

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, August 7, 2023 (5:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on August 7 A.D., 2023, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Micah Miller, President
 Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

 Sarah Blissett
 Ken Gilmore
 Debra Iams
 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 **(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": Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Miller
Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:24 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that four 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 7, 2023

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) Moved to approve the agenda. Member (**Ken Gilmore**) 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: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, 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

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

Superintendent Gill provided an overview of this year's theme, Connect 186. She reported that reading that she had done over the summer that highlighted the importance of connections provided the inspiration for the theme. She shared a graphic and provided information regarding the various symbols

on the graphic that represent the District 186 community and how they are all connected and are essential.

Registration

Superintendent Gill reported that registration took place at the elementary, middle and high schools earlier in the day. Middle and high schools will continue registration on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Additionally, parents can register their students online.

Back-to-School Physicals and Immunizations

Superintendent Gill reported that a walk-in clinic for school physicals and immunizations will be held at the Sangamon County Department of Public Health on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 and again on Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. both days.

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.

AVID

The District's AVID Site Team had a training and planning session recently at Capital Area Career Center. Educators came together to learn and collaborate around leading the implementation of AVID at their schools for the upcoming school year. AVID prepares students for college and career by providing them with foundational skills needed in school and in life to be successful.

Softball World Series

Central Illinois' District 17 recently won the Senior League Softball World Series. The team was undefeated in the tournament. Springfield High School student Mia Volpert is on the team. During the championship game, she pitched all nine innings and hit a home run in the 6th inning. Superintendent Gill congratulated Mia and her teammates on their championship.

Job Fair

A job fair will take place on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, in the Board Room of 1900 W. Monroe. Superintendent Gill encouraged those interested in working for the District to come to the job fair. The District has fifteen certified openings and 47 paraprofessional openings currently. In addition to these positions, there are clerical, food service, and other openings.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

Superintendent Gill shared information about the following current construction projects.

- Grant Middle School - Photos of the newly painted lockers were shared. The lockers were painted in the school colors, black and yellow.
- Iles School - Photos of the playground paving job recently completed at the school were shared.

- Lindsey Elementary - Photos of the recently completed paving projects were shared.
- Butler Elementary - Photos of the newly added staff parking lot located on the south side of the building and newly paved playground were shared.
- SHS New Street - Photos of the new bathroom and concession building were shared.

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

9.1 Initial Overview of Springfield High School Reconstruction Plans

Board members were provided with a presentation, report and overview of the schematic design for Springfield High School. Copies of the report and Powerpoint have been filed with the Official Minutes.

Steve Oliver and Todd Cyrulik of BLDD provided the overview. Mr. Oliver reported that the project is in the stage when the scope is defined, along with the budget and schedule. He noted that the process began in March 2023 with extensive meetings with staff and administration. From that, the schematic design report with space needs of approximately 296,000 square feet was developed. The design will provide space for

1500 students. Approximately 145,000 square feet is the current building. Approximately 130,000 will be from a new addition. He noted that the building will have a similar square footage per student as Lanphier.

Mr. Cyrulik overviewed the Vision and Planning Principles developed during the District's Facilities Study which have guided all of the projects, and will guide this project, as well. He reported that the project will preserve the current structure's historical structure and bring back some of the historical aspects on the outside of the building that have been lost over the years. The inside will be updated for 21st century learning. The addition will face Monroe Street. This will be the new entrance to the building. Green space will be added to the site, as well. The current front entrance, which hasn't been used as an entrance for a number of years, will become a terrace.

Mr. Cyrulik then shared renderings of the floor plans for each of the school's four floors. On the first floor, Math, Science and the Arts will be grouped together. The Business and Family and Consumer Sciences classes will be grouped in the middle of the first floor of the building. The administrative zone will abut the new main entrance and athletic facilities. The second floor will house social studies, foreign language, the auditorium, additional administrative offices, and music. The third floor will house English and Media classes. He noted that the theater space and band area be conjoined through a pathway. There will also be green rooms, practice spaces and storage for any productions in this area. He then provided additional details regarding each of the grouped spaces. Lastly, Mr. Cyrulik shared the renderings of the outside of the new addition which will be the front of the building.

