

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, August 21, 2023 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on August 21 A.D., 2023, at 5:32 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Micah Miller, President
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Sarah Blissett
Ken Gilmore
Debra Iams
Buffy Lael-Wolf

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent
Harrison Gray, Student Representative

CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President Miller called the meeting to order.

Upon calling the meeting to order, the Board recorded a video to encourage students' good behavior during the upcoming school year.

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 (**Buffy Lael Wolf**) 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: 5 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**.

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

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. and reconvened at 6:35 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that five 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 August 21, 2023

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) 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: 5 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**.

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

5.2 Student Representative Oath of Office

Mr. Miller introduced and welcomed the incoming Student Board Representative, Harrison Gray, a Springfield High School senior. Superintendent Gill asked Mr. Gray to stand for the oath. Superintendent Gill then administered the oath of office as follows:

"I, Harrison Gray, do solemnly affirm that I shall faithfully discharge the duties of District 186 student Board member; I shall serve as Board liaison to the student body; I shall represent

student interests to the Board; I shall adhere to the highest ethical standards; and shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion of all who come before this Board.”

Mr. Gray introduced family in attendance to support him.

5.3 Student Report

Mr. Gray thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. He reported that the first day of school went smoothly. He noted that he had attended Springfield High School’s Freshman Forward orientation, where he helped the incoming Freshmen acclimate to the building. He noted that students are looking forward to this year’s football season, which will begin on Friday, August 25, 2023.

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.

Connect 186 - First Day of School

Superintendent Gill reported that she and each of her cabinet members had been out in buildings earlier in the day making connections for the first day of school. She shared photos from those school visits. She reported that individuals from several different community organizations, including several churches and the Springfield Police and Fire Departments, had visited schools to help welcome students on the first day of classes. She noted that the media had also participated in welcoming students back to school, through welcomes on the radio, live feed reporting from Butler Elementary School by WICS, and news reporting from the State Journal-Register. She thanked Aaron Graves, President of the Springfield Education Association, for also making school visits on the first day.

Superintendent Gill reported that her first stop was at Washington Middle School, where W.E.B. (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders were out helping guide students through the morning process. Next, she shared photos from Matheny Withrow Elementary, where she was joined by firefighters from the Springfield Fire Department in welcoming students. She then shared photos from her visit to Lanphier High School, which featured students in new classrooms. She reported that she visited new teachers in each of the buildings and shared a photo of a new teacher from Jane Addams Elementary. Superintendent Gill also shared photos from her visits to the Springfield Learning Academy, Lincoln Magnet School, Douglas School, Lindsay Elementary, and McClernand Elementary.

ROOMS

Superintendent Gill reported that the District has launched ROOMS, a two-way communication tool that connects students and families with teachers. She encouraged families to look for a one-time sign-in code in their text or email messages. She noted that the tool is available through the District 186 app.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

Superintendent Gill shared information about the following current construction projects.

- Lanphier High School - Photos of the science hallway in the A Building and a new Biology classroom were shared.
- SLA/LEC - Photos of a science room and one of the hallways at the new SLA/LEC location were shared.
- Memorial Field - A photo of the renovated Memorial Field taken under the new lights was shared.

Superintendent Gill reported that enrollment on the first day was approximately 13,050 students.

Ms. Blissett inquired about tickets for the upcoming football games and athletic passes for families. Jason Wind, Director of School Support, reported that the athletic passes will be available for purchase online. For the upcoming football games, ticket booths will accept cash payments the first weekend of games. Beginning with the second weekend, electronic payments will also be accepted through the GoFan app.

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 asked if there was any public comment. It was noted that there was no public comment 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 July 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 July 2023, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$8.1 million. Expenditures in the fund totaled approximately \$2.5 million, with revenues exceeding expenditures by approximately \$5.6 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund had revenues of approximately \$876,000. Expenditures in that fund totaled approximately \$1.1 million. Expenditures exceeded revenues by approximately \$235,000.

With respect to the Investment Balances Report, Mr. Miller reported that as of July 31, 2023, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$102.3 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, which include the Education Fund, the Operations and Maintenance Fund, the Transportation Fund, and the Working Cash Fund, the total cash in the bank was approximately \$55.4 million. Total investments were approximately \$38.6 million. Year-to-date earned interest income on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$464,000. The interest rate on all cash accounts on July 31, 2023, was 2.5% or 250 basis points. Mr. Miller noted a typo on the slide presentation listing the interest rate as .5% rather than 2.5%. He indicated that the typo will be corrected in the next report.

