

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Monday, June 17, 2024 (5:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on June 17 A.D., 2024, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Erica Austin, Vice President  
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Sarah Blissett  
Ken Gilmore  
Debra Iams  
Buffy Lael-Wolf  
Anthony Mares

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent

**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 **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** 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: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 6 - 0**.

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

## **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m. and reconvened at 6:08 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **3.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Austin 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 June 17, 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, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares
Those voting "no":	None

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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

Ms. Austin 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 Recognition of Grant Middle School & Lincoln Magnet/Ball Charter School Track and Field Athletes**

The Board of Education congratulated the following GMS and LMS Athletes for success at the IESA State Track and Field Meet.

#### Grant Middle School

Jovonis Mumford - 3rd place 100M, 5th place 200M

Trae Sutton - 1st place Shot Put

Coaches: Justin Lee and Phil Harris

#### Lincoln Magnet School/Ball Charter School

Jesse Awator - 1st place Long Jump

Coaches: Stephanie Webster and Jeff Lynn

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

Superintendent Gill provided an update on work that has taken place related to school safety and security since concerns were brought forth during the May 17, 2024, Board of Education meeting. She reported that she recently attended an AVID summit with teachers and administrators from across the district in attendance, as well as the Faith Coalition's Education Equity meeting.

Next, Superintendent Gill noted that she had met with all middle and high school principals regarding consistent cell phone usage policies. She indicated that additional information will be brought to the Board regarding options to address concerns surrounding consistent administration across the district of cell phone policies.

Superintendent Gill reported that she and other District administrators recently attended the Hope Center Illinois Summit sponsored and presented by the University of Illinois Springfield's Alliance for Experimental Problem-Based Learning. She reported that the summit featured two presenters from the University of Oklahoma from the field of social work and psychology who presented their research based on hope. She noted that several community members were in attendance, including representatives from the State's Attorney's Office, the Child Advocacy Center, and the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault. She also provided information on workshops staff have attended over the previous two weeks related to restorative practices. She noted that staff from schools that were unable to attend the restorative practices workshops over the last two weeks will attend later in the summer.

Superintendent Gill then provided information regarding current legislation related to Senate Bill 100 and exclusionary discipline. She noted that she signed a witness slip on behalf of the district during the most recent legislative session to support efforts to have the State provide additional guidance related to the law or change parts of the law that are somewhat restrictive. She reported that based on action taken during the most recent legislative session, the Illinois State Board of Education will be required to provide additional guidance on the law.

Next, Superintendent Gill reported that she has been invited to an event in early August hosted by the Ministerial Alliance. She noted that she also serves on the Illinois Association of School Administrators' (IASA) Governmental Relations Committee and the Large Unit District Association's (LUDA) Governmental Committee. These committees have focused discussions about Senate Bill 100. Additionally, she and a small team from the District have been invited by the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office to attend training by subject matter experts on threat assessment, implementing community support teams, threat assessment and management teams, criminology, social work and targeted violence prevention, with the goal of learning how to more efficiently communicate and work together to address safety issues across the community.

In addition to the other work related to safety and security, Superintendent Gill noted that Terrance Jordan, Director of School Leadership and Family and Community Engagement, attended the Stop the Violence Youth Panel presented by the One in A Million Club.

There was then some additional discussion regarding possible changes to Senate Bill 100, communication related to any changes that may be made to the cell phone policy, consistent enforcement of the cell phone policy, and creation of a district-wide cell phone guidelines for addition to the Student and Family Handbook.

## **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.

## **Juneteenth**

The District 186 F.A.C.E. Team participated in the City of Springfield's Juneteenth Celebration at Comer Cox Park on Saturday, June 15, 2024. The group offered information, free books, and games.

## **Camp Compass**

Superintendent Gill reported that Camp Compass has started. Teachers are helping students work on their academic and enrichment skills over the summer. More than 850 children are participating in the program this summer.

## **Jump Start Kindergarten**

The Jump Start Kindergarten program at the Early Learning Center is underway. Students are excited to learn procedures and hone their skills before starting kindergarten in the fall.

## **Beta Nationals - Grant Middle School & Lincoln Magnet School**

Three students from Grant Middle School took home awards during the Beta Club National Convention in Savannah, Georgia recently. Two students placed 4th for their service-learning project and another student placed 4th in performance-instrumentalist.

Lincoln Magnet School took home the Top School Award for the 7th year in a row. Superintendent Gill congratulated the students and clubs on their awards.

## **Online Registration - School Physicals and Immunizations**

Superintendent Gill reported that online registration is now open. Families are encouraged to register their students now. She also encouraged families to schedule their students' mandatory physicals and immunizations with their primary care provider.

## **Our Schools Our Future**

Superintendent Gill shared information about the updates and renovation of Southeast High School's Track and Field. She shared photos of the work that is ongoing at the facilities. She noted that the foundation is going in for the new team room, locker rooms, and weight room. Once that is complete, the concessions, restrooms, track and field will be prepared for the next steps.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Old Business**

There was no old business at this time.

