment of silence.

Celebrate 186

Superintendent Gill provided the bi-weekly Celebrate 186 presentation. Copies of the presentation filed with the Official Minutes can be found [here](#). The report covered the following topics.

Lanphier High School Band at the Music Festival at Six Flags St. Louis

Superintendent Gill congratulated the Lanphier High School band, which recently took home third place after competing in a music festival at Six Flags St. Louis.

Security Bank - Springfield Business Journal Women of Influence 2025

Superintendent Gill congratulated Family and Community Engagement Liaison Monica Walls Butler, who was recently honored as one of the 2025 Women of Influence. She noted that Ms. Walls Butler was nominated by her peers for her ability to focus and help find unique ways to help students find direction as they plan for their futures.

Future Educators Celebration

Students from the Class of 2025 who have committed to pursuing a career in education were honored at a reception recently at the District's administrative office building. Students attended with their families and spoke about their next steps.

Illinois State Fair Postcard Contest

Students from Ridgely Elementary participated in the 3rd Annual Illinois State Fair Postcard Contest recently. Each year, the school partners with the Illinois Department of Agriculture on the contest to design postcards that are then sold at the Illinois State Fair. Artwork from students in each grade level will be featured. Winners were presented with a ribbon and an Illinois State Fair Mega Pass.

Arbor Day at Lanphier High School

Lanphier High School celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree generously donated by the City of Springfield. Superintendent Gill was joined by students of Lanphier High School, Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher, and Principal Alicia Miller for the ceremonial planting.

Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Coaches of the Year

Shekela Lee and Aundre Williams, the 7th-grade girls and boys basketball coaches for the Lincoln Magnet-Ball Charter School Coop team, were recently selected as the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Girls and Boys Junior High Coaches of the Year for 7th-grade 4A. Superintendent Gill congratulated them on their awards.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

Superintendent Gill shared photos and a construction update from the construction taking place at Springfield High School. Photos of what will be the Music Commons area on the second floor, footings for the new basement for the three-story addition where the old gym had been located, the west balcony of the competition gym, and the new Commons area were shared.

Letters from Graduating Students

Superintendent Gill shared two letters from an 8th-grade student at Iles, Sophia L., thanking administrators, teachers, staff, District administrators, and, in the second letter, the Board of Education for the education she has received that she feels has well prepared her for high school.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13.1 Old Business

IASB May Report

Ms. Lael-Wolf shared the Illinois Association of School Boards' May Liaison Report. She noted that division officers will be elected at the upcoming governing meetings. Additionally, the Call for Resolutions is now open. She directed questions about the Delegate Assembly that takes place during the group's annual conference to Mr. Gilmore.

Scope Advisory Committee

Ms. Blissett gave an update on the Scope Advisory Committee. She noted that the committee is composed of a variety of employees from across all employee groups, district-level administrators, including the Superintendent, and parents. The group has discussed and set summer rates for the program and enrollment, which is now open. The group will meet again soon to discuss the program's fall rates and registration, which opens May 20 when school registration opens. The group will continue to meet going forward.

13.2 New Business

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

14.1 Public Comment

Ms. Austin 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.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Aaron Graves regarding community support for education, teacher appreciation week, and changes to the Board's leadership and make-up
- Ken Pacha regarding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and District 186

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

15.1 2024-2025 Student & Family Handbook

Board members were provided with draft copies of the 2024-2025 Student & Family Handbook and the presentation related to the handbook. A copy of the presentation filed with the Official Minutes is available for public viewing [here](#).

Jason Wind, Executive Director of School Support, gave the presentation, which provided an overview of changes. He noted that the handbook is reviewed and updated annually. He thanked the members of the Handbook Committee and reported that the committee is composed of teachers, administrators, parents, and other District 186 staff.

During the annual review meeting, committee members chose to review one of five topic areas of the handbook, which included Handbook Instruction, School Culture, Student Discipline, Technology Policies and Extracurricular/Athletic Activities Policies, and Bullying, Hazing, Harassment.

