

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

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on August 5 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.

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: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**.

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

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:40 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin joined the meeting at 5:32 p.m., Mr. Gilmore joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m., and Mr. Mares joined the meeting at 5:34 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 August 5, 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.

Level Up 186

Superintendent Gill reported that this year's theme is "Level Up 186". She then provided information about the theme.

Hands in Autism Training

Superintendent Gill reported that the District's commitment to an inclusive learning environment for all students remains strong going into the new school year. The Student Support Services team recently participated in Hands in Autism training. The Pre-K instruction, K-2 autism, and K-2 life skills classrooms will be part of the STRIVE program, which uses structured teaching and visual aids to help students learn. The goal of STRIVE is to prepare students for independence and inclusive opportunities. To ensure a smooth transition, staff will receive intensive training on the new program and curriculum. Additionally, the District is committed to providing ongoing support for all STRIVE classrooms.

Welcome Back Southern View and Graham Elementary

Balanced calendar schools, Graham Elementary and Southern View Elementary, kicked off the school year on July 17, 2024. Superintendent Gill reported visiting both schools, where she enjoyed walking the halls and meeting the students.

District 186 App

Families are reminded and encouraged to download the District 186 app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to stay updated on all of our latest news and events, as well as to utilize our two-way communication tool, ROOMS.

Registration, School Physicals and Immunizations

Online registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year through www.sps186.org. Families are encouraged to register students now and make an appointment with their physician for the required physicals and immunizations.

In-person registration is also available at the Early Learning Center and the elementary, middle, and high schools.

School Supplies

Families are reminded to visit their child's school's website to find grade-level specific school supply lists. Students are asked to bring their supplies on the first day of school. Donated school supplies will be shared with schools directly to be distributed to students in need.

Keep Kids in School Walk-in Clinic

The Keep Kids in School Coalition and the Sangamon County Department of Public Health will host a walk-in clinic for school physicals and immunizations on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at the Department of Public Health's offices at 2833 South Grand Avenue East from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. No appointment is needed for the clinic. Sports physicals will not be offered at this clinic.

Freshman Forward

Freshman Forward is Thursday, August 8, 2024, for all incoming freshmen. The event is an opportunity for Freshman to meet students, teachers and administrators at their home high school. Students will tour the facility and learn more about the high school experience. The event runs from 8:24 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and students can be dropped off or utilize the First Student bus service available for the event.

There was some discussion regarding a scheduling conflict for band students.

6th Grade Orientation

Incoming 6th-grade students are invited to attend a 6th-grade orientation at their home school on Thursday, August 8, 2024, 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. The event is for students only. Bus routes will run that day, as well.

Job Fair

Springfield Urban League and District 186 are hosting a job fair on Thursday, August 15, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and then again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the NAACP building, 801 S. 11th Street.

Our Schools Our Future

Superintendent Gill provided an update on current construction projects. She shared photos of the new modular Washington west wing at Springfield High School that will be used for classrooms as construction and renovation work is completed. She also shared a photo from the north wing of Springfield High School, where the rooms have been prepared for renovation as much as possible while remaining usable as classrooms.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

IASB Liaison Report

Ms. Lael-Wolf provided an overview of the monthly Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Liaison Report. She reported that Board members can expect to receive invitations in the coming weeks to legislative events hosted by IASB that will allow them to hear from and provide feedback to legislators. She noted that the dates will also be available on the IASB website.

She further reported that IASB's Governmental Relations team is working on the End of Session Legislative Report and Digest of Bills, both of which will be available in early August.

Lastly, Ms. Lael-Wolf reported that PRESS Issue 116 will be published in the coming days.

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. 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 August 5, 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 provides information regarding outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois as of July 31, 2024, and an update of the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of June 30, 2024.

Mr. Miller reported outstanding payments from the State of Illinois due the District's State Free Lunch and Breakfast Food Service account for fiscal year 2024 totaling approximately \$30,700 as of July 29, 2024. He noted that as of July 29, 2024, there were no outstanding payments due the District from the State for fiscal year 2025.

Next, Mr. Miller shared a chart with information related to the Capital Projects Fund revenues and expenditures incurred during the month of June 2024. He reported that investments for Capital Projects showed a beginning balance of approximately \$97.8 million. Total revenues in the investment funds, dividends and interest was approximately \$485,800. Bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$5.7 million. This yielded an ending balance of approximately \$92.6 million.

Mr. Miller indicated that the District received approximately \$1.2 million in sales tax receipts in June for the March 2024 reporting period. Since 2019, the District has received approximately \$56.7 million in sales taxes with an average monthly collection in fiscal year 2024 of approximately \$1.1 million. Currently, the District's sales tax money is used to pay the principal and interest of the bonds sold for capital projects. The District's last bond payment was paid in May 2024 in the amount of approximately \$6 million. He reported that as of June 30, 2024, the District had approximately \$2 million in the County School Facilities Sales Tax (CFST) savings account. The next payment of approximately \$3.4 million will be due on December 1, 2024. At that time, the District will have a projected surplus of approximately \$3.2 million in the CFST savings account. A total of approximately \$12.7 million will be paid in bond payments during fiscal year 2025, with a projected surplus of approximately \$685,000 after the June 1, 2025 payment.