Mr. Oliver then shared the project's budget and schedule. He noted a total base construction estimate of approximately \$112 million and a total soft cost estimate of approximately \$14 million for a total project budget of approximately \$125.5 million. With respect to the project schedule, Mr. Oliver noted that phase one is expected to begin in June 2024 and continue through July 2025. This will include construction of the addition. In August of 2025, it is expected that the new addition will be ready for occupancy. Phase two is scheduled to begin in June 2025 and run through July 2026. Final sitework is expected to be completed by December 2026.

It was noted that Mr. Mares joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Miller commended Mr. Oliver and Mr. Cyrulik on their work. There was some discussion regarding building materials, the site, and preservation of the historical aspects of the building.

BUSINESS REPORT

10.1 Business Report

Board members were provided with the August 7, 2023 Business Office 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 the evening's report provides a recap of outstanding State of Illinois payments as of July 31, 2023 and the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of June 30, 2023.

With respect to the outstanding payment due the District from the State of Illinois for fiscal year 2023, the District is owed approximately \$118,000 as of July 31, 2023. Driver's Education outstanding payments total approximately \$84,000. Career and Technical Education Improvements are owed approximately \$34,000. Both of these lines are in the Education Fund.

Next, Mr. Miller shared the Cash Roll Forward detail of the Capital Projects Fund revenues and expenditures incurred during the month of June 2023. Mr. Miller noted that the report also includes a report of sales tax revenues and the separate bond transactions within the Capital Improvements. The Capital Projects' Cash Roll Forward review showed a starting balance of approximately \$96 million. June Sales Tax receipts of approximately \$1.1 million were reported for the March reporting period. Bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$9.2 million while dividends and interest for the period resulted in approximately \$1.3 million, yielding an ending balance of approximately \$88 million.

Lastly, in response to questions presented during the July 24, 2023 regular meeting, Mr. Miller reported that on February 15, 2022, the District had a bond sale. The funds from the sale were disbursed to the District on March 3, 2022. Through the rest of 2022 and up to June of 2023, the District spent down the money on capital projects. In February 2022, prior to the bond sale money, the District's non-operating total cash and investments were approximately \$82 million. He noted that there will be another spike when the District receives the funds from the latest bond sale that took place in July 2023. The funds from that will be spent down through the upcoming fiscal year.

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 11.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

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, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

11.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of July 24, 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 an Agreement with DotCom Therapy for School Psychology Services

Resolution: WHEREAS, District 186 desires services of DotCom Therapy for School Psychology Services; and

WHEREAS, DotCom Therapy is appropriately qualified and able to provide 0.9 FTE school psychologist services to Springfield Public School District 186 for the sole purpose of covering the 2023-2024 school year vacancy due to unfilled positions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and DotCom Therapy for the time period of August 15, 2023, through May 30, 2024, at a hourly contract rate of \$78.28 to be paid monthly with an estimated contract cost of \$97,752.15 as stated in the agreement.

Superintendent Gill provided additional information regarding the agreement with DotCom Therapy.

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: 5 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

Superintendent Gill congratulated Arwah Franklin on her new position. Ms. Franklin thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the District in this role. She introduced members of her family and friends in attendance.

12.2 Approval of the Preparation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget

The School Code requires that the Board designate who is authorized to prepare the budget each fiscal year.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of School District No. 186 in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, that Mrs. Jennifer Gill and Mr. Steven Miller are hereby appointed to prepare a tentative budget for the said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, which tentative budget shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of School District No. 186 in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, that Mrs. Jennifer Gill and Mr. Steven Miller are hereby appointed to prepare a tentative budget for the said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, which tentative budget shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board.'

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, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

12.3 Approval of a Resolution Regarding Acceptance of the FY 2023-2024 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 FY23-24 budget will be presented to the Board on September 5, 2023. The public hearing will be held on September 18, 2023. The vote for the approval of the budget will also be held on September 18, 2023.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the School District's Tentative Budget for the 2023-2024 school year (Fiscal Year 2024) 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 1900 West Monroe Street, Springfield, Illinois, beginning the 18th of August, 2023; 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 18, 2023; 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 **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, 'BE IT RESOLVED to accept the School District's Tentative Budget for the 2023-2024 school year (Fiscal Year 2024) 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 1900 West Monroe Street, Springfield, Illinois, beginning the 18th of August, 2023; 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 18, 2023; 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: 5 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**.

Those voting "aye": Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

12.4 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.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Debra Iams)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** 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 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.'

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, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, August 21, 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 21, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: August 21, 2023