

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

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on April 6 A.D., 2020, at 6:31 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: J. Michael Zimmers, President
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Judith Johnson
Tiffany Mathis
Scott McFarland
Micah Miller
Bill Ringer

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools

It was noted that all Board of Education members were in attendance via remote access, in keeping with the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. Superintendent Gill and Ms. Hammers joined the meeting from the Board of Education's regular meeting space at 1900 West Monroe, Springfield, Illinois.

CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President Zimmers called the meeting to order. He announced that in keeping with mandates from the State of Illinois, the evening's meeting is pared down to include only essential business. As such, several agenda items that are regularly included on the meeting agenda, have been removed including the Pledge of Allegiance and Board Salutes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 Approve the Agenda for April 6, 2020

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Bill Ringer**) Moved, Member (**Scott McFarland**) 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, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 President's Comments

President Zimmers 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 register to participate in the webinar. Additionally, he reminded those interested in addressing the Board that comments are limited to three minutes.

Mr. Zimmers thanked Superintendent Gill and her staff for how they prepared for the closure. He also thanked the principals for staffing buildings on a daily basis, teachers for their flexibility and dedication to their students and profession, students for their interest in and dedication to attaining an education, and parents for stepping up to provide additional support to their children during the closure.

It was noted that Mr. Mares joined the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gill provided the following updates:

- The District will likely receive an additional \$7.8 million from the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Funds can be used to provide: online learning, including for the purchase of hardware, software, and internet connectivity costs, meals to eligible students, services to special needs students that are different than typical services provided during in-person learning, mental health services and supports, summer learning, supplemental after school programs including to get students caught up, needs of individual school resulting from the closure including additional cleaning and supplies to minimize the spread of the virus once students return to school, efforts to partner with other partners to respond to the virus crisis, as well as other activities to maintain the operation and continuity of education. Mr. Nathan Fretz, Business Manager, reported that the State of Illinois has applied for the full amount of funding possible from the federal government. He indicated that there is a 30 day approval process. As such, the District does not expect to have any additional information regarding the exact amount of CARES Act funding for several weeks.
- Superintendent Gill thanked employees involved in the electronic device distribution for their efforts to help ensure all students have the tools they will need to participate in online learning. She reported that approximately 5,000 devices were distributed.
- Meal distributions are successfully providing over 4,400 meals per day to students in need. The Food Services Office is working to increase food delivery. An additional meal preparation site at Enos School will be added after Spring Break. This location will provide all of the food for the buses that serve the remote locations.
- The Central Illinois Food Bank will provide 500 families with groceries for Spring Break. Distribution of the groceries will occur at a variety of sites across town.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were enough electronic devices for students. Superintendent Gill reported that there were enough devices, but an order has been placed to purchase additional devices in the event that some of the issued devices are unusable upon return. She additionally reported that schools continue to work with families that need a device for their student. Families are encouraged to contact their school's principal if their student needs a device. She also reported that devices can be tracked. Families will be required to return the devices at the end of the school year.

Superintendent Gill reported that later in the meeting, action will be taken to approve an agreement with Canvas, a platform that will support online learning. She indicated that the platform will provide consistency across the District for learning. Both the University of Illinois and Lincoln Land Community College use Canvas for their online learning options. She reported that the contract is a one year agreement.

Superintendent Gill then gave an update on the sale of Health, Life, Safety and Alternate Revenue Bonds. She reported that sale of the bonds is yet to occur. The bond team is watching the market closely to determine the best time for the sale of the bonds. She and Mr. Fretz have had daily phone call updates with the team. She reported that the District may consider a change to the structuring of the bonds due to the economic impact to sales tax resulting from the restrictions outlined in the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. The restructuring will ensure the payments for the first three years of the bonds are \$8.3 million vs. \$10.4 million. She is also monitoring the property tax payment situation. She reported that property tax deadlines may have a one week extension before they are due but owners will not be penalized for late payments. This may result in a delay to payments to the District from those collections.

Ms. Johnson asked if any information about the amount of sales tax collected since the beginning of the crisis had been received. Mr. Fretz reported that he has been monitoring these collections, however, no new information has been received since the last Board Meeting's update.

There was some additional discussion regarding the bond sales.

Lastly, Superintendent Gill reported that staff are preparing to move to the online learning format. She reported that administration and the Springfield Education Association (SEA) are working together on this topic. She informed members that once Spring Break has ended student work will once again count toward the student's grade. Up until that point, student work could not count toward their grade per guidelines issued by the Illinois State Board of Education. Final details of the grading process are being worked out with the SEA. Per ISBE guidelines, districts are required to track if students have been engaged with their teachers. She reported that the overall focus is on doing no harm to students, ensuring that they are healthy and fed, and that they are engaged in meaningful learning activities that will help reduce any loss of learning due to the crisis. Ms. Johnson suggested directly contacting any teachers that may need additional support to move to the online learning format. Superintendent Gill reported that she has sent daily communications to all teachers and staff.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Zimmers reported that during the COVID19 crisis, the approach to Old and New Business must be modified. Per State of Illinois mandate, Old and New Business must be limited to emergency or time sensitive issues only.

5.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

5.2 New Business

There was no new business at this time.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

6.1 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 6.2 through 6.3 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Scott McFarland)** Moved, Member **(Micah Miller)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 6.2 through 6.3 as described in the corresponding resolutions'. It was noted that Ms. Mathis lost connectivity during this portion of the meeting. As such, she was unable to vote. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0.**

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

6.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of March 16, 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.

6.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable

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

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

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

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Scott McFarland)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented'.

Ms. Johnson expressed concern about some interview processes. It was noted that Ms. Mathis rejoined the meeting at this time. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": Johnson on F. (Certified) #9.

7.2 Approval of the Salary Agreement with the Springfield Principals' and Administrators' Association

Approval of the Salary Agreement with SPAA for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 has concluded bargaining of a new agreement with the Springfield Principals' and Administrators' Association; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the agreement have been tentatively approved by the bargaining teams of the Board of Education and Springfield Principals' and Administrators' Association;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 hereby accepts and approves that tentative agreement to be in effect for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Johnson**) Moved, Member (**Scott McFarland**) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 has concluded bargaining of a new agreement with the Springfield Principals' and Administrators' Association; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the agreement have been tentatively approved by the bargaining teams of the Board of Education and Springfield Principals' and Administrators' Association;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186 hereby accepts and approves that tentative agreement to be in effect for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers

Those voting "no": None

7.3 Approval of Salary Determination for Central Office Staff

Salaries for administrative staff are reviewed annually and set for the coming school years, including Central Office Staff.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends approval of the salaries for Central Office Staff for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Scott McFarland**) Moved, Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the salaries for Central Office Staff for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers

Those voting "no": None

7.4 Approval of Salary Determination for the Project SCOPE Coordinator

Salaries for support staff are reviewed and set for coming school years, including the Project SCOPE Coordinator.