

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

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on September 5 A.D., 2023, 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
Harrison Gray, Student 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, Mares, Miller
Those voting "no": None

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:36 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Austin, Ms. Iams and Ms. Lael-Wolf joined the meeting at 5:31 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 5, 2023

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, 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 Comment

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

5.2 Student Report

Mr. Gray reported that the response to the Superintendent's Student Roundtable sign-up has been excellent. He encouraged those interested in joining to go to the District's website where a link to the application can be found.

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.

Operations and Maintenance Employees

Superintendent Gill thanked the employees of the Operations and Maintenance Department who worked to ensure buildings were comfortable for staff and students during the recent heatwave.

AVID at Jefferson Middle School

Superintendent Gill reported that students at Jefferson Middle School kicked off the school year by preparing for success. Students organized their new Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) binder and planner after discussing the importance of the tool for success. She noted that students are provided with the binders and other organizational tools by the school.

Community Partner Thank You

Superintendent Gill thanked the many community partners that reached out to the district during the recent heatwave with offers of support. She reported that the local Teamsters and MJ Kellner donated pallets of water for bus drivers and students for the afternoon bus rides. She also thanked First Student for their work to ensure student safety during the heatwave.

First Day of School at ELC and Preschool Program

The Early Learning Center and Preschool Program at Ridgely Elementary had their first day of school on Wednesday, August 30, 2023. Photos from the first day were shared.

Memorial Stadium Ribbon Cutting

Superintendent Gill reported that members of the Board of Education, The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance, Senator Doris Turner, and several other local officials joined her, administration and students from Lanphier and Springfield High Schools for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the recently renovated Memorial Stadium.

Go Fan Ticketing System

Superintendent Gill reported that the District's new system for accepting electronic payments at sporting events, Go Fan Ticketing, is up and running. She indicated that season passes are available through the system, as well. She noted that tickets purchased through Go Fan Ticketing are sent to the purchaser's phone, which allows the purchaser to bypass lines at the gate and enjoy contactless payment and entry.

She then provided information on the all year season pass, fall season pass and individual game passes, which can be purchased through the District 186 website.

Bus Drivers Needed

Superintendent Gill reported that First Student is hiring bus drivers. She noted that there is a \$2,000 sign-on bonus for new drivers. She also indicated that the hourly rate for bus drivers is currently \$23.00 per hour and monitors earn an hourly rate of \$14.25 per hour. Benefits include medical, dental and vision insurance. There are no CDL requirements. First Student trains and tests all drivers for the required license.

Our Schools Our Future Facilities Update

Superintendent Gill shared information about the Lanphier High School construction project. She shared photos of the skylights in the new three-story atrium/commons and ironworkers placing the steel beams in the new auditorium.

Ms. Blissett asked for an update on the opening date for the Esports room. Superintendent Gill reported that there is a goal to open that part of the building in mid-January.

Ms. Lael-Wolf asked about drainage in the new parking area at Butler Elementary School. Mr. Schaver provided information about how the area will drain. He indicated that there hasn't been any significant rain since the parking area was laid.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

7.2 New Business

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

8.1 Public Comment

Mr. Miller asked if there was any public comment. It was noted that there was no public comment at this time.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no presentations to the Board at this time.

BUSINESS REPORT

10.1 Business Report

Board members were provided with the 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 report provides a recap of outstanding payments due the District from the State of Illinois as of August 31, 2023, and details about the cash roll forward for the Capital Projects fund as of July 31, 2023.

Mr. Miller reported that with respect to the outstanding payments from the State of Illinois, the total due the District as of August 31, 2023, for fiscal year 2024 is approximately \$1.77 million. Of that, approximately \$84,300 is for the Driver's Education program and approximately \$1.6 million is for the Special Education program, both of which are in the Education Fund. There is also another \$72,800 in outstanding State payments for the State Free Lunch and Breakfast Food Service program.

