

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Monday, July 10, 2023 (5:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on July 10 A.D., 2023, 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 of Schools

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

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Micah Miller)** 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: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Austin, Blissett, Mares, Miller

Those voting “no”: None

### **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:07 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Mr. Gilmore and Ms. Iams joined the meeting at 5:31 p.m. and Ms. Lael-Wolf joined the meeting at 5:52 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 July 10, 2023**

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, as amended, ‘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, Blissett, 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 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](mailto:boe@sps186.org).*

Mr. Miller commended employees of City Water, Light, and Power, utility crews from other cities that came to Springfield, as well as crews from the City of Springfield, and the District's Operations and Maintenance staff for their work to restore power, remove downed trees and power lines, and get Springfield back on its feet after the severe thunderstorms that hit the city on June 29, 2023. Ms. Austin commended students from across the District that also pitched in to help with the community's response to the storms. Ms. Blissett encouraged community members that are unable to replace lost food to utilize the community resources available now. Ms. Lael-Wolf commended Superintendent Gill and her staff for their work and communication during the power outages. Mr. Gilmore commended summer school staff for keeping students safe and communicating to families both during and after the storms.

## **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 following topics were covered by the report.

#### **Thank You to District Staff**

Superintendent Gill shared photos of storm damage from Ridgely and Butler Elementary Schools. She thanked district Operations and Maintenance crews, Rachel Dyas, Coordinator of Public Relations & Marketing, Cheryl McBride, Coordinator of Food Services, Darrell Schaver, Director of Operations and Maintenance, and Steve Minch, Manager of Technology Services, for their work to keep the District on track after the storms. She thanked Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher for her support, as well as the linemen and city crews that have worked to restore power to the city.

Superintendent Gill then reported that all of the district's buildings now have power. Downed branches have been removed.

#### **Summer Feeding Program**

The District's Summer Feeding program is offered at 14 different locations. Each location provides breakfast and lunch. Superintendent Gill encouraged those interested in additional details to visit the Food Services page on the District's website. She noted that meals are free to anyone under 18 years of age and the meals must be consumed on site.

#### **Senator Durbin Visits Camp Compass**

The Camp Compass Program at Owen Marsh Elementary School had a special visit from United States Senator Dick Durbin last Wednesday. Superintendent Gill reported that the District partners with Compass for Kids to provide Camp Compass summer programming to Kindergarten through 5th-grade students.

District 186 staff and Board members joined Compass for Kids staff in a discussion with Senator Durbin on the effectiveness of Camp Compass to combat summer learning loss and how the program addresses the opportunity gap by providing activities such as swimming, bowling, roller skating, and field trips to Kidzeum.

#### **ClearMath Training**

Elementary teachers are in training this week for the new elementary math curriculum, ClearMath. ClearMath offers a fundamentally different way of teaching and learning which has consistently demonstrated higher student performance. District 186's Teaching and Learning Department spent over a year and a half working to choose a new curriculum to fit students' needs.

#### **Freshman Forward**

Superintendent Gill asked families of incoming freshmen to mark their students' calendars for Freshman Forward, to be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, from 8:24 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. She reported that the event is an opportunity for all incoming freshmen to meet students, teachers, and administrators at their high school. Students will tour their high school and learn more about their high school experience. Students are asked to report to the high school that is in their boundary area. Students can use the school bus service or may be dropped off at their high school.

### **6th Grade Orientation**

Superintendent Gill reported that orientation for incoming 6th-grade students is Thursday, August 10, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Students are asked to report to their home school. This event provides an opportunity for all incoming 6th-grade students to meet their teachers, other students, and the administration. Students will tour their middle school during the event.

### **Online Registration and Back-to-School Physicals**

Superintendent Gill reminded families that online registration is open for the 2023-2024 school year. Families are asked to visit the District's website to register their students.

