

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Monday, February 3, 2020 (6:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on February 3 A.D., 2020, at 5:31 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Scott McFarland, Vice President  
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Judith Johnson  
Anthony Mares  
Tiffany Mathis  
Micah Miller  
Bill Ringer

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools  
Grace Beyer, Student Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

Vice President McFarland called the meeting to order.

**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 **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Scott McFarland)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education adjourn 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)'.  
'

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

Those voting "aye": Johnson, McFarland, Miller, Ringer  
Those voting "no": None.

## **Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m. and reconvened at 6:33 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that six Board members were present as Mr. Mares joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m. and Ms. Mathis joined the meeting at 5:46 p.m..

Mr. McFarland reported that Mr. Zimmers was unable to attend the evening's meeting. He then reported the recent passing of District employee, Herbie Banks, Springfield Ball Charter board member, Danyel Pitts, District supporter, Bill Schnirring, Trent Barnard, the son of Angela Barnard of Laketown Elementary, former Springfield Mayor, Frank Edwards, and Sangamon County Coroner, Cinda Edwards. A moment of silence was observed.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **3.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. McFarland 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 February 3, 2020**

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

## **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Judith Johnson)** 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: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer  
Those voting "no": None.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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

Vice President McFarland made the routine announcement that public comment on published agenda items would occur during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. He instructed those interested in addressing the Board to fill out the required Public Participation at Board Meetings Form and submit it to Ms. Hankins in the front row of the audience. Additionally, he reminded those interested in addressing the Board that comments are limited to three minutes.

Mr. McFarland thanked the staff that attended and supported the Superintendent's Student Roundtable Unity Day event, including Ms. Peggy Cormeny, Amber and Josh Boone, and Ms. Hammers.

### **5.2 Board Salutes**

Ms. Mathis saluted the Grant Middle School class that recently was seen picking up trash from around the school grounds. She saluted the students for their environmental stewardship.

Mr. Ringer read a portion of an article from the State Journal Register that featured Lanphier High School basketball player, Jaden Snodgrass. Mr. Snodgrass organized a basketball camp, Hoops for Change, that

raised funds for the Allied Against Opioid Abuse campaign. Mr. Ringer saluted Mr. Snodgrass for organizing the event.

Ms. Johnson saluted Jaden Snodgrass for his leadership with the Lanphier High School boys' basketball team. She reported that Mr. Snodgrass is a good basketball player and student, that is kind, considerate and a good team leader. She provided information on a number of upcoming Lanphier High School games. Next, Ms. Johnson reported that the birthday of Rosa Parks is February 4th. She indicated that she and Ms. Parks share a birthday. She implored the community to take a stand for justice and to treat one another with kindness and respect.

Mr. Mares also saluted the basketball teams involved in the Boys City Basketball Tournament.

Mr. Miller wished Ms. Johnson a happy birthday. He reported attending a presentation on Project SEARCH, a new school-to-work transition and job placement program for students with intellectual disabilities, a Breakfast with Dad's event at Laketown Elementary, Iles Elementary's Chinese New Year Celebration, the 11th Annual Crime Stoppers Trivia Night event, and the Boys City Basketball Tournament. He saluted several individuals involved with these events for making each a success. He saluted Lanphier High School's basketball team for winning the basketball tournament, as well as Sacred Heart Griffin's boys basketball team for their dedication and desire.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Old Business**

There was no old business at this time.

### **6.2 New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

### **6.3 Student Business**

Ms. Beyers reported that Unity Day was a big success this year. She reported the group raised approximately \$1,700 to benefit Lee, a District student undergoing cancer treatment. She indicated that a member of Lee's family was a guest speaker at Unity Day. Ms. Beyers reported that Unity Day participants also made cards for students at the Hope Learning Academy, which will be distributed by members of the Roundtable at the academy's prom, in mid-February. Roundtable members are going to volunteer to help at the organization's prom. Next, Ms. Beyers reported that Project Mack is holding a bake sale at Southeast High School on February 8 and will be collecting donations throughout the month of February to buy books with African American characters for District 186 elementary schools. Lastly, Ms. Beyers reported that the next Roundtable meeting will include a discussion regarding promotion and support of the Girls Basketball City Tournament.

