

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Monday, September 3, 2024 (5:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on September 3, 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  
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 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- 2.4 Pending and Imminent Litigation - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session to consider the following matters: 2.1 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9, 10), 2.2 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 2.3 Contract Negotiations - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), 2.4 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, Gilmore, Lael-Wolf, Mares

Those voting “no”:       None

### **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 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 5:32 p.m. and Mr. Miller 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 3, 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 school is in high gear. Football has started. He also provided information about the Superintendent’s Student Roundtable which will meet on Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

Mr. Miller asked about how the new cell phone policy has been received by students. Mr. Duong reported that students seem to be interacting with each other more frequently. He indicated that he finds it easier to focus. He indicated that there have been some complaints but overall the policy has been readily accepted by the student body.

## **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.

#### **School Visits**

Superintendent Gill provided highlights from visits to several schools she made during the previous week. She reported that students at Wilcox and Fairview Elementary Schools showcased their new literacy skills using the Benchmark Advanced curriculum during visits to those schools. At Lee School, she spoke with first-grade students and was shown the building's new upgrades. She reported that during her visit to Lee, Life Skills students enjoyed the nice weather during recess. At Franklin Middle School she spoke with staff and met the school's WEB Leader Team (Where Everyone Belongs), a student leadership team. The team was busy planning for events that could include the whole student body.

#### **5th Grade Beginner Band**

Superintendent Gill encouraged families of 5th-grade students interested in participating in Band to visit the District's website or check email for a link to RSVP to one of the upcoming informational meetings. The 5th grade beginner band program is an after-school program that will take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. at Washington Middle School. The program is open to all 5th-grade students in District 186.

#### **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, September 11, 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. There will also be a clinic on Saturday, September 14. Appointments are needed for the clinic on September 14 and can be made by calling 217-535-3102.

#### **Real Men Read**

Superintendent Gill reported that an informational meeting for the Real Men Read program will be held on Thursday, September 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Center, 3063 Fiat Ave. Volunteers are needed to read to a 1st or 3rd-grade class once a month. Books and discussion ideas are provided to the volunteers in advance and scheduling of the reading sessions is flexible.

#### **Career Fair**

The District will host a career fair on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Center, 3063 Fiat Avenue. Immediate openings are available for the following: teacher, clerical, SCOPE staff, First Student bus drivers, part-time civilian sub security, crossing guard, food service, substitute teacher, teaching assistant, paraprofessional, custodial. On-site interviews for future qualifying paraprofessionals will be conducted.

#### **Our Schools Our Future**

Superintendent Gill provided an update on current construction projects. Photos of projects at Lanphier High School, Southeast High School, and Springfield High School were shared.

Superintendent Gill reported that the main entrance canopy at Lanphier is coming together. At Springfield High School, she reported that crews are preparing to drywall the first floor on the north side of the building. Additionally, crews have begun pouring footings for the new south addition. At Southeast High School the main entrance to the new athletic facility is taking shape. The facility will include new ticket booths, restrooms and concession stands. A second building on the site will include a locker room, team room, and weight room. Roof decking will be installed soon.

### **AVID News**

Superintendent Gill introduced Tracy Gage, Director of School Leadership and AVID, and Nicole Heyen, Principal of Lincoln Magnet School. Ms. Gage reported that Lincoln Magnet School has been selected as an AVID National Demonstration Site. She reported that Lincoln is one of five schools in the State of Illinois selected for this distinction.

Ms. Heyen then addressed the Board. She provided some background on the AVID program history at Lincoln Magnet School. She reported that the program was implemented in 2009 and selected as a site of distinction in 2012. The program has been implemented school-wide. She noted that Lincoln has hosted several AVID showcases over the years, with 98% of the staff having been AVID-trained. Two new staff members will receive that training soon. Ms. Heyen introduced several staff members who have been integral to the program in her school. Next, she introduced several students who shared stories about how AVID has impacted their education.

Ms. Gage then shared information about the training required of staff. She reported that over the summer 289 educators in District 186 received AVID training.

