

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Monday, September 16, 2024 (5:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on September 16, A.D., 2024, at 5:31 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  
Phong Duong, Student Board Representative

**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)

**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).'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**.

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

## **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:36 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin and Ms. Iams joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m. and Mr. Gilmore joined the meeting at 5:37 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 September 16, 2024**

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

## **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved to approve the agenda. Member **(Sarah Blissett)** 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, Blissett, Gilmore, Iams, Lael-Wolf, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no":	None

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **5.1 President's Comments**

Mr. Miller read the following statement:

*Public comments will occur during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. The Board will not allow interruption during the meeting. If you are interested in addressing the Board, fill out the required Public Participation form and submit it to Ms. Hammers. Alternatively, those wishing to participate via the telephone may email their name, phone number, and topic of discussion or agenda item number to [boe@sps186.org](mailto:boe@sps186.org).*

### **5.2 Student Report**

Mr. Duong reported that Southeast High School's homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2024. Students are participating in activities and themed days leading up to the football game and dance. Lanphier and Springfield High Schools will also have similar homecoming activities.

The Superintendent's Student Roundtable had their first meeting of the school year on September 11, 2024. Mr. Duong reported that students provided the Superintendent with positive feedback for the new cell phone policy during the meeting. He noted that the policy has allowed him to complete homework during class that he would not have completed prior to its implementation, which has reduced the amount of homework that he has in the evening.

Ms. Lael-Wolf asked how many students attended the meeting. Superintendent Gill reported that there were approximately 50 students in attendance. She noted that the group is open to all high school students and that she appreciates the feedback she receives from the group.

Terrance Jordan, Director of School Leadership and F.A.C.E., reported that many students who attended the Roundtable meeting reported increased productivity due to the new cell phone policy.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **6.1 Superintendent's Report**

A moment of silence was observed for the Winder, GA Apalachee High School community recently impacted by gun violence. Superintendent Gill also gave condolences to Tony Sanders, the Illinois State Superintendent. She reported that Dr. Sanders recently lost his father, Ted Sanders, who had served as the Illinois State Superintendent during the 1980's.

#### **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.

#### **Matheny Withrow Look It's My Book (LIMB) Distribution**

LIMB is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that distributes 45,000 books annually and has given over half a million books to date. The program allows children to choose their own books, based on the principle that one of the strongest motivators for young readers is selecting books at their reading level and aligning with their personal interests. This is a practice supported by national literacy experts.

Superintendent Gill reported that Matheny Withrow Elementary School recently hosted an event with this organization. She indicated that Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher and other community members also attended the event.

#### **Real Men Read**

Superintendent Gill reported that volunteers are needed to read to a 1st or 3rd-grade class once a month for the Real Men Read program. Mr. Jordan reported that books and discussion ideas are provided to the volunteers in advance and scheduling of the reading sessions is flexible. He encouraged those interested in volunteering to sign up on the District's website or by calling 217-525-3027. He indicated that the program has been extended to first grade due to the popularity of the program and the number of volunteers that have come forward. He noted that the students who participate in the program receive a copy of each book read throughout the year to help build their home libraries.

#### **Constitution Day and September 11th**

Superintendent Gill reported that this month, Kindergarten through 12th grade Social Studies classes have been teaching about the events of September 11 and Constitution Day, September 17, 2024. These instructional units are state requirements proudly taught across District 186.

#### **Community Events**

Superintendent Gill reported that she recently attended events for several community organizations, including the Compass for Kids Brunch fundraiser and the United Way Gratitude and Campaign Kick-Off event.

Superintendent Gill noted that Terrance Jordan, Sarah Blissett, and Ken Gilmore attended the Compass for Kids event. She reported that Compass for Kids hosted 924 kindergarten through 5th-grade campers from 22 elementary schools at seven sites over the summer. The program provided 37,824 hours of academic instruction, eleven field trips, 45,814 federally funded meals, and weekend “BackPack” feeding programs. The organization hosts programs at Black Hawk, Dubois, Graham, Harvard Park, and McClernand Elementary Schools for 118 students during the school year. Over 16,000 meals are distributed through the organization’s “BackPack” feeding program during the school year.

The organization also hosts a Youth Leadership Development Program. Students in the program include 14 past Compass students. Students have logged 427 hours of community service.

Superintendent Gill then provided information about the United Way Gratitude and Campaign Kick-Off Event. She indicated that she attended the event with Arwah Franklin and Sarah Severner, the District’s campaign chairs.

