

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, July 24, 2023 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on July 24 A.D., 2023, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Micah Miller, President
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Erica Austin
Ken Gilmore
Debra Iams
Buffy Lael-Wolf
Anthony Mares

Nicole Moody, Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning

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 **(Erica Austin)** Moved, Member **(Anthony “Tony” 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), 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, Gilmore, Iams, Mares
Those voting “no”: None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:01 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present as Ms. Lael-Wolf and Mr. Miller joined the meeting at 5:31 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 24, 2023

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda, with the noted change.

There was some discussion regarding tabling agenda item 12.3. There was consensus to table item 12.3.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved to approve the agenda. Member **(Debra Iams)** seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, with the noted change, 'That the Board of Education approves the agenda. Item 12.3 will be tabled'.

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

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

Those voting "no": None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Moment of Silence for Emma Shafer

Assistant Superintendent Moody reported that Springfield High School alumni, Emma Shafer, recently passed away. She provided information on the impact Ms. Shafer had on the Springfield community and her time as a student in District 186. A moment of silence was observed for Ms. Shafer.

Celebrate 186

Dr. Moody 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.

Back to School - Graham and Southern View Elementary Schools

Dr. Moody reported that the District's elementary schools that follow a balanced calendar started back on July 19, 2023. She shared photos of students and families from Graham and Southern View from the first day.

Project Impact

Dr. Moody provided information on the Regional Office of Education's Project Impact. She reported that the program works to identify barriers preventing a student from attending school. Once a student is identified, the program provides assistance to the student and family to help eliminate barriers impacting the student's attendance. Dr. Moody shared photos of students from the program celebrating the end of the school year and data from the program.

Camp Compass

Dr. Moody reported that the District's partnership with Camp Compass served 750 students this summer. The camp took place at five locations across the city. In the morning, students attended classes designed to reduce summer learning loss. In the afternoon, students participated in activities such as swimming, visiting the zoo, or ice skating.

Educator Night at the Lucky Horseshoes

Horace Mann hosted a District 186 Educators' Night at the Lucky Horseshoes baseball game on July 20, 2023. The Educator of the Year and Administrator of the Year winners and finalists were recognized on the field. Educator of the Year, Kathy Fox threw out the first pitch of the game.

Job Fair

Dr. Moody invited those interested in working for District 186 to attend a job fair being held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, in the Board Room of 1900 W. Monroe, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She reported that openings are available in teaching, clerical, food service, security, and more.

Sixth Grade Orientation and Freshman Forward

Incoming sixth graders are invited to attend a 6th-grade orientation at their home school on Thursday, August 10, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Students will engage in activities, tour the school, and learn more about their upcoming middle school experience. Bus routes will be running that day to provide transportation to those that typically receive it.

Additionally, incoming freshmen are invited to attend Freshman Forward on Thursday, August 10, 2023. The event provides incoming freshmen with an opportunity to meet other students, teachers, and administrators, tour their high school, and learn more about what can be expected in high school. Students are asked to report to the high school that is in their boundary area. Students can use the school bus service or be dropped off at their high school.

Registration and Back to School Physicals

Online registration is now open for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Parents are encouraged to register their students by visiting the District's website, www.sps186.org. In-person registration will take place on Monday, August 7, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the elementary, middle, and high schools. Middle

and high schools will also have a second in-person registration day on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Parents are also reminded that documentation of physicals and immunizations is required. Parents are encouraged to schedule their child's back-to-school physical with their primary care provider now. Additional information about physical and immunization requirements, as well as the Keep Kids in School initiative's upcoming physical and immunization clinics, is available on the Health Services page of the District's website, <https://www.sps186.org/o/sps/page/health-services>.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

Dr. Moody shared photos of Lanphier High School's team locker room in the new competition gym and the new scoreboard at Memorial Stadium.

Board Comment

Mrs. Lael-Wolf encouraged parents to register their children for school and sign up for the requisite physicals and immunizations. She reiterated the information provided by Dr. Moody regarding where to find information. She also inquired about supplies for students. Dr. Moody noted that some basic supplies will be provided to all students. Students will also have a list of items that they will be asked to provide. Rachel Dyas, Coordinator of Communications, reported that an email has been scheduled to go out to families in the coming days. The email will provide additional information regarding supplies. She noted that school supply lists are available on the individual school web pages of the District's website.

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.

There was no public comment at this time.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no presentations to the Board.

BUSINESS REPORT

10.1 Business Report

Board members were provided with the June 2023 Monthly Business Report. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board website.

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that for June 2023, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$25.3 million. The fund saw expenditures of approximately \$26.0 million for the month. The Operations and Maintenance Fund saw revenues of approximately \$4.5 million for the month. Expenditures for the month of June in the Operations and Maintenance Fund were approximately \$1.3 million.