Next, Mr. Miller provided information on the cash roll forward detail of the Capital Projects Fund revenues and expenditures incurred during the month of July 2023. He noted that the information also includes a

report of sales tax revenue and the separate bond transactions within the Capital Improvements. The Capital Projects cash roll forward review showed a starting balance of approximately \$88.06 million. July Sales Tax receipts of approximately \$1.089 million were reported for the April reporting period. Bond draws and expenses for the period came to approximately \$6.49 million. Dividends and interest for the period resulted in approximately \$196,500, yielding an ending balance of approximately \$82.859 million.

10.2 2023-2024 Tentative Budget Presentation

Board members were provided with copies of the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the District's website.

Mr. Miller gave a presentation on the budget. He reported that the budget is completed based on past practice, enrollment projections and revenue projections. He noted that the budget sets a goal for spending that the District will not exceed unless absolutely necessary. He indicated that revenues are conservatively projected, and include contingency money built into the various funds. He stated that historically, the District does not spend between \$1-2 million of the budget throughout the school year due to changes in budgeting demands and needs. These changes are reflected in the Amended Budget presented in the spring.

Next, Mr. Miller provided information on the Operating Fund's budget. He indicated that the fund has projected revenues of approximately \$194 million and projected expenditures of approximately \$204 million. The major allotments to the totals are the Education Fund, the Operations and Maintenance Fund, and the Transportation Fund. He reported that the District will operate with an approximately \$10.3 million deficit during fiscal year 2024 (FY24). He indicated that due to an unexpected increase in the amount of Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) funds received during FY23 and some savings in expenditures, the District accumulated approximately \$10 million in the Education Fund in FY23, which will help offset the deficit and allow the District to maintain an estimated fund balance of 22.7% of the Operating Budget. Board Policy states that the District must maintain a fund balance of 15% and 20% of the Operating Budget. He indicated that during the upcoming school year, a plan will be developed to ensure the District is spending within its means.

Mr. Miller then provided information on the Education Fund. He noted projected revenues of approximately \$160.4 million, a decrease of approximately \$1.5 million from FY23. Expenditures are projected to be approximately \$169 million. He then noted a few factors that have contributed to the decrease in revenues and increase in expenditures over FY23. He reported that federal ESSER money has allowed the District to hire additional staff to provide assistance with learning loss from COVID. Multiple teachers have been paid using ESSER money over the last two years. These teachers were identified as those who were to retire last year and this year. As those teachers retire, new hires are replacing them and are being paid from the Education Fund. This was an unexpected increase that does not account for approximately \$1.5 million in additional expenditures.

Mr. Miller reported that in addition to the increase in staffing, the District has acknowledged its current employees' hard work and dedication with a 5% raise. He indicated that each percentage point in salary increase raises the financial obligation of the District by approximately \$1.1 million. He noted that for FY24, this is an additional \$5.5 million from the Education Fund and that for FY25, the increase will be similar for the agreed upon 4% increase.

Mr. Miller noted that the Scope program is currently operating at a \$700,000 deficit. Money from the Education Fund must be used to support the program. He suggested consideration be given to increasing

the price for the program. In addition to these factors, Mr. Miller reported that another contributing factor is the District's evidence-based funding (EBF). The District will receive an increase of approximately \$607,000 in EBF compared to FY23, which is a smaller increase than previous years.

Mr. Miller noted that the majority of the deficit comes from a reduction in the CPPRT. He indicated that in FY23, the District received approximately \$21.7 million in revenues from CPPRT. This year, the District's projected CPPRT revenues are approximately \$15.5 million, a 26% reduction. The District has assigned the same amount of CPPRT money to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, Transportation Fund, IMRF Fund, and Tort Fund as FY23. As such, the reduction in revenues will be realized from the Education Fund. He noted that in FY23, the District did receive an unexpected increase in CPPRT which allowed for a surplus in the Education Fund, which he reminded will offset the FY24 deficit.

Mr. Miller then overviewed the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Fund. He indicated that the O&M Fund's projected revenues are approximately \$18.69 million, an increase of approximately \$264,000 over FY23. Expenditures in the fund are projected to be approximately \$19.16 million, which is a decrease of approximately \$866,000 over FY23. He reported that the fund is projected to have a fund balance of \$4.47 million on June 30, 2024.

