

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, July 1, 2024 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on July 1 A.D., 2024, at 5:30 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

CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President Miller called the meeting to order.

It was noted that the audio-visual equipment that typically broadcasts the meeting to YouTube and provides access to display presentations to those in attendance was unavailable at this time.

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)
- 2.4 Real Estate - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5,6)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved, Member (**Erica Austin**) 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), 2.4 Real Estate - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5,6).'

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

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

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:19 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present.

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 July 1, 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: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 7 - 0**.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

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.

Congressional Art Award

Superintendent Gill congratulated Springfield High School Senior Nicholas Reed for being awarded the Congressional Art Award. Mr. Reed recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive the award. Superintendent Gill reported that his art will be displayed in the United States Capitol Building for a year.

NAECAD ESports High School Coach of the Year

The National Association of ESports Coaches and Directors recently recognized Springfield Capitals' Coach, Dalton McGhiey, as the 2024 High School Coach of the Year. Superintendent Gill congratulated Mr. McGhiey on this award and recognition.

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 urged families to schedule their students' mandatory physicals and immunizations with their primary care provider.

District 186 Career Fair

Superintendent Gill reported that the District will host a Career Fair on Thursday, July 11, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the District's Administrative Office, 3063 Fiat Ave. She noted that there are openings in a variety of positions.

Our Schools Our Future

Superintendent Gill shared the following updates from construction projects across the district. She noted that she would forward the slides with pictures from this portion of her report to the Board members.

Springfield High School

Demolition has begun on the portion of Springfield High School where the new Band and Choir Wing will be located.

Southeast High School Track and Field

The foundation for the new concession stand is being formed behind the new team training and locker rooms. Superintendent Gill reported that construction is moving forward quickly at the school.

Cell Phones in Schools

Superintendent Gill reported that she had spoken with the District's legal counsel regarding student cell phone usage in schools. She noted that in the past schools have been able to have individual nuanced approaches to cell phone usage within the current policy. However, work is now underway to have a more consistent approach across the District. She indicated that a "phones down and level up" approach is being considered that would provide students with an opportunity to have a distraction-free school day. She noted the correlation between cell phone use and discipline issues. She noted that middle and high school principals support a more consistent approach across the District. There was then discussion regarding the use of Yondr Pouches as well as other options to restrict cell phone usage and the time frame for implementing changes to the policy. A request was made to have a representative from Yondr Pouches attend an upcoming meeting to provide additional information about their product.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

IASB Monthly Liaison Report

Ms. Lael-Wolf provided the Board with the monthly IASB Liaison Report. She reported that the organization's fall division meetings will be replaced with legislative events, providing Board members an opportunity to connect with legislators. More information is available on the IASB website. Additionally, the last Board President's Academy professional development workshop will be held in August. The workshop is open to all Board members.

Capital Area Career Center Liaison Report

Ms. Blissett provided an update from a recent Capital Area Career Center Board of Directors meeting she attended. She reported that an intergovernmental agreement will be sent to the District from CACC. The CACC Board plans to reduce the number of meetings held each year from four to three. Lastly, Ms. Blissett reported that the school's Student of the Year was from Lanphier High School.

7.2 New Business

Ms. Lael-Wolf expressed concerns regarding the audio-visual system in the meeting room.

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.

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 Business Office Report for July 1, 2024. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that the evening's report reviews outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois as of June 30, 2024, and the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects' Fund as of May 31, 2024.

Mr. Miller reported outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois for fiscal year 2024 totaled approximately \$2.57 million as of June 26, 2024. Of that, approximately \$545,000 is for the Education Fund, which includes approximately \$61,000 for the Driver's Education program, approximately \$8,700 for the State Free Lunch and Breakfast Food Service funding, approximately \$427,000 for the Early Childhood Block Grant, and approximately \$55,000 in other State payments. Additionally, there is approximately \$139,000 due from Special Projects and approximately \$1.88 million for the Transportation Fund.

Concerning the cash roll forward detail of the Capital Projects' Fund revenues and expenditures incurred during May 2024, the fund shows a beginning balance in the Site and Construction Fund of approximately \$18.6 million and a beginning balance of roughly \$97.2 million in Investments. Total revenues in the investment funds, dividends, and interest, were roughly \$543,000. There were no bond draws and expenses for the period. This yielded an ending balance of approximately \$116.46 million.

Mr. Miller reported that the District received approximately \$983,000 in County School Facilities Sales Tax (CFST) receipts in May. These were for the February reporting period. He noted that since 2019, the District has received over \$55.5 million in Sales Tax receipts, with an average monthly collection in fiscal year 2024 of approximately \$1.1 million. He stated that the District's sales tax receipts are currently used to pay the principal and interest of bonds sold to fund capital projects. The District's last bond payment was paid in May 2024 in the amount of \$6 million.