Mr. Miller then provided information regarding the Investment Balances Report as of June 30, 2023. He noted that the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$105.8 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only (Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash Funds), the total cash in the bank was approximately \$57.2 million. Total investments were approximately \$44.9 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$3.5 million. The interest rate on all cash accounts on June 30, 2023, was 2.5% or 250 basis points. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of June 30, 2023, was approximately \$150.7 million. Mr. Miller reported that the District also showed recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of June of approximately \$1.1 million for the March collection period. Total collections thus far for fiscal year 2023 are approximately \$13.3 million with total collections of just under \$43.2 million.

Next, Mr. Miller provided information regarding the recent bond sale. He noted that the sale went well. There was significant interest in the sale, which helped lower the District's final borrowing rate to a true interest cost of 4.80%. He indicated that this is .49% lower than the estimated rate shared with the Board on April 17, 2023. The District will receive the funds from the sale on August 1, 2023.

There was then some discussion about the change in sales tax revenue from March 2022 to March 2023 and the year-to-date difference in the total cash and investments from June 2022 to June 2023.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Approval of Consent Action Items

Approval of consent action items as listed in the agenda.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.6 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony “Tony” Mares)** Moved, Member **(Erica Austin)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.6 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

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

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

11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of July 10, 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 Annual Certification for Student Transportation for Hazardous Areas

The School Code of Illinois provides for school districts to receive reimbursement for the transportation of students who live less than one and one-half miles from school when it can be shown that walking to and from school constitutes a serious safety hazard. Currently, 68 such areas are approved in District 186. The Board of Education must recertify these areas annually.

Resolution: WHEREAS, The School Code of Illinois provides for school districts to receive reimbursement for the transportation of students who live less than one and one-half miles from school when it can be shown that walking to and from school constitutes a serious hazard; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is to determine the areas to be submitted for approval in accordance with guidelines by the Illinois Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, sixty-eight such areas have been previously approved and annual approval is required;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District has determined that conditions in the sixty-eight areas previously approved have not changed.

11.5 Approval of the Annual Certification of Adequate Public Transportation for High School Students

The School Code of Illinois releases school districts from the requirement to provide free transportation to students who live one and one-half miles or more from the school to which they are assigned when adequate public transportation is available. Each high school has an area served by SMTD. Annual certification to the State Board of Education is required to waive this requirement.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The School Code of Illinois releases school districts from the requirement to provide free transportation to students who live one and one-half miles or more from the school to which they are assigned when adequate public transportation is available; and

WHEREAS, certification to the State Board of Education is required;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to certify to the State Superintendent of Education that adequate public transportation is available for the following school areas:

- Lanphier High - that portion of the attendance area east of Veterans Parkway, south of Taintor Rd. / Neil St., and west of Dirksen Parkway.
- Springfield High - that portion of the attendance area east of Koke Mill Rd. and south of Old Jacksonville Rd., then east of Veterans Parkway and south of Churchill Rd.
- Southeast High - that portion of the attendance area east of 3rd street (GMO railroad corridor), and west of I-55

11.6 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Sarah Brown Wessling

Sarah Brown Wessling will provide 6.5 days of consultation to build the expertise of the literacy department and the HS English curriculum team as we further develop the HS English curriculum. The cost of these services is \$12,000.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Sarah Brown Wessling provides virtual and on-site training services; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Brown Wessling will provide consultative services for high school English and literacy staff; and

WHEREAS, District 186 desires to increase the effectiveness of Tier I instruction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the continuation of an agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and Sarah Brown Wessling for the 2022-2023 school year at the cost of \$12,000 to be paid from Title II.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

12.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented, with the following changes to the Personnel Pages:

- A. Resignations/Releases (Contract Fulfilled), Classified, Page 1, Item 6, Rescind resignation
- B. New Hires/Rehires, Classified, Page 4, Item 12, the hourly rate is \$37.95 per hour (Step 3 - 23-24)
- B. New Hires/Rehires, Classified, Page 6, Item 36, replacement should be a new allocation
- E. Change of Assignment, Certified, Page 9, Item 15, location is Wilcox Elementary

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented, with the following changes to the Personnel Pages:

- A. Resignations/Releases (Contract Fulfilled), Classified, Page 1, Item 6, Rescind resignation
- B. New Hires/Rehires, Classified, Page 4, Item 12, the hourly rate is \$37.95 per hour (Step 3 - 23-24)
- B. New Hires/Rehires, Classified, Page 6, Item 36, replacement should be a new allocation
- E. Change of Assignment, Certified, Page 9, Item 15, location is Wilcox Elementary'