The theme for this year’s campaign is Ignite the Future. She noted that the United Way serves the community with basic needs, education, financial stability, and health supports. District 186 partners with the United Way on Camp and Club Compass, Camp Kindergarten - Ready, Set, Go in two schools, the Freedom School during the summer in partnership with the Springfield Urban League, and programs that serve our students at the Boys and Girls Club, as well as mentoring through Big Brother, Big Sister. She reported that schools will run campaigns in October to support the United Way with employee-giving opportunities and spirit activities.

#### **Keep Kids in School Walk-in Clinic**

Superintendent Gill reported that 1,510 students still need physicals and/or immunizations. Additionally, the Sangamon County Department of Public Health’s Mobile Vaccination Clinic will visit each high school to provide the meningococcal vaccine. Students needing the vaccine have been contacted by the school nurse and a consent form has been sent home. There are approximately 40-60 students at each high school currently in need of the vaccine.

#### **Lanphier High School Open House**

Lanphier High School will host an open house on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Festivities are set to begin in the morning. The event is open to the public. Students will lead tours throughout the building.

#### **6.2 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report for the 2023-24 School Year**

Board members were provided with copies of the 2023-2024 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the District’s website. Mr. Miller stated that the report is presented per sections 10-20.47 and 34-18.38 of the Illinois School Code which require school districts to report administrator and teacher salary and benefits information to the Illinois State Board of Education by October 1 of each year, and to present this information at a school board meeting before posting on the Internet website of the school district.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Old Business**

#### **Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Liaison Update**

Ms. Lael-Wolf reported that IASB's fall legislative meetings have begun. She asked any Board members registered to attend the October 3, 2024 legislative meeting in Springfield to complete the survey shared by IASB.

Next, Ms. Lael-Wolf provided information for the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election. She noted that IASB has resources available for those interested in running for one of the open seats.

### **7.2 New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

### **7.3 Board Policy Updates**

Board members were presented with proposed policy updates. It was noted that the updates align policies with District practices and/or new federal and state laws. Mr. Miller noted that the policies will be presented for approval at the next regular meeting.

Superintendent Gill then provided a brief overview of the proposed updates. She noted that many of the updates are suggested by the Illinois Association of School Boards based on updates to laws made during the most recent legislative session. The updates include changes to policies related to Title IX, discrimination, targeted school violence prevention, and the education of homeless children. She asked members to review the changes prior to the next meeting.

She noted that several District 186 specific policies that the District had prior to the recent full policy manual update also need to be reviewed to determine if they should be included in the new policy manual. She indicated that these policies are not required by State or federal law but are policies that past Boards had found necessary.

Mr. Miller pointed out that several of the policies see no substantive changes. He asked about the date for exclusion due to noncompliance with physicals and immunizations included in one of the policies. There was then some discussion behind the history of the date.

Ms. Lael-Wolf noted the timeliness of the proposed changes to the policy related to targeted school violence. There was then some discussion regarding consequences related to threats.

## **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 September 16, 2024. Copies filed with the Official Minutes are available for public viewing [here](#).

Steve Miller, Director of Business Services, reported that for August 2024, Education Fund revenues were approximately \$7.8 million. Education Fund expenditures totaled approximately \$14.0 million. The Operations and Maintenance Fund saw revenues of approximately \$729,000 during the month of August. Expenditures in the fund were approximately \$2.5 million. Mr. Miller noted that August was a three paycheck month.

Next, Mr. Miller provided the Investment Balances Report. He noted that as of August 31, 2024, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$67.2 million in the bank for all funds. For the operating funds only, which include the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and the Working Cash Funds, total cash in the bank was approximately \$44.4 million. Total investments were approximately \$93.9 million. Year-to-date earned interest on all cash accounts for the month was approximately \$353,000. The interest rate on all cash accounts on August 31, 2024 was 2.5%. The total balance of cash and investments for all funds was approximately \$161.1 million.

Mr. Miller noted that the District showed recorded County sales tax proceeds received during the month of July of approximately \$1.2 million for the May collection period. He indicated that total sales tax collections since the inception of the tax in 2019 of approximately \$59 million.

Mr. Miller then shared two graphs comparing total expenditures in the Education Fund to the actual revenues received during the 2024 fiscal year and the same information for the Education, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation Funds.

There was then some discussion regarding the tentative budget, past years' expenditures and revenues, the impact of salary increases on the budget, how the numbers for the tentative budget were derived, the deficit reduction plan, and the fund balance.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **11.1 Public Hearing - FY25 Tentative Budget**

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Debra Iams)** Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education adjourns into the public hearing regarding the FY25 Tentative Budget and that upon conclusion of such hearing the Board shall immediately reconvene into open session.'