Mr. Miller then shared a chart with information about the new ERP system, Powerschools. He noted that the Board will be asked to approve the purchase of the system later in the evening. He then shared a summary of the costs for the program.

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 11.16 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 11.16 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 July 15, 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 — Springfield High School Additions and Renovations Bid Release 4

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

Bid — Springfield High School Additions and Renovations Bid Release 4

11.5 Approval of an ISBE Learning Partner for School Report Card Improvement - AVID Learning

As a part of the school improvement process for comprehensive and targeted schools, Feitshans, JMS, WMS, LHS, and SSHS have engaged AVID to provide support with their school improvement efforts. AVID’s mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID schools foster a safe and open culture, high expectations for teachers and students, and collaboration in all classrooms. This partnership with AVID will assist our schools in focusing on 21st Century Skills (problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and digital literacy), Best Teaching Practices (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading), Student Empowerment & Advocacy, and College & Career Readiness. All of these skills contribute to student and school success and improvement. AVID will offer the following services to each of the schools in this partnership: Coaching (Administration & Instructional Leadership Teams); Large group AVID Professional Learning; School-Specific Customized Professional Learning (Administration & School Staff); Walkthroughs with Feedback; Modeling; and Preparation Work. Additional schools may decide to contract with AVID for school improvement services as this process is still on-going.

Total Cost for All Schools: Up to \$175,000

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 has developed IL Empower Work Plans for School Improvement; and

WHEREAS, the designated schools, Feitshans, JMS, WMS, LHS, and SSHS, have identified a need for continued professional learning and development for teachers focusing on 21st Century Skills (problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and digital literacy), Best Teaching Practices (writing, inquiry,

collaboration, organization, and reading), Student Empowerment & Advocacy, and College & Career Readiness; and

WHEREAS, the AVID Learning is an approved IL Empower partner that can provide these supports;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement with the AVID for a total amount up to \$175,000 to be paid from Title I School Improvement 1003(a) funds.

11.6 Approval of a Cooperative Team Sponsorship

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the cooperative team sponsorship between Franklin Middle School and Grant Middle School for Boys Baseball for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 seasons.

11.7 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

11.8 Approval of the 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.

11.9 Approval of an Agreement with PowerSchool Group LLC for Financial and Human Resources Software Services

Resolution to approve a Financial Accounting and Human Resources software system system.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, District 186 is need of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system; and

WHEREAS, District 186 obtained quotes in connection with such services; and

WHEREAS, District 186 Evaluation Team have received, reviewed and evaluated several such services; and

WHEREAS, PowerSchool Group LLC has proposed to provide such services to District 186; and

WHEREAS the proposed PowerSchool software solution will enable the District's administration to continue to enhance and optimize communication, transparency, and internal control framework between schools, personnel, and various departments; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent is authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with Powerschool Group LLC for application software licenses, training, implementation services, support, and data conversion for a total project investment of \$800,000 with an annual support & maintenance fee thereafter of \$59,579 per year for the next three years.

11.10 Approval of a Consultant Agreement for The SpyGlass Group, LLC

SpyGlass is an independent contractor that analyzes and audits telecommunication services. The scope of their work will be to audit all of the district's telecom statements for the past 3 years. They will focus on identifying any unused lines or services that may still exist in buildings. This could be important with all of the district's building projects. As they are auditing statements, SpyGlass will also work to identify any overcharges that may have occurred.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Spyglass Group, LCC will provide auditing services; and

WHEREAS, District 186 will not incur any charges unless the district opts to pursue SpyGlass' findings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and The SpyGlass Group, LLC for the 2024-2025 school year.

11.11 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 2024-2025 for our insurance in the amount of \$824,764, which represents a \$152,559 increase over the

previous year. This is a 22.7% 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 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, the District requested Troxell, its insurance broker, to pursue renewal of the current property, casualty, and legal liability insurance for fiscal year 2025; 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.

11.12 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 FY25. Troxell recommended a \$2 million policy with Coalition Insurance Solutions at an annual premium of \$64,428. This is a 7.8% decrease from the previous year's premium.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 is in need of continued cyber liability insurance for fiscal year 2024-2025; 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.

11.13 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.

11.14 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.

11.15 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.

11.16 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 **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations, with one change.'

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

Lance Thurman, Executive Director of Secondary Schools, introduced Sergeant First Class U.S. Army (Retired) Ben Sutton, who will lead the District's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Southeast High School.

12.2 Approval of a Resolution Regarding Acceptance of the FY 2024-2025 Tentative Budget

The District is required to give public notice regarding the adoption of the Budget. This resolution authorizes the Board Secretary to put the legal notice in the paper. The tentative FY24-25 budget will be presented to the Board on September 3, 2024. The public hearing will be held on September 16, 2024. The vote for the approval of the budget will also be held on September 16, 2024.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the School District's Tentative Budget for the 2024-2025 school year (Fiscal Year 2025) which is being prepared by the administration pursuant to Section 17-1 of The School Code of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Tentative Budget (ISBE 50-36) is to be made available for public inspection in the School District's offices located at 3063 Fiat Ave, Springfield, Illinois, beginning the 16th of August, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board is directed to cause proper and legal notice of the availability of the budget for inspection to be published; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Hearing on this budget be established for 6:30 p.m., September 16, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at any time during this period of examination the Tentative Budget, which is on file, may be amended or revised.