## **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

### **Spark 5**

Superintendent Gill reported that the evening's presentations are a continuation of a series of "Spark 5" presentations that will be made over the course of the school year. Each school will present at some point in time during the school year to provide the Board and community with additional information about five key indicators that align with District strategic goals and collective commitments. She reported that each 5-10 minute presentation will be unique and tell the story of the particular school presenting.

### **7.1 Early Learning Center**

Ms. Charlena Jackson, Principal, provided a presentation about the school's key indicator work. She reported that the school has approximately 650 students with approximately 61% identifying as low-income. She further reported that the staff includes eight minorities, including two teachers.

With respect to Goal 1: Expand opportunities for all students and empower them to learn and succeed, Ms. Jackson reported that the school offers both half and full day program options. The school-wide focus is vocabulary development. The school also participates in the Week of the Young Child, several school-wide field trips and Big Truck Day, which helps the students learn about various career opportunities. Lastly, Ms. Jackson reported that the school participates in an ISBE monitoring visit approximately every three years, which evaluates the quality of the program offered by the school.

With respect to Goal 2: Enhance academic and emotional support so students can reach their full potential, Ms. Jackson reported that the school has three school-wide behavior expectations: "I will be safe", "I will be kind", and "I will do my job". The school also has incorporated a principal orientation, as well as daily welcoming rituals and an optimistic closure. The school is piloting the Second Step Program in nine classrooms. They offer Parent Universities, which are workshops for parents.

With respect to Goal 4: Engage families and community partners, Ms. Jackson reported that the school offers several family engagement opportunities including a Parent Child Day, Family Fun Fridays, Volunteer Work Day, Fall Festival/Family Night/Spring Fling, P.T.O./F.A.C.E., and Learning on the Go. Parents are encouraged to visit the school during the school day at least once a semester. Ms. Jackson reported that the school has several community partners including: St. John's School of Nursing, LLC Occupational Therapy Students, Share the Spirit Foundation, Springfield Rotary Club, WSEC Book Program, PNC Bank and the Knights of Columbus.

Ms. Jackson reported that the school has a collective commitment to communicate relentlessly. This is accomplished through monthly newsletters, bi-monthly classroom newsletters, weekly Wednesday school folders, the ELC website, Parent Link phone calls, home visits, parent teacher conferences twice a year and student attendance key messages. The school has a second collective commitment to provide a welcoming experience. This is accomplished by providing an open door policy, by greeting students and families daily during their arrival, by welcoming visitors, high school & college student observers, and community stakeholders and representatives to tour or observe, and by being kind to each other.

Ms. Mathis provided information regarding the impact the school has had on her daughter. Mr. McFarland, Mr. Mares and Ms. Johnson also commended the school for their work and impact on students. Ms. Johnson inquired as to how students are identified for the program. Ms. Jackson reported that the students are screened for eligibility.

### **7.2 Lanphier High School**

Dr. Artie Doss, Principal, provided a presentation regarding the school's key indicator work. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to present. He reported that the school's ISBE designation this past year was lowest performing. He indicated that the school has approximately 1100 students, with a 63% low income population and approximately 30% mobility rating. There are 32 minority staff.

With respect to Goal 1: Expand opportunities for all students and empower them to learn and succeed, Mr. Chris Barham, Assistant Principal, reported that the school is moving toward becoming a 1:1

technology school. The school also offers library collaboration spaces where group projects can be displayed and collaboration can take place. They are the only school to have a student-led F.A.C.E. team.

With respect to Goal 2: Enhance academic and emotional support so students can reach their full potential, Mr. Barham reported that the school has hired two attendance support coaches. They have a daily student-led welcoming ritual and optimistic closure. Students are offered expanded opportunities to learn through after school tutoring, the PM Program, Credit Recovery, Freshman Forward, the Title I Summer School program, and the 21st Century Program. Additionally, administration works to empower teachers as instructional leaders through the ILT, BBSS Committee, SEL Committee and the LHS New Teacher Training and Mentoring.

With respect to Goal 4: Engage families and community partners, Dr. Doss reported that the school offers a Preview Night, Meet the Lions Night, FAFSA Night, Senior Recognition, Open House, Rose Ceremony, Making the Grade Conferences, and Parent-Teacher Conferences. Struggling parents and students are offered the Family Ties program. Additionally, Band, Choir and Art students participate in a variety of parades and festivals annually. Next, Dr. Doss reported that Springfield's Northside rallies around the school to provide support for the school. The PTO and Booster Clubs provide numerous connections with family and community for the school.