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

The meeting adjourned into the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Board members were provided with copies of the FY25 Tentative Budget. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the District's website.

Mr. Miller asked for Board or public comment.

The meeting resumed at 7:28 p.m.

## **CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

### **12.1 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 12.2 through 12.8 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 12.2 through 12.8 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

### **12.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of September 3, 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.

### **12.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable**

**Resolution:** That the Board of Education approves payroll and bills payable as shown in the attached report.

### **12.4 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment**

Bid #25-01 — Asbestos Phase 2 – Springfield 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 #25-01 — Asbestos Phase 2 – Springfield High School

### **12.5 Approval of an Agreement with the Springfield NAACP**

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

### **12.6 Approval of an Agreement with the City of Springfield Regarding School Resource Officers**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, District schools will benefit from School Safety Officer services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield employs police officers specifically trained to provide such services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Springfield pending final legal review whereby the City shall provide the services of School Safety Officers at Lanphier, Southeast, and Springfield for a term commencing August 12, 2024, and ending on or about June 3, 2025, at a cost not to exceed \$275,000.

### **12.7 Approval of an Agreement with Presidio**

The District Technology Department is recommending the purchase of Cisco Duo Two Factor software and installation/consultation costs through Presidio. This purchase is needed to fulfill requirements for ransomware insurance. The annual subscription for the software will be \$1,620. The one time cost for installation and consultation is \$25,392.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, District 186 is need of additional multifactor security software; and

WHEREAS, additional installation and consulting services will be provided by Presidio;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an agreement with Presidio for software installation at a total cost of \$25,392 and an annual software cost of \$1,620 be paid from Technology Funds.

### **12.8 Approval of a Purchase Agreement with Presidio and CDW**

The District Technology Department is recommending the purchase of Internet networking equipment for Springfield High School with New Facility Funds at highly discounted Erate pricing of 85% for qualifying items. The needed equipment for new construction at Springfield High School will be purchased through Presidio and CDW. The District's portion of the \$164,228 purchase will be \$92,475.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield High School is need of networking equipment for newly constructed facilities; and

WHEREAS, District 186 will use USAC ERate funding for qualified equipment;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a purchase agreement with the Presidio and CDW for a total amount up to \$92,475 to be paid from sales tax funds.

## **ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS**

### **13.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations**

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends the adoption of the Personnel recommendations, as presented.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Sarah Blissett**) 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

**13.2 Approval of a Resolution for the Adoption of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025**

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Budget for FY 2024-2025 (Fiscal Year 2025):

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a budget and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such budget on the 16th day of September, 2024, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said district as follows:

1. That the fiscal year of this School District be and the same hereby is fixed and declared to be beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025;
2. That the following budget containing an estimate of amounts available in each fund, separately, and of expenditures from each be and the same is hereby adopted as the budget of the School District for said fiscal year.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Debra Iams)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Budget for FY 2024-2025 (Fiscal Year 2025):

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a budget and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such budget on the 16th day of September, 2024, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said district as follows:

1. That the fiscal year of this School District be and the same hereby is fixed and declared to be beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025;
2. That the following budget containing an estimate of amounts available in each fund, separately, and of expenditures from each be and the same is hereby adopted as the budget of the School District for said fiscal year.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 7 - 0**.

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

### **13.3 Student Discipline**

Resolution: That the Board approves the student discipline as discussed in Executive Session and summarized by the Superintendent, as follows:

- That one 8th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Jefferson Middle School through the end of 2024-2025 school year with a program; and
- That one 9th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program; and
- That one 10th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year **without** a program; and
- That one 10th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board approves the student discipline as discussed in Executive Session and summarized by the Superintendent, as follows:

- That one 8th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Jefferson Middle School through the end of 2024-2025 school year with a program; and
- That one 9th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program; and
- That one 10th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year without a program; and
- That one 10th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Lanphier High School through the end of the 2024-2025 school year with a program.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 7 - 0**.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **14.1 Next Regular Meeting — Tuesday, September 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

#### **14.2 Upcoming District Events**

October 14 - No School - Holiday

October 17 - Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 18 - No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Superintendent Gill reported that Director of Operations and Maintenance Darrell Schaver retires on October 4, 2024. As such, this is his last Board meeting. She thanked him for his service. Mr. Schaver thanked the Board and Superintendent for the opportunity to serve the District. Several Board members congratulated Mr. Schaver and thanked him for his service.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, October 7, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

---

Micah Miller, President

---

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: October 7, 2024