### **7.2 New Business**

Ms. Iams thanked the Share the Spirit Foundation for providing new shoes to District 186 students through their various programs, including their Shoe Closets program.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **8.1 Public Comment**

Ms. Austin asked if there was any public comment. There were no public commenters at this time.

## **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 May 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 May 2024, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$7.5 million. Education Fund expenditures for the same period were approximately \$12.7 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund had no revenues for the month of May. Expenditures in the fund were approximately \$1.7 million.

With respect to the Investment Balances Report, Mr. Miller reported that as of May 31, 2024, the district had a combined cash balance of approximately \$59.4 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, which includes the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash Funds, total cash in the bank was approximately \$39.2 million. Total investments are approximately \$100.1 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$3.2 million. The interest rate on all cash accounts as of May 31, 2024, was 2.5% or 250 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of May 31, 2024, was approximately \$159.5 million. Mr. Miller noted that the district also had recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of May of approximately \$983,000 for the February collection period. To date since the tax was implemented, approximately \$55.6 million has been collected.

Next, Mr. Miller shared two graphs. The first graph compared the percentages of expenditures in the Education Fund by month for fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024. The second graph compared the percentages of expenditures for the same fiscal years for the Education, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation Funds.

There was a brief discussion regarding funding after the federal ESSER funds end.

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

## **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.11 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

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, Mares  
Those voting "no": None

### **11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of June 3, 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 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment**

#### **Bid #24-08 — Waste Management Services**

**Resolution:** BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion:

Bid #24-08 — Waste Management Services

### **11.5 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment**

#### **Bid #24-16 — Paving Improvements - Dubois and Sandburg**

**Resolution:** BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion:

Bid #24-16 — Paving Improvements - Dubois and Sandburg

### **11.6 Declaration of Surplus Property**

**Resolution:** BE IT RESOLVED to declare the items on the attached document as surplus materials to be sold or disposed.

### **11.7 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Pathways 2 Restorative Leadership**

The restorative practice framework is a systematic approach that focuses on building and maintaining positive relationships, repairing harm caused by conflicts or misconduct, promoting accountability, and fostering a sense of community and well-being. Restorative practices are rooted in restorative justice principles and aim to create a culture of empathy, respect, and collaboration within communities, organizations, and institutions. By incorporating core values, relationship building, harm repair, restorative

processes, community engagement, and continuous learning, participants will learn how the restorative practice framework supports the development of a restorative and supportive environment that fosters healing, growth, and positive transformation. Participants will participate in 10 days of training over the course of the year earning a Pathways 2 Restorative Leadership certification at the completion of all workshops. The participating schools in this training include: Washington, Grant, Lincoln, Lanphier, Springfield High, and Springfield Learning Academy.

There are several cohorts of schools that are participating in Restorative Practices training to provide increased SEL and behavior supports in our schools. Over the next year, all schools will have some support through these trainings, the Springfield Resiliency Initiative (trauma-informed training/support), and/or district/school level BBSS/SEL trainings and support. Staff to be involved in training include building Administrators, BBSS/SEL Strategists, Teachers, FACE Liaisons, Community Partners, Social Workers and/or School Psychologists.

Training Cost: \$40,000

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Public Schools is constantly looking for ways to improve the knowledge of all staff; and

WHEREAS, Pathways 2 Restorative Leadership will provide restorative practices training to district staff; and

WHEREAS, Pathways 2 Restorative Leadership services will be completely reimbursed through Title II funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consulting agreement with Pathways 2 Restorative Leadership for Restorative Practice training at a total cost \$40,000.

#### **11.8 Approval of an Agreement with Cisco Systems Capital Corporation**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 needs to renew the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system contract; and

WHEREAS, Cisco Systems Capital Corporation has agreed to one year renewal contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement with Cisco Systems Capital Corporation for \$127,998.

#### **11.9 Approval of an Agreement with Presidio**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 is in need of a security upgrade to the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system; and

WHEREAS, Presidio is able to provide consulting services to ensure efficiency and security protocols;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement with Presidio for a total cost of \$27,737.40.

#### **11.10 Approval of an Agreement with Peerless Network**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, the District continues to have a need for SIP telephone service; and

WHEREAS, Peerless Network has agreed to provide the service for 12 months;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a contract with Peerless Network for telephone services effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a monthly cost of \$4,007.10.

#### **11.11 Approval of an Agreement with Constellation**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, the District continues to have a need for telephone service to support alarm systems, elevators, and fax machines; and

WHEREAS, Constellation has agreed to provide the service for 12 months;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a contract with Constellation for telephone services effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a monthly cost of \$4,650.10.

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

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

Those voting "no": None

#### **12.2 Approval of a Resolution Regarding Designation of Depositories**

The Board of Education is required to annually authorize the designation of financial institutions as depositories of school funds.

There are no changes to this listing from last year.