Mr. McFarland and Mr. Miller thanked Dr. Doss for providing an anchor to Springfield's Northside.

### **7.3 Transportation Presentation**

Board members were provided with copies of a presentation on transportation services. Dr. Lance Thurman provided the Board with a presentation on the bid process. Dr. Thurman gave members historical information regarding the last contract, which he indicated expires in June 2020. He indicated that the last contract saw a 18.6% increase in the first year followed by a 2.5% increase in the second and third years, a budget increase of approximately \$1.6 million. The contract was extended by two years during which time there was an 8.9% increase in the first year of the extension and a 3.5% increase in the second year.

Dr. Thurman then provided information regarding the bid structure. He reported that a review of the organizational charts for each potential vendor was an important part of the process and was new this year to the process. The age of the bus fleet was also taken into consideration, as was timeliness and reliability of the routes and a digital video system.

He reported that in these categories, Durham School Services saw a 17% increase in year one and a 3% increase in subsequent years. Durham will increase extracurricular trips by 59% in year one. The district that is closest in size and scope to the District served by Durham is East Aurora District 131. The company uses digital cameras, tablet technology and dashboard analytics. They also have EDULOG capabilities.

The next bidder was First Student. Dr. Thurman reported that the district will see a 8% increase in all categories in year one under First Student, with a 3% increase in two subsequent years of a contract. Extracurricular trips will see a 3% increase to the minimum charge in year one. Another school district that is served by First Student and is similar in scope and size to District 186 is Unit 5 Normal. The company offers digital cameras, child check, tablet technology and dashboard analytics. The company also has EDULOG capabilities.

Dr. Thurman reported that the last company to bid for the work was Student Transportation of America. The company's proposal included a 27% cost increase across all categories in year one, with a 3% increase in the two subsequent years of the contract. Extracurricular trips would see a 72% increase to the minimum charge in year one. Evanston Skokie District 65 is the closest school district in scope and size served by the company. The company offers digital cameras, child check technology, planning tablet technology and dashboard analytics. They also have EDULOG capabilities.

Dr. Thurman indicated that First Student was the lowest responsible bidder for the work with a projected cost to the District of approximately \$13.7 million dollars in year one, approximately \$14.1 million in year two and approximately \$14.5 in year three. Seventy-six new busses will be added to the company's fleet in year one. Over 2/3 of the company's fleet is model year 2018 or newer busses. All busses will be outfitted with tablet technology and all cameras will be updated to digital technology. Dr. Thurman reported that the overall fiscal impact of the lowest bid is approximately \$42.5 million. He then took questions.

Mr. Mares asked about the impact that the digital cameras and Edulog capabilities have on daily services. Dr. Thurman reported that currently the District has analog camera technology on busses. If digital technology is installed, it will enhance the speed at which video is available to schools for discipline and other purposes. He indicated that the Edulog program allows the District to route efficiently. The tablet technology will allow drivers to be more efficient.

There was then some discussion regarding the difference in cost between the lowest responsible bidder and next lowest responsible bidder and the cost associated with the increased cost to the current contract during the extension years. Mr. Miller asked if the technology aspects of the new bids will help increase security and safety of students. Dr. Thurman reported that the new tablet technology requires the driver to move around the bus before exiting at the end of the route. Additionally, the digital cameras will provide a much better picture and more timely data. There was additional discussion regarding the safety measures that will come as a result of the technology upgrades. Ms. Johnson inquired as to the number of bus monitors. Dr. Thurman reported that all of the Early Start and Special Education busses have monitors. He indicated that he would email the figure. Mr. McFarland asked if the increases are locked in for any possible extension. Dr. Thurman reported that the first three years will be locked in but the extensions would need to be negotiated. Ms. Johnson asked for historical information regarding past increases. Dr. Thurman indicated he would prepare that information. Mr. McFarland asked if the bid fits within Business Office projections. Mr. Fretz indicated it does.