With respect to the Handbook Introduction, updates have been suggested to Student Enrollment, Residency, Attendance and Absences, and Academic Requirements. There was a general revision of information for the District. Additionally, language for the Accelerated Placement Program was added per a legislative mandate, as well as information about the minimum home school attendance requirements for the prior school year for students attending the Capital Area Career Center (CACC), and CACC program attendance requirements for district students. He indicated that full and half day attendance charts have been modified to note late arrival and early dismissal. Language about chronic absenteeism and chronic truancy has also been added.

The School Culture section saw very few changes. Mr. Wind noted that a suggestion to change the dress code to allow hoods and pajama pants was not accepted. Additionally, the MTSS portion of this section will continue to be updated throughout the summer as support for students is considered.

The Student Discipline section updates included the organization of information to ensure alignment of charts and descriptions. Mr. Wind noted that the Technology Department is also working on updates to the Office Discipline Referral to ensure alignment with BBSS and School Support Office recommendations.

The Technology Policies and Extracurricular/Athletic Activities section has had language added about student Google accounts and an update to the Electronic Device Policy. The Bullying, Hazing, Harassment section saw updates to the definition of bullying, the list of aggressive acts on the bullying form to align with federal reporting criteria, and the addition of links for forms and resources for families.

There was then a brief discussion about the possibility of making changes to the handbook over the summer.

BUSINESS REPORT

16.1 Business Reports

Board members were provided with the Business Report of May 5, 2025. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steven Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that the evening's presentation will provide an overview of outstanding payments due the district from the State of Illinois as of April 30, 2025, as well as an update on the cash roll forward for the capital projects fund as of March 31, 2025.

Mr. Miller reported that outstanding payments due the district from the State of Illinois for the 2025 fiscal year total \$462,800 as of April 30, 2025. Of those funds, \$25,000 is due for the Education Fund and \$7,950 is due for Food Services. The remainder of the funds are due for the Early Childhood Block Grant.

For the Capital Projects Fund, investments showed a beginning balance of approximately \$51.5 million. Total revenues in the investment funds, dividends and interest, were approximately \$887,000. Bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$6.4 million. This yielded an ending balance of approximately \$46 million.

The District received approximately \$1.35 million in sales tax receipts in March 2025. These were reported from the December 2024 reporting period. Since 2019, the District has received approximately \$67.4 million in sales tax proceeds, with a twelve-month average collection of approximately \$1.15 million. Currently, the District's sales tax money is used to pay the principal and interest of the bonds sold for its capital projects.

Mr. Miller then reported that as of March 31, 2025, the District has approximately \$9.3 million in its County School Facilities Sales Tax (CFST) savings account. The next payment of \$9.28 million will be due on June 1, 2025. At that time, the District will have a projected surplus of \$2.34 million in the CFST account. A total of \$12.5 million will be paid in the next two bond payments.

Mr. Miller then noted that the Board will be asked to approve the FY25 Amended budget later in the meeting. He also provided information on stop-loss insurance.

There was then additional discussion about the amended budget. Board Member Miller inquired about the money owed the District for the Early Childhood Block Grant. Mr. Miller reported that the State has been satisfying their obligations with increased regularity compared to past years.

PUBLIC HEARING

17.1 Public Hearing - FY25 Amended Budget

Board members were provided with draft copies of the 2024-2025 Amended Budget. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing on the District's website.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board adjourns into the public hearing concerning the 2024-2025 Amended Budget and upon the conclusion of the hearing, the Board will immediately adjourn the public hearing and resume the open session'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 7 - 0**.

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

The meeting adjourned into the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Ms. Austin opened the floor to public comment. Aaron Graves and Ken Pacha addressed the Board.