With respect to the Transportation Fund, Mr. Miller reported projected revenues of approximately \$14.9 million and projected expenditures of approximately \$15.7 million, resulting in a projected deficit of approximately \$800,000. Factors that contribute to the deficit include an increase of 17% in the contract with the bus company and a greater obligation to the District's Early Childhood Program.

The IMRF Fund has projected revenues of approximately \$7.2 million and projected expenditures of approximately \$7.4 million. He indicated that changes in expenditures and contingencies are likely to narrow the gap between revenues and expenditures. Mr. Miller also provided information regarding the Tort Fund. He indicated that the Tort Fund's projected revenues are approximately \$6.12 million and expenditures are expected to be approximately \$6.14 million. He indicated that the projected fund balance as of June 30, 2024, is \$901,800.

Lastly, Mr. Miller noted that a public hearing will be held at the next regular Board Meeting on September 18, 2023, prior to the vote to adopt the budget.

Ms. Blissett expressed concern about the possibility of an increase in the cost of Scope. Superintendent Gill reported that there are a number of free after-school childcare programs, which has impacted the Scope program. There was then some additional discussion regarding the Working Cash Fund and the average of expenditures over the last five years. Mr. Miller indicated that he would provide the Board with this information in the near future.

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 11.9 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Erica Austin)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 11.2 through 11.9 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 21, 2023

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 reviews the minutes of the regular session and the executive session of the previous Board Meetings; and

WHEREAS, copies of these sets of minutes were distributed to the Board in the board packet prior to this meeting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the aforementioned sets of regular session and executive session minutes and directs the Secretary to include them in the official records of the Board of Education meetings.

11.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable

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

11.4 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment Bid #23-12 — HVAC and Upgrades – Lee School

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion: Bid #23-12 — HVAC & Upgrades – Lee School

11.5 Approval of an Agreement Regarding the National SAM Innovation Project

The Wallace Foundation funded creation of the National SAM (School Administration Manager) Innovation Project (NSIP) to provide a process for school principals and other school leaders to make more effective use of their instructional leadership time. NSIP, a 501c3 non-profit corporation, is the sole provider of SAM process services, tools, and materials. Springfield Public Schools (SPS) has successfully implemented the SAM process in selected schools and district-level sites. SPS will pay NSIP \$55,000 for a district site license and services described in the contract for school leaders, district-level leaders, principals, assistant principals, instructional coaches, and any other leader the district selects.

Resolution: WHEREAS, The National SAM Innovation Project has the experience, knowledge, expertise, and ongoing research base that will benefit our district as we continue with this project; and

WHEREAS, the fee for service is \$55,000 for a district site license; and

WHEREAS, The National SAMS Innovation Project's fee for services are reimbursable through Title II funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the fee for services with the National SAM Innovation Project.

11.6 Approval of an IL Empower Partner Agreement for Lee School with The Thoughtful Classroom

Proposal

Schools that have a comprehensive school improvement status (lowest category in the state) as a result of their scores on the IL Report Card must have an approved Learning Partner to support their school improvement efforts. The purpose of the work with The Thoughtful Classroom, the proposed Learning Partner for Lee (which is a comprehensive school) is to develop a deep understanding of the goals, challenges, and learning culture of Lee School. This understanding will be developed to support improvement in teacher practice and student learning and achievement. The Thoughtful Classroom team will work collaboratively with the school leadership team to identify “problems of practice” that are impeding student achievement. The Thoughtful Classroom coach will also work with the leadership teams to identify tools and strategies for solving these problems of practice and raising student achievement. There will be an initial online assessment to gather information about current teaching practices and establish a list of the best tools and strategies to focus on in the 2023-2024 school year. Following the initial assessment, ongoing leadership support (principal and ILT), coaching, and professional learning for staff will be implemented throughout the year. Cost: \$17,800

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

WHEREAS, Lee School has identified a need for support in identifying and using tools and strategies for solving problems of practice and raising student achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Thoughtful Classroom 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 Thoughtful Classroom for a total amount of \$17,800 to be paid from Title I School Improvement 1003(a) funds.