## **BUSINESS REPORTS**

### **8.1 Business Report**

Board members were provided with copies of the Business Report for January 2019. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Nathan Fretz, Business Manager, reported that as of January 30, 2020, the District had a cash balance of approximately \$53.7 million in the bank for all funds. Outstanding State payments totalled approximately \$2.8 million. County sales tax proceeds received during the month of January totalled approximately \$825,000. These were from sales taxes collected in October 2019. Mr. Fretz further reported that fiscal year-to-date receipts for the sales taxes are approximately \$3.3 million.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **9.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Gill provided the following Shout-outs and updates:

- Shout-out to ELC, Lanphier High School and Dr. Thurman for the evening's presentations
- Shout-out to Gina Romer, Grant Middle School teacher, for her nomination as a Golden Apple Award.
- This year's African American History Bowl is scheduled for Saturday, February 22 at the African American History Museum.
- The Springfield Public Schools Foundation will hold its Annual Dinner and Art Auction on February 22 at Erin's Pavilion at Southwind Park
- The Empowering All Learner's Conference is also scheduled for Saturday, February 22. Terrance Jordan will be the keynote speaker.
- Project SEARCH kicked off recently.

## **CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

### **10.1 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 10.2 through 10.4 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 10.2 through 10.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0.**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer  
Those voting "no": None

### **10.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2020**

**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 set of regular session and executive session minutes and directs the Secretary to include them in the official records of the Board of Education meetings.

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

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

### **10.4 Approval of Consultant Services for Blessed Sacrament**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, Springfield School District 186 is required to develop an annual calendar identifying pupil attendance days for the upcoming school year; and

WHEREAS, the Calendar Committee has reviewed and recommended adoption of the proposed calendars;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the proposed public school calendar for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years and directs the Superintendent to submit the adopted calendars to the Regional Office of Education for approval.

## **ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS**

### **11.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations**

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

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**William Ringer**) Moved, Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Those voting "aye":	Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer
Those voting "no":	None.
Those abstaining:	Johnson on the items listed on the "Summer School" document

### **11.2 Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Service Employees International Union Local 15**

Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU Local 15 for the 2019-2020 through 2020-2021 school years.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 has concluded bargaining of a new collective bargaining agreement with the Service Employees International Union Local 15; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the agreement have been tentatively approved by the bargaining teams of the Board of Education and Local 15;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 does hereby ratify the terms of that tentative agreement to be in effect for the 2019-2020 through 2020-2021 school years.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Judith Johnson**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 has concluded bargaining of a new collective bargaining agreement with the Service Employees International Union Local 15; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the agreement have been tentatively approved by the bargaining teams of the Board of Education and Local 15;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 does hereby ratify the terms of that tentative agreement to be in effect for the 2019-2020 through 2020-2021 school years'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Those voting "aye": McFarland, Miller, Ringer Johnson, Mares, Mathis,  
Those voting "no": None.

**11.3 Approval of a Resolution calling a public hearing to be held pursuant to the Bond Issue Notification Act concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell general obligation bonds of the District in an amount not to exceed \$11,000,000**

This resolution gives notice of a public hearing to be held February 18, 2020, pursuant to the Bond Issue Notification Act concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell general obligation bonds of the District in an amount not to exceed \$11,000,000.

**Resolution:** BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer  
Those voting "no": None.

**11.4 Approval of a Resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation alternate bonds of Springfield School District No. 186, Sangamon County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$75,000,000 pursuant to the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, as amended.**

This resolution gives notice of a public hearing to be held February 18, 2020, pursuant to the Bond Issue Notification Act concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell general obligation alternate bonds of the District in an amount not to exceed \$75,000,000.

**Resolution:** BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**William Ringer**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0** Abstain: **1**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0 - 1**

Those voting "aye": Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer  
Those voting "no": None.  
Those abstaining: Johnson

**11.5 Approval of a Resolution declaring the official intent of the Board of Education to issue bonds for the reimbursement of capital expenditures.**

Approval of the intent to use the proceeds of capital bonds issued to reimburse District funds for certain expenditures incurred prior to bond issuance.

**Resolution:** BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Micah Miller)** Moved, Member **(Anthony Mares)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer  
Those voting "no": None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**12.1 Next Regular Meeting — Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room**

**12.2 Upcoming District Events**

- February 17 – No School – Presidents' Day
- February 20 – 6th Grade Preview Night
- February 22 – Empower All Abilities Conference
- February 22 – AAHM Black History Bowl
- February 22 – SPSF Annual Dinner and Art Auction

**12.3 Freedom of Information Report**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. McFarland declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, February 18, 2020. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Scott McFarland, Vice President

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Julie Hammers, Secretary

Dated: February 18, 2020