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 to accept the School District's Tentative Budget for the 2024-2025 school year (Fiscal Year 2025) which is being prepared by the administration pursuant to Section 17-1 of The School Code of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Tentative Budget (ISBE 50-36) is to be made available for public inspection in the School District's offices located at 3063 Fiat Ave, Springfield, Illinois, beginning the 16th of August, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board is directed to cause proper and legal notice of the availability of the budget for inspection to be published; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Hearing on this budget be established for 6:30 p.m., September 16, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at any time during this period of examination the Tentative Budget, which is on file, may be amended or revised.'

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 Approval of the Adoption of the Revised Board Policy Manual

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 maintains a Board Policy manual giving direction to the District; and

WHEREAS, such policy manual reflects case law, legal rulings, legislation, and district practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the attached reviewed and revised policies.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Debra Iams**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 maintains a Board Policy manual giving direction to the District; and

WHEREAS, such policy manual reflects case law, legal rulings, legislation, and district practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the attached reviewed and revised policies.'

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

12.4 Approval of Implementing a Consistent Phone Policy for Middle and High Schools

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Superintendent and school administrators will finalize and implement a stricter phone policy consistently for all middle and high schools; and

WHEREAS, the policy will be communicated at all middle and high schools prior to the school year and that proper education of families and students will be addressed as a part of this implementation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the implementation of a consistent stricter phone policy for all middle and high schools to begin at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Buffy Lael-Wolf**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, the Superintendent and school administrators will finalize and implement a stricter phone policy consistently for all middle and high schools; and

WHEREAS, the policy will be communicated at all middle and high schools prior to the school year and that proper education of families and students will be addressed as a part of this implementation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the implementation of a consistent stricter phone policy for all middle and high schools to begin at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.'

There was some discussion regarding the implementation of a District policy. It was noted that this will be an amendment to the Student and Family Handbook that will strengthen current language.

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

12.5 Approval of the Purchase of Yondr Pouches for Middle and High Schools

Resolution: WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 Board of Education and the Superintendent have had conversations in three open public meetings about requiring consistent implementation of cell phones across all school levels; and

WHEREAS, the Board listened to a presentation by Yondr, a company that produces pouches that students carry with them that lock cell phones during the school day so that phones cannot be accessed or used without expressed permission during the school day; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Springfield Education Association has expressed in writing their support of Yondr Pouches; and

WHEREAS, Yondr is a system that includes implementation planning and support, process logistics, policy creation and launch as well as in-person District level and school level support and training before, during and after launch; and

WHEREAS, if purchased in August 2024, ESSER funding can be used to purchase enough Yondr pouches for the upcoming year and additional / replacement pouches and magnets for safety go bags in each school;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the purchase of the Yondr Pouches and consistent use and implementation for the three high schools, two alternative programs and five middle schools at a total cost of \$215,000 for the first year and cover additional fees plus replacement pouch and additional magnet costs through ESSER; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a stricter phone policy will be implemented at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year and remain in effect until the Yondr system is launched.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Ken Gilmore)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, Springfield Public School District 186 Board of Education and the Superintendent have had conversations in three open public meetings about requiring consistent implementation of cell phones across all school levels; and

WHEREAS, the Board listened to a presentation by Yondr, a company that produces pouches that students carry with them that lock cell phones during the school day so that phones cannot be accessed or used without expressed permission during the school day; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Springfield Education Association has expressed in writing their support of Yondr Pouches; and

WHEREAS, Yondr is a system that includes implementation planning and support, process logistics, policy creation and launch as well as in-person District level and school level support and training before, during and after launch; and

WHEREAS, if purchased in August 2024, ESSER funding can be used to purchase enough Yondr pouches for the upcoming year and additional / replacement pouches and magnets for safety go bags in each school;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the purchase of the Yondr Pouches and consistent use and implementation for the three high schools, two alternative programs and five middle schools at a total cost of \$215,000 for the first year and cover additional fees plus replacement pouch and additional magnet costs through ESSER; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a stricter phone policy will be implemented at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year and remain in effect until the Yondr system is launched.'

There was discussion regarding the use of Yondr pouches and costs associated with the pouches. Each of the Board members provided a justification for their support or lack thereof of the pouches with concerns being raised about staff support for the pouches, the importance of teaching good digital citizenship skills, the need for access to cell phones during the school day by specific populations of students, the costs associated with the pouches, the need for consistent application of a stricter policy before considering the pouches, fiscal responsibility, and how the pouches would be used.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 2 Nay: 5. The motion **FAILED 2 - 5**.

Those voting "aye": Gilmore, Miller

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, August 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

13.2 Upcoming District Events

August 8 - 6th & 9th Grade Orientations

August 19 - 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 19, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: August 19, 2024