Next, Mr. Miller reported that the total balance of cash and investments for all funds as of July 31, 2023, was approximately \$140.9 million. Mr. Miller reiterated that for the operating funds only, the balance was approximately \$55.4 million. He indicated that the District also recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of July in the amount of \$1.1 million. These proceeds are for the March collection period. Lastly, Mr. Miller reported total County sales tax collections of approximately \$44.3 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 11.7 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Moved, Member (**Ken Gilmore**) 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'.

There was some additional discussion regarding 11.5 through 11.7. Superintendent Gill provided additional information regarding the programs and contracts associated with these agenda items.

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

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

11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of August 7, 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 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment Bid #24-01 — Asbestos Abatement (Phase 3 Edison Wing) – Lanphier High School

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion: Bid #24-01 — Asbestos Abatement (Phase 3 Edison Wing) – Lanphier High School

11.5 Approval of an Agreement with NAACP Regarding the Alternative Education Program

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the attached agreement with NAACP regarding an alternative education program

11.6 Approval of a Consultant Agreement with The Trauma Resilient Ecosystem Program

Da'Mond T Holt, Ph.D., CNFMP will collaborate with Jefferson and Washington Middle Schools and the District to implement an effective collaborative plan to address and reduce the effects of early childhood trauma, chronic stress, low academics, negative student behavior, school discipline among students, secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout among students, staff, and fostering trauma resilience within families by providing trauma-informed care, trauma-responsive practices, secondary trauma/self-care and restorative practices. Dr. Holt will work with the schools and District to analyze school-wide data to assist in reducing the negative effects of trauma among students, staff, and families.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 continues to be committed to continuously improving the quality of educational opportunity and achievement for every student; and WHEREAS, Springfield School District 186 desires consultant services relative to Trauma-Informed Instruction, Trauma-Sensitive Schools, and Trauma-Resilient Schools at Jefferson and Washington Middle Schools; and WHEREAS, Dr. Da'Mond Holt is qualified and has agreed to provide 24 in-person workshops – 6 for teachers, 6 for administrators, 6 for students and 6 for parents/guardians and students (3 at each school) at a total cost of \$48,300; and WHEREAS, Dr. Da'Mond Holt's services are completely reimbursable through the Title II grant; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the retention of consultant Dr. Da'Mond Holt per the terms identified above and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

11.7 Approval of an Agreement with the Outlet

Resolution: WHEREAS, students attending Addams Elementary School, Douglas School, and Grant Middle School will benefit from a mentoring program; and WHEREAS, the Outlet is able to provide staff and volunteers to mentor students at school and after school; and WHEREAS, the Outlet's mentorship programs encourage young people to develop their emotional, physical, social and intellectual selves; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement with the Outlet pending final legal review for a total annual cost of \$404,750 to be paid from ESSER funds.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

12.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations, with the following change:

- Personnel Pages, Letter A, Classified, Number 23 - The employee rescinded the resignation.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations, with the following change:

- Personnel Pages, Letter A, Classified, Number 23 - The employee rescinded the resignation.'

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

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

Those voting “no”: None

Gina Schurman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources reported that a number of current certificated postings have been updated to reflect a January 1, 2024, start date. This will allow student teachers teaching in the District during the first semester the opportunity to apply for the openings. She noted that any retirees who fill these open positions currently are only hired for the first semester. There was then a brief discussion regarding new hires and the teacher pipeline.

12.2 Approval of Resolution Regarding Auditing Preparation Services

Approval of an agreement with RSM US LLP to assist with consulting needs for the Fiscal Year 2023 Audit Preparation. The total cost is to not exceed \$119,850; this is a decrease from the FY22 cost of \$126,361.

Resolution: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 approves the Audit Preparation Agreement with RSM US LLP for a total cost not to exceed \$119,850 and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Debra Iams**) Moved, Member (**Micah Miller**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 approves the Audit Preparation Agreement with RSM US LLP for a total cost not to exceed \$119,850 and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.'

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

13.2 Upcoming District Events

September 4 — No School – Labor Day

13.3 Freedom of Information Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, September 5, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: September 5, 2023