There was some discussion about the deficit in the health insurance fund and how it is reported in the amended budget versus how it was reported in past budgets. Mr. Miller reported that the Education Fund is covering the insurance fund deficit, as approved by the Board previously. He reminded the Board that the changes that were made this year in the approach to how the District goes out for bids on health insurance are expected to neutralize the deficit within a few years.

Lastly, Ken Pacha addressed the Board a second time regarding the Consent Decree.

The public session resumed at 7:49 p.m.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

18.1 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 18.2 through 18.6 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Moved, Member **(Kristin Barnett)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 18.2 through 18.6 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, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller
Those voting "no":	None

18.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of April 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.

18.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable

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

18.4 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Really Great Reading

Consulting Proposal

Franklin Middle School is identified as a Targeted School in need of school improvement from the 2023 School Report Card. The school has a targeted designation for improvement with special education students. Franklin has a consulting proposal with Really Great Reading to provide professional development and on-site coaching support. The professional development is designed to help educators address the root causes of reading and spelling challenges for students with special needs. The on-site coaching will model lessons with students and support teachers in the implementation of specific targets in pacing, routine, engagement, and utilization of resources. The professional development will take place in September 2025 with coaching follow-up in October 2025. The total cost for consulting services will be \$8,250.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Franklin Middle School has developed a targeted plan for School Improvement, has identified a need for support with the targeted special education students in reading strategies; and

WHEREAS, Really Great Reading will provide professional development and coaching to staff; and

WHEREAS, the consulting services will be completely reimbursed through 1003 (a) Title I School Improvement funding;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement with Really Great Reading for a total amount of \$8250 to be paid from Title I School Improvement 1003(a) funds.

18.5 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Benchmark Education

Consulting agreement

The following schools will enter into a consulting agreement with Benchmark Education to provide ongoing professional development services for continued curriculum training. Our schools use the Benchmark reading curriculum, and this consultant will provide continued support in curriculum development skills.

Dubois - two on-site visits

Fairview - two on-site visits

Hazel Dell - six on-site visits

Feitshans - fifteen on-site visits

These visits will take place between September 2025 and May 2026.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Dubois, Fairview, Feitshans, and Hazel Dell schools are continuing through the school improvement grant process and developing ways to deepen curriculum development with all staff; and

WHEREAS, Benchmark Education will provide on-site professional curriculum development visits as a continuation to improve each school's curriculum implementation; and

WHEREAS, the consulting services will be completely reimbursed through 1003 (a) Title I School Improvement funding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consulting agreement with Benchmark Education for on-site professional development visits with Dubois, Fairview, Feitshans, and Hazel Dell at a total cost of \$100,995.

18.6 Approval of a Training Services Agreement with STAR Autism Support, Inc.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 desires consultant services to provide direct consultation with teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service staff on the implementation of evidence-based practices using the STAR Program curriculum in the STRIVE and Essential Life Skill classrooms (20 classrooms); and

WHEREAS, STAR Autism Support, Inc. is qualified to provide such services as a Consultant for the District; and

WHEREAS, the cost for these services is \$44,250.00, which includes all travel expenses (i.e., transportation, meals, lodging, etc.) and will be paid by IDEA Part B Flow-Through Federal Grant;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and STAR Autism Support, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year, per the terms identified above.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

19.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

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

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) 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, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller

Those voting "no": None

19.2 Approval of a Resolution for the Adoption of the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

The original FY 2025 budget was adopted in September 2024. Additional information is known regarding the District's revenues and expenditures. This allows us to adopt a budget that is reflective of what our actual revenue and expenditures are projected to be as of June 30, 2025.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, has accepted an Amended Budget for the fiscal year 2025, and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Amended Budget on the 5th day of May 2025, notice of said hearing having been given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said District that the Amended Budget for FY 2025 is hereby adopted for said fiscal year.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, has accepted an Amended Budget for the fiscal year 2025, and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Amended Budget on the 5th day of May 2025, notice of said hearing having been given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said District that the Amended Budget for FY 2025 is hereby adopted for said fiscal year.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