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

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

Those voting "no": None

12.2 Approval of a Contract to Purchase Property

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Illinois School Code allows school districts to acquire real property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that it is advantageous to the District to purchase one (1) parcel adjacent to property already owned by the District on Monroe Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education agrees that the one (1) parcel in question (14-33.0-202-022) should be purchased in a total amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, plus transactional costs and brokerage fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Contract for Sale of Real Estate to purchase the parcel (14-33.0-202-022) adjacent with existing District property at Springfield High School; in a total amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, plus transactional costs and brokerage fees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, Superintendent of the District or her designee, and/or the District's legal counsel, to enter into and execute the Contract for Sale of Real Estate, and all additional documentation that may be necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution and the Contract for Sale of Real Estate, including but not limited to the authority to execute, deliver, or receive any and all deeds, affidavits of title, closing statements, easement documents, plat act affidavits, PTAX/MyDec forms or any other such documentation necessary for the closing of said real estate transactions, and the right to pay or receive all sums due to or from the District and/or to direct or receive any wire transfer funds necessary to fulfill the intent of the Agreement. The officers, employees, and/or agents of the District shall take all action necessary or reasonably required to carry out and give effect to this Resolution and shall take all action necessary in conformity therewith. The Board hereby ratifies any and all acts and doings of the officers, employees, attorneys, and/or agents of the District, past, present and future which are in conformity with the purpose and intent of this Resolution, which are hereby, in all respects, ratified, approved, authorized, and confirmed.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Debra Iams)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, the Illinois School Code allows school districts to acquire real property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that it is advantageous to the District to purchase one (1) parcel adjacent to property already owned by the District on Monroe Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education agrees that the one (1) parcel in question (14-33.0-202-022) should be purchased in a total amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, plus transactional costs and brokerage fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Contract for Sale of Real Estate to purchase the parcel (14-33.0-202-022) adjacent with existing District property at Springfield High School; in a total amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, plus transactional costs and brokerage fees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, Superintendent of the District or her designee, and/or the District's legal counsel, to enter into and execute the Contract for Sale of Real Estate, and all additional documentation that may be necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution and the Contract for Sale of Real Estate, including but not limited to the authority to execute, deliver, or receive any and all deeds, affidavits of title, closing statements, easement documents, plat act affidavits, PTAX/MyDec forms or any other such documentation necessary for the closing of said real estate transactions, and the right to pay or receive all sums due to or from the District and/or to direct or receive any wire transfer funds necessary to fulfill the intent of the Agreement. The officers, employees, and/or agents of the District shall take all action necessary or reasonably required to carry out and give effect to this Resolution and shall take all action necessary in conformity therewith. The Board hereby ratifies any and all acts and doings of the officers, employees, attorneys, and/or agents of the District, past, present and future which are in conformity with the purpose and intent of this Resolution, which are hereby, in all respects, ratified, approved, authorized, and confirmed.'

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

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

12.3 Approval of a Contract to Purchase Property

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Illinois School Code allows school districts to acquire real property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that it is advantageous to the District to purchase two (2) parcels in the vicinity of property already owned by the District on Monroe Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education agrees that the two (2) parcels in question (14-33.0-206-001 and 14-33.0-206-002) should be purchased in a total amount not to exceed \$142,000.00, plus transactional costs and brokerage fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Contract for Sale of Real Estate to purchase the parcels (14-33.0-206-001 and 14-33.0-206-002) in the vicinity of existing District property at Springfield High School; in a total amount not to exceed \$142,000.00, plus transactional costs and brokerage fees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, Superintendent of the District or her designee, and/or the District's legal counsel, to enter into and execute the Contract for Sale of Real Estate, and all additional documentation that may be necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution and the Contract for Sale of Real Estate, including but not limited to the authority to execute, deliver, or receive any and all deeds, affidavits of title, closing statements,

easement documents, plat act affidavits, PTAX/MyDec forms or any other such documentation necessary for the closing of said real estate transactions, and the right to pay or receive all sums due to or from the District and/or to direct or receive any wire transfer funds necessary to fulfill the intent of the Agreement. The officers, employees, and/or agents of the District shall take all action necessary or reasonably required to carry out and give effect to this Resolution and shall take all action necessary in conformity therewith. The Board hereby ratifies any and all acts and doings of the officers, employees, attorneys, and/or agents of the District, past, present, and future which are in conformity with the purpose and intent of this Resolution, which are hereby, in all respects, ratified, approved, authorized, and confirmed.

This item was tabled until the August 7, 2023 meeting per action taken during the approval of the evening's agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, August 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

13.2 Upcoming District Events

August 7, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Registration Day - Elementary, Middle and High Schools

August 8, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Registration - Middle and High Schools

August 10 - 6th Grade Orientation - Middle Schools

August 10 - Freshman Forward - High Schools

August 21 - First Day of School

13.3 Freedom of Information Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, August 7, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: August 7, 2023