She also provided a reminder to families to schedule their students' back-to-school physicals with their primary care providers. She reported that the Sangamon County Department of Public Health is holding an immunization walk-in clinic during the week of July 10, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. Additionally, the Keep Kids in School Coalition has organized walk-in clinics in partnership with SIU School of Medicine's Department of Family Medicine (August 9), SIU School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics (August 12), and Springfield Clinic (September 9). Information regarding who is required to submit proof of immunization or a physical examination was also shared.

### **Job Fair**

Superintendent Gill encouraged those interested in working for District 186 to attend a job fair on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 1900 W. Monroe Street. The job fair will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. noon. Jobs are available in clerical, custodial, food service, teaching, security, and other areas.

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

Next, Superintendent Gill shared the following:

- Lanphier High School - Photos of the cabinetry being installed in the new Science Lab and lockers being installed in the new Science Wing's hallway, the concrete shell and sunken floor of the auditorium, and the upper level off the main competition gym's newly hung basketball hoops were shared.
- Memorial Stadium & Future Ray Ramsey Track and Field - Photos of the posts being set for the new video scoreboard, the inside of the Lanphier locker room, ticket booth and front entrance were shared.
- Graham Elementary - A photo of the improved playground area was shared.

There was a brief discussion of the Lanphier High School work timeline.

## **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 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.*

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'To waive the three-minute public comment time limit to allow Aaron Graves, President of the SEA, five minutes of public comment time during the July 10, 2023, Board of Education meeting'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **3**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 3**

Those voting "aye": Blissett, Gilmore, Lael-Wolf, Miller  
Those voting "no": Austin, Iams, Mares

Mr. Graves addressed the Board regarding employee parental leave benefits.

### **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

There were no presentations to the Board.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

#### **10.1 Business Reports**

Board members were provided with the Business Office Report of July 10, 2023. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board website.

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, provided a recap of the outstanding State payments as of June 30, 2023, and the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of May 31, 2023. Mr. Miller reported that outstanding payments from the State of Illinois for fiscal year 2023 totalled approximately \$84,000 as of June 30, 2023.

With respect to the cash roll forward detail of the Capital Projects Fund, the fund showed a starting balance of approximately \$99.6 million. May sales tax receipts were approximately \$950,000 for the February reporting period. Bond draws and expenses for the period were approximately \$5 million. Dividends and interest for the period resulted in approximately \$1.3 million, yielding an ending balance of approximately \$95.9 million.

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

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Erica Austin)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.12 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 June 20, 2023**

**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 Consulting Agreement for PREPaRE Curriculum Training**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 desires consultant services to provide staff training to school crisis response teams for the PREPaRE Curriculum; and WHEREAS, Dr. Rosario C. Pesce is a master PREPaRE Trainer who is qualified to provide such services as Consultant for the District and will co-present the PREPaRE curriculum to psychologists and social workers with District Lead Psychologist, Debbie Schoppenhorst; and WHEREAS, the cost for these services is \$1,000 including 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 Dr. Rosario C. Pesce for the time period of September 5, 2023, through September 8, 2023, per the terms identified above.

**11.5 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Core Math Training Solutions, LLC for Springfield Christian School**

Core Math Training Solutions, LLC will provide two days of onsite training to staff at Springfield Christian School. Total Cost: \$6,600

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Christian School is always working to build confidence and knowledge in their teachers and support staff around math curriculum and methodologies; and WHEREAS, Core Math Training Solutions, LLC is qualified to provide such training and has agreed to provide such training at a total cost of \$6,600; and WHEREAS, Core Math Training Solutions, LLC services are completely reimbursable through the Title II grant; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the retention of Core Math Training Solutions, LLC per the terms identified above and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

**11.6 Approval of a Resolution Regarding the Renewal of Property, Casualty and Legal Liability Insurance**

The renewal proposal of Selective Insurance is being recommended by our broker, Troxell, for FY 2023-2024 for our insurance in the amount of \$646,159 which represents a \$71,780 increase over the previous year. This is a 12.50% increase. A large portion of this increase is due to the increase in property value because of our new and updated construction. We saw a \$45 million increase in Property value.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 will be in need of property, casualty, and legal liability insurance for fiscal year 2023-2024; and WHEREAS, the District requested Troxell, its insurance broker, to pursue renewal of the current property, casualty, and legal liability insurance for fiscal year 2024; and WHEREAS, the District's insurance broker has recommended renewing the current property, casualty, and legal liability insurance program with Selective Insurance; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the proposals of Selective Insurance for property, casualty, and legal liability insurance.