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Steven Miller, Treasurer of Springfield School District No. 186, has requested this Board to designate an approved depository or depositories in which the funds and money which shall come into his hands as Treasurer shall be deposited; and

WHEREAS, after due consideration, this Board finds said request to be reasonable and in conformity with practices of other political subdivisions and bodies politic within this State;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the aforesaid Treasurer is hereby directed to deposit all public money and funds now in, or coming into his hands as Treasurer, in his name as Treasurer, in the



following financial institutions, but the amount to be deposited in any financial institution shall not exceed seventy-five [75%] percent of the capital and surplus of any such financial institution:

Bank of America, Chicago, Illinois  
Bank of Springfield, Springfield, Illinois  
Chase Bank, Illinois  
Carrollton Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Commerce Bank, St. Louis, Missouri  
Fifth Third Securities, Inc.  
Hickory Point Bank & Trust, FSB, Springfield, Illinois  
Illinois Educators Credit Union, Springfield, Illinois  
Illinois National Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus, Illinois  
Marine Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
PMA Financial Network Inc., Aurora, Illinois  
PNC Bank, Illinois  
Prairie State Bank and Trust, Springfield, Illinois  
Regions Financial Corporation, Springfield, Illinois  
Security Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Heartland Bank & Trust, Springfield, Illinois  
United Community Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
US Bank, Illinois  
Warren-Boynton State Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Williamsville State Bank, Springfield, Illinois

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid Treasurer and the Surety and Sureties of his official bond are hereby relieved and discharged from any liability responsibility growing out of the closing of any of the above-designated official depositories, or the failure of any of said depositories to pay on demand any such funds or money so deposited;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each said depository herein designated as an official school depository for such money and funds shall furnish this Board with a copy of all bank statements which it is required to furnish to the Auditor of Public Accounts or the Comptroller of the Currency while acting as such depository.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

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

WHEREAS, Steven Miller, Treasurer of Springfield School District No. 186, has requested this Board to designate an approved depository or depositories in which the funds and money which shall come into his hands as Treasurer shall be deposited; and

WHEREAS, after due consideration, this Board finds said request to be reasonable and in conformity with practices of other political subdivisions and bodies politic within this State;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the aforesaid Treasurer is hereby directed to deposit all public money and funds now in, or coming into his hands as Treasurer, in his name as Treasurer, in the

following financial institutions, but the amount to be deposited in any financial institution shall not exceed seventy-five [75%] percent of the capital and surplus of any such financial institution:

Bank of America, Chicago, Illinois  
Bank of Springfield, Springfield, Illinois  
Chase Bank, Illinois  
Carrollton Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Commerce Bank, St. Louis, Missouri  
Fifth Third Securities, Inc.  
Hickory Point Bank & Trust, FSB, Springfield, Illinois  
Illinois Educators Credit Union, Springfield, Illinois  
Illinois National Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus, Illinois  
Marine Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
PMA Financial Network Inc., Aurora, Illinois  
PNC Bank, Illinois  
Prairie State Bank and Trust, Springfield, Illinois  
Regions Financial Corporation, Springfield, Illinois  
Security Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Heartland Bank & Trust, Springfield, Illinois  
United Community Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
US Bank, Illinois  
Warren-Boynton State Bank, Springfield, Illinois  
Williamsville State Bank, Springfield, Illinois

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid Treasurer and the Surety and Sureties of his official bond are hereby relieved and discharged from any liability responsibility growing out of the closing of any of the above-designated official depositories, or the failure of any of said depositories to pay on demand any such funds or money so deposited;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each said depository herein designated as an official school depository for such money and funds shall furnish this Board with a copy of all bank statements which it is required to furnish to the Auditor of Public Accounts or the Comptroller of the Currency while acting as such depository.'

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, Mares  
Those voting "no": None

### **12.3 Approval of an Amendment to Health Life Safety Survey**

Approval of Health Life Safety amendment for roof replacement at Franklin Middle School

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield School District #186 hereby accepts and approves the amended certified estimate from the Architect in the amount listed for building repair at the building listed below:

Franklin Middle School- \$480,000 - Roof Replacement

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** 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 of Education of Springfield School District #186 hereby accepts and approves the amended certified estimate from the Architect in the amount listed for building repair at the building listed below:

Franklin Middle School- \$480,000 - Roof Replacement'

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, Mares  
Those voting "no": None

**12.4 Approval of an Amendment to Health Life Safety Survey**

Approval of Health Life Safety Amendment for paint removal and encapsulation at Lawrence School

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield School District #186 hereby accepts and approves the amended certified estimate from the Architect in the amount listed for building repair at the building listed below:

Lawrence School - \$379,920.00 - Remove peeling lead-based paint and encapsulate ceiling areas.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Debra Iams)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield School District #186 hereby accepts and approves the amended certified estimate from the Architect in the amount listed for building repair at the building listed below:

Lawrence School - \$379,920.00 - Remove peeling lead-based paint and encapsulate ceiling areas.'

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, Mares  
Those voting "no": None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, July 1, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

**13.2 Freedom of Information Act Report**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Austin declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, July 1, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

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Micah Miller, President

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Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: July 1, 2024