### **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. 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 3, 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 an overview of the outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois as of August 31, 2024, as well as the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects Fund as of July 31, 2024.

Mr. Miller reported that as of August 27, 2024, outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois for fiscal year 2024 total approximately \$1.56 million. Of that, the Driver's Education program is due approximately \$31,000, the Early Childhood Block Grant is due approximately \$485,000 and Special Projects are due approximately \$1.03 million. Mr. Miller noted that there are also approximately \$20,700 of outstanding state payments for the State Free Lunch & Breakfast Food Service funding, all of which are part of the Education Fund.

For fiscal year 2025, outstanding payments from the State of Illinois due the District total approximately \$214,500 as of August 27, 2024. Mr. Miller reported that this includes approximately \$214,000 due in the Early Childhood Block Grant and approximately \$200 due in Food Service, both of which are part of the Education Fund.

Next, Mr. Miller overviewed the Capital Projects Fund revenues and expenditures incurred during July 2024. He reported that investments for the fund show a beginning balance of approximately \$92.6 million. Total revenues in the investment funds, dividends, and interest, were approximately \$375,700, while bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$4.4 million. Mr. Miller noted that this yielded an ending balance of approximately \$88.6 million.

Mr. Miller reported that the District received approximately \$1.1 million in Sales Tax receipts in July. These are attributed to the April reporting period. Since 2019, the District has received approximately \$57.9 million in Sales Tax receipts with an average monthly collection in fiscal year 2024 of approximately \$1.13 million. Currently, the District's sales tax money is used to pay the principal and interest of the bonds sold for its capital projects.

As of July 31, 2024, the District had approximately \$3.2 million in the savings account associated with the County School Facilities Sales Tax (CFST) revenues. 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 the 2025 fiscal year, with a projected surplus of approximately \$26,800 after the June 1, 2025 payment.

Mr. Miller then provided some responses to questions posed during the August 19, 2024 Board of Education meeting. He reported that the books for the 2024 fiscal year have not been officially closed at this time. Revenues continue to be booked, with over \$1 million due to the District from the State of Illinois. He indicated that because of this, final revenues for fiscal year 2024 are difficult to project with accuracy. The numbers will be finalized in the FY24 audit. He noted that total expenditures are easier to estimate, with total expenditures for the working cash fund coming to approximately \$184.4 million for fiscal year 2024. He noted that this does not include flow through items. He stated that "flow through" is money the District receives from the State or federal government that must be spent dollar for dollar. This does not include building funds paid for through bond sales. He reported that the District's fund balance is estimated to increase by approximately \$640,000 from the beginning of FY24 to the beginning of FY25, but is reduced to an approximate \$200,000 increase when including the retirement and tort funds.

## **10.2 2024-2025 Tentative Budget Presentation**

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 [here](#).

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the presentation. He noted that the budgeting process is an important function of the Superintendent's Office, the Business Office and the Board of Education. The budget is completed based on past practices, as well as enrollment and revenue projections. Expenditures are a prediction of materials, staffing, contractual salaries, and services to be incurred by the District. He indicated that the numbers presented in the presentation are representative of the current tentative budget for FY25. Expenditures in the tentative budget are budgeted at 100% of the projected cost. Revenues are conservatively budgeted. Mr. Miller then provided historical information. He shared a budget timeline and noted that there will be a public hearing during the September 16, 2024 Board meeting. The Board will also be asked during that meeting to vote to adopt the budget. As in past years, an amended budget will be presented in the Spring.