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

19.3 Approval of a Resolution Regarding the Proposal for Individual Stop Loss insurance (ISL)

Resolution: WHEREAS on June 1, 1999, the District converted to a partially self-funded insurance program for medical and pharmacy expenses; and

WHEREAS, the District's Insurance Consultant, district staff and the District's Insurance Committee have reviewed and analyzed the Individual Stop Loss (ISL) submission from Aetna, a District bidder;

WHEREAS, individual stop-loss (ISL) insurance and aggregate stop-loss (ASL) insurance is to protect the District's self-insurance fund from catastrophic claims and financial liability for all eligible plan members as a group; and

WHEREAS, individual stop-loss insurance coverage is in place with a deductible in the amount of \$500,000 per individual which will require the stop-loss insurance carrier to reimburse the fund if then eligible claims paid for each individual exceeds \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, the premium cost for \$500,000 ISL insurance is \$2,197,371 and will be maintained; and

WHEREAS, aggregate stop-loss insurance (ASL) coverage is in place to protect the fund when claims paid (minus any claims exceeding the ISL) is 125% over the projected claims as determined by Aetna; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves and accepts Aetna as the provider for Individual Stop Loss insurance.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS on June 1, 1999, the District converted to a partially self-funded insurance program for medical and pharmacy expenses; and

WHEREAS, the District's Insurance Consultant, district staff and the District's Insurance Committee have reviewed and analyzed the Individual Stop Loss (ISL) submission from Aetna, a District bidder;

WHEREAS, individual stop-loss (ISL) insurance and aggregate stop-loss (ASL) insurance is to protect the District's self-insurance fund from catastrophic claims and financial liability for all eligible plan members as a group; and

WHEREAS, individual stop-loss insurance coverage is in place with a deductible in the amount of \$500,000 per individual which will require the stop-loss insurance carrier to reimburse the fund if then eligible claims paid for each individual exceeds \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, the premium cost for \$500,000 ISL insurance is \$2,197,371 and will be maintained; and

WHEREAS, aggregate stop-loss insurance (ASL) coverage is in place to protect the fund when claims paid (minus any claims exceeding the ISL) is 125% over the projected claims as determined by Aetna; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves and accepts Aetna as the provider for Individual Stop Loss insurance.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Barnett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller

Those voting "no": None

Those abstaining: Blissett

19.4 Approval of a Change Order for Memorial Stadium Bleachers

Update and reinforce underside of 20+ year old bleachers

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Lanphier High School/Memorial Stadium

Change Order: #6

Amount: \$55,338

Contractor: O'Shea Builders

Scope of Work: The underside of the center bleachers on the East and West sides of Memorial Stadium are being preemptively updated and reinforced as they are over 20 years old.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Erica Austin)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Lanphier High School/Memorial Stadium

Change Order: #6

Amount: \$55,338

Contractor: O'Shea Builders

Scope of Work: The underside of the center bleachers on the East and West sides of Memorial Stadium are being preemptively updated and reinforced as they are over 20 years old.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Austin, Barnett, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Miller

Those voting "no": None

19.5 Approval of the Schedule of Meetings of the Board of Education for the 2025-2026 School Year

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the attached calendar of dates for the regular meetings of the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 be adopted for the 2025-2026 school year.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT RESOLVED that the attached calendar of dates for the regular meetings of the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 be adopted for the 2025-2026 school year with one change to move the Monday, April 6, 2026 meeting to Tuesday, April 7, 2026.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

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

19.6 Student Discipline

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

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** 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.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

20.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

20.2 Upcoming District Events

May 26 – No School – Memorial Day

June 7– High School Graduation at the Bank of Springfield Center

11:00 a.m. - Lanphier High School

2:00 p.m. - Southeast High School

5:00 p.m. - Springfield High School

20.3 Freedom of Information Act Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Austin declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, May 19, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Erica Austin, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: May 19, 2025