11.7 Approval of an Agreement with Riverside Insights

Invoices

District 186 schools will utilize the Kindergarten and Grade 5 CogAT Online Testing. Riverside Insights Kindergarten and Grade 5 CogAt Online Tests are used to determine the potential gifted students. These tests from Riverside Insights will offer individualized results for the placement of kindergarten and grade 5 students. Total Cost: \$30,305.00

Resolution: WHEREAS, Riverside Insights provides individualized testing supports for kindergarten and fifth grades via the services of online testing; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Insights agrees to provide assistive services for staff; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Insights services is being funded through ESSER funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the continuation of an agreement between Springfield Public School District 186 and Riverside Insights for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$30,305 collectively for the kindergarten and fifth-grade CogAT Online Testing.

11.8 Approval of an Agreement with the YMCA for the Enos After-school Program

Attached are the program's monthly budget and the memorandum of understanding

The District is seeking Board approval for an existing partnership with the YMCA of Springfield. Fifty students from Enos Elementary School will participate in an after-school program at the YMCA at 601 N. 4th St. The program will run Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. In addition to the after-school program, the YMCA will provide 24 days to participate in an all-day program during winter break, spring break, inclement weather days, and other non-student attendance days. This partnership will include a YMCA Family Membership for each family, monthly family/community events, character development activities, daily enrichment activities, homework support, and daily moderate to rigorous, safe physical activity, which includes swimming! Transportation from Enos to the YMCA will be provided through a regular bus route by adding the YMCA as a bus stop. This will eliminate any additional transportation expenses. Parents must pick up students from the YMCA nightly at the end of the program day. ESSER funds will be used to support this partnership at a total cost of \$147,000 per year for 1 year.

Resolution: WHEREAS, Enos Elementary School students will benefit from the Enos After-school Program at the Downtown YMCA, an after-school enrichment program; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA is able to provide facilities, staff, and educational enrichment activities for the after-school program; and

WHEREAS, the Enos After-school Program at the Downtown YMCA encourages young people to develop their emotional, physical, artistic, social, and intellectual selves;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement with the YMCA pending final legal review for a total annual cost of \$147,000 per year for one year to be paid from ESSER funds.

11.9 Approval of an Agreement Regarding the Springfield Art Association After-School Program

Attached is the Springfield Art Association Program proposal and budget.

The District seeks Board approval for a new, one-year-only partnership with the Springfield Art Association. Twenty students from McClelland and 32 high school students will participate in an after-school program at the Springfield Art Association, located at 700 North 4th Street Springfield, IL 62702. During this program, the Springfield Art Association Reinforce National Standards for The Visual Arts and Provided parent/caregiver orientation, workshops, and tools to promote imagination, skill development, and cognitive problem-solving. The program will run Monday and Wednesday for Elementary students from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm for high school students. Students will complete one project per day for the duration of the program. Each project would be based on a new technique or art history/ cultural lesson, and each student will be provided a Make & Take Art project each week to reinforce art education at home. ESSER funds will be used to support this partnership at a total cost of \$37,144.00 per year for one year.

Resolution: WHEREAS, McClelland Elementary School, Lanphier High School, Springfield High School and Southeast High School students will benefit from the Springfield Art Association after-school enrichment program; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield Art Association are able to provide facilities, staff and educational enrichment activities for the after-school program; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield Art Association after-school program encourages young people to develop their emotional, physical, artistic, social and intellectual selves;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement with the Springfield Art Association pending final legal review for a total annual cost of \$37,144 per year for one year to be paid from ESSER funds.

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

12.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

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

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 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

13.2 Upcoming District Events

September 22 — No School – Teacher Institute Day

13.3 Freedom of Information Report

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Miller declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, September 18, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Micah Miller, President

Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Dated: September 18, 2023