Next, Mr. Miller shared current fund balances. He noted that the balances shared are expected fund balances. Official balances will be available once the audit is complete. He reminded Board members that the District entered fiscal year 2024 with a projected deficit of approximately \$10 million. He indicated that this projected deficit was not realized as Superintendent Gill led administrators to tighten belts. Because of this, the District ended the FY24 year with a small surplus of approximately \$200,000. He noted that between the six funds, which include the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, IMRF, Tort, and Working Cash Funds, the District has a fund balance of approximately \$71 million, with approximately \$68 million in the fund balance for the operating funds only, which include the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash Funds. He reported that this amounts to approximately 100 days of operating cash on hand. Board policy calls for a 15% fund balance or 55 days of cash on hand.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Operating Fund, projected revenues total approximately \$224 million with total expenditures projected at approximately \$246 million. He reported that this means that the District will be operating at a \$21.9 million deficit in fiscal year 2025. The deficit, with no reductions in expenditures, will result in an operating fund balance of \$46 million on June 30, 2025. He reminded Board members that the current fund balance is approximately \$68 million. He reported that this will reduce the fund balance to 18.8% or 68 days of operating cash on hand. He indicated that the District will only be able to sustain deficit spending for one year. This will necessitate additional cuts during the current fiscal year.

He then overviewed projected revenues, expenditures and fund balances for the various funds and reasons for the deficit. He indicated that on the expenditures side, there was a \$6.6 million increase in salaries. Also, \$2.6 million from ESSER salaries have shifted back to the District. There has also been a \$5.4 million increase in health insurance costs. Concerning revenues, the CPPRT decreased by approximately \$5 million. The IDEA grant decreased by approximately \$1.5 million. Also, Title II funding decreased by approximately \$1.4 million for professional development.

Mr. Miller then presented a deficit reduction plan. He noted that the District is required to submit this plan to the State of Illinois. He noted that the plan will reduce the deficit quickly and allow the District to have a balanced budget by year 3 of the plan.

There was then some discussion regarding the board policy related to the fund balance requirements, the amount of the fund balance, the impact of salary increases on the projected expenditures, the deficit plan, expected increases in CPPRT in the coming years, and projected health care costs.

**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 **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Sarah Blissett)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.4 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 August 19, 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 Approval of an Agreement with Huddle Up Care, Inc. for School Psychology Services**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, District 186 desires services of Huddle Up Care, Inc., for School Psychology Services; and

WHEREAS, Huddle Up Care, Inc. is appropriately qualified and able to provide 0.60 FTE school psychologist services to Springfield Public School District 186 for the sole purpose of covering the 2024-2025 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 Huddle Up Care, Inc. for the time period of August 19, 2024, through May 30, 2025, at a hourly contract rate of \$85.00 for committed hours to be paid monthly with an estimated contract cost of \$69,252.05 as stated in the agreement.

**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

**12.2 Approval of a Change Order for Lanphier High School**

Provide additional concrete walk areas at Lanphier High School

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Lanphier High School  
Change Order: #2  
Amount: \$75,318.13  
Contractor: O'Shea Builders

Scope of Work: Provide concrete walks at the southwest side of the building to accommodate pedestrian traffic to the parking lot and to the public sidewalks. Work includes additional grade modifications, formwork and concrete.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Lanphier High School  
Change Order: #2  
Amount: \$75,318.13  
Contractor: O'Shea Builders

Scope of Work: Provide concrete walks at the southwest side of the building to accommodate pedestrian traffic to the parking lot and to the public sidewalks. Work includes additional grade modifications, formwork and concrete.'

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 a Change Order for Lanphier High School**

Replace existing building sump pumps and connect to the back up generator.

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Lanphier High School  
Change Order: #3  
Amount: \$78,768.45  
Contractor: O'Shea Builders

Scope of Work: Replace sump pumps in the mechanical room with a new system. Include connection to the backup generator for operation during power failure.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Buffy Lael-Wolf)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved a Bid from below listed contractors for locations listed below; and

WHEREAS, the Architect for such project has recommended approval of a change order which complies with the applicable provisions of Chapters 122 and 38 of the Illinois Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist to provide payment for the additional requested change in this contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Change Order and directs the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Location: Lanphier High School

Change Order: #3

Amount: \$78,768.45

Contractor: O'Shea Builders

Scope of Work: Replace sump pumps in the mechanical room with a new system. Include connection to the backup generator for operation during power failure.'

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**

**13.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, September 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

**13.2 Freedom of Information Report**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, September 16, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Micah Miller, President

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Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: September 16, 2024