**11.7 Approval of a Resolution Regarding the Renewal of a Cyber Security Insurance Policy**

The District, through broker Troxell, solicited quotes from multiple insurance companies for cyber risk management coverage for FY24. Troxell recommended a \$2 million policy with Coalition Insurance Solutions at an annual premium of \$69,872. This is a 3.5% increase over the previous year's premium for a \$1 million policy.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 is in need of continued cyber liability insurance for fiscal year 2023-2024; and WHEREAS, District administration recommends a \$2 million policy with Coalition Insurance Solutions; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the proposal of Coalition Insurance Solutions for cyber liability insurance.

**11.8 Approval of an Agreement to Furnish Meals to Sangamon County ROE #51**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Sangamon County, ROE #51 would like Springfield Public School District 186 to provide lunch for its program; and WHEREAS, District 186 possesses the skills and experience to provide such services and is willing to do so; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into an agreement for the purpose of providing meals to Sangamon County, ROE#51.

**11.9 Approval of an Agreement to Furnish Meals to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Immanuel Lutheran Preschool would like Springfield Public School District 186 to provide lunch for its program; and WHEREAS, District 186 possesses the skills and experience to provide such services and is willing to do so; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into an agreement for the purpose of providing meals to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool.

**11.10 Approval of an Agreement to Furnish Meals to Our Savior's Lutheran School**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Our Savior's Lutheran School would like Springfield Public School District 186 to provide lunch for its program; and WHEREAS, District 186 possesses the skills and experience to provide such services and is willing to do so; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into an agreement for the purpose of providing meals to Our Savior's Lutheran School.

**11.11 Approval of an Agreement to Furnish Meals to St. Patrick's School**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, St. Patrick's School would like Springfield Public School District 186 to provide lunch for its program; and WHEREAS, District 186 possesses the skills and experience to provide such services and is willing to do so; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into an agreement for the purpose of providing meals to St. Patrick's School.

**11.12 Approval of an Agreement to Furnish Meals to St. Agnes School**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, St. Agnes School would like Springfield Public School District 186 to provide lunch for its program; and WHEREAS, District 186 possesses the skills and experience to provide such services and is willing to do so; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into an agreement for the purpose of providing meals to St. Agnes School.

**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 **(Micah Miller)** 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

Superintendent Gill introduced the following administrators who have accepted different positions in the District for the 2023-2024 school year: Joby Crum, Jeremy Goss, Tim Harris, Nathan Kochanowski, Ayesha Lawson, Jeremy Menefee, Mary Tennant, Jamie Womack, and Amelia Zibutis.

**12.2 Approval of Salary Determination for Substitute and Hourly Support Staff**

Salaries for support staff are reviewed and set for coming school years, including Substitute and Hourly Support Staff.



**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends approval of the salaries for Substitute and Hourly Support Staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the salaries for Substitute and Hourly Support Staff for the 2023-2024 school year.'

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

**12.3 Adoption of a resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$10,600,000 General Obligation Limited School Refunding Bonds, Series 2023A of Springfield School District No. 186, Sangamon County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds**

Approval of the issuance of 2023A bonds – The bonds will not be refunded in the event that market conditions do not provide sufficient savings.

**Resolution:** BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Debra Iams**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution 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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, July 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room**

**13.2 Upcoming District Events**

July 19 - First Day of School - Graham and Southern View  
August 21 - First Day of School

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, July 24, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

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Micah Miller, President

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Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: July 24, 2023