Mr. Miller then provided some additional information on the CSFT. He indicated that the District has approximately \$896,000 in the savings account associated with the CFST. The next payment of approximately \$3.4 million is due on December 1, 2024. At that time, the District will have a projected surplus of approximately \$3.1 million in the CFST savings account. Roughly \$12.7 million will be paid in bond payments during fiscal year 2025, with a projected surplus of approximately \$605,000 after the June 1, 2025 payment.

Next, Mr. Miller provided information about a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software system. He reported that the new system will be brought before the Board for approval at an upcoming meeting. He noted that the system will consolidate work for the Business Department and Human Resources, streamlining processes that touch every department and school in the district. He noted that the annual cost of the new system will be very close to the same amount as what is currently being spent for a variety of software that is unable to be used together. The initial purchase will be made with ESSER funds. The new system will significantly reduce the amount of paperwork, maximize efficiency, and reduce

errors, which in the long run will save personnel costs. Implementation is expected to take approximately one year. A team from the District researched several ERP systems and has recommended PowerSchools as it best meets the District's needs.

There was then some discussion regarding the difference between two of the ERP systems that were considered, the process used to select an ERP system, the costs associated with the selected system, the cybersecurity associated with the new ERP system, and the efficiency provided by a new ERP system.

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 11.7 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Debra Iams)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.7 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, Bissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of June 17, 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 Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the Art of Education Flex and Pro Curriculum Suite

The Visual Art department would like to adopt the Art of Education Flex and Pro Curriculum Suite resources. This Curriculum Resource will include full access for 25 art educators for all Art teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The adoption includes two components: the Flex & Pro platforms. The FLEX platform provides access to a comprehensive on-demand digital library of standards-aligned instructional materials. This will allow teachers to utilize scope and sequences in FLEX,

curate custom classes or units, or pull individual resources to supplement or refresh the lessons. The Pro platform provides access to in-depth, short-form video tutorials and premium classroom resources, teachers can apply what they learned directly into their classroom.

Cost for 7 year subscription: \$155,921.50

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Springfield Public School District 186 Curriculum Council heard the presentation from the Fine Arts Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Curriculum Council recommends the adoption of the curriculum throughout the District from elementary through high school;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Art of Education Flex and Pro Curriculum Suite to be implemented throughout the district and to be purchased at a total cost of \$155,921.50.

11.5 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Linda Borkenhagen and Educational Technology Leadership, LLC for Math Number Worlds Program

The Special Education Curriculum Specialists would like to continue a partnership with an independent consultant, Linda Borkenhagen, for Number Worlds PD, which we provide to new teachers every year. Number Worlds is our alternative math curriculum for special education students. This independent consultant previously worked at McGraw Hill and has been our trainer since we purchased Number Worlds for our elementary and middle school instructional classrooms. Continuing with this consultant will ensure continuity in our teacher professional development and support as well as student learning as a result of teacher expertise in teaching the program.

Cost: \$2,000

Resolution: WHEREAS, Linda Borkenhagen provides on-site training services for Number Worlds; and

WHEREAS, District 186 desires to increase the effectiveness of special education math instruction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and Linda Borkenhagen and Educational Technology Leadership, LLC at the cost of \$2,000 to be paid from Title II.

11.6 Approval of a Contract with Bank of Springfield Center

This contract with the Bank of Springfield Center is for high school graduation ceremonies that will be held on June 7, 2025, June 6, 2026, June 5, 2027, and June 3, 2028.

Resolution: WHEREAS, the graduation ceremonies for District 186 are usually held on the first Saturday of June each year; and

WHEREAS, the graduation ceremonies for District 186 are scheduled to commence at the Bank of Springfield Center;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the contract for rental of the Bank of Springfield Center on June 7, 2025, June 6, 2026, June 5, 2027, and June 3, 2028, at a cost of approximately \$15,000 per year and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

11.7 Approval of an Agreement Regarding Use of Sangamon Auditorium for the All City Music Festival

The All City Music Festival is an annual music event for District 186 middle and high school musicians. Students are selected from all Springfield middle schools to be a part of a middle school choir and a middle school band. Selected high school musicians make up a high school choir and high school band. The event is to be held at Sangamon Auditorium on April 8, 2025.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield School District 186 hosts an All City Music Festival in celebration of the city music programs; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield Public Schools Department of Instruction will be responsible for the rental cost of the Sangamon Auditorium;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement for use of Sangamon Auditorium for the 2025 All City Music Festival at an estimated cost of \$8,168.33

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 **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Erica Austin)** 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, Bissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, July 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

July 17 - First Day of School for Graham and Southern View
August 19 - First Day of School for Regular Calendar Schools

13.3 Freedom of Information Act Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, July 15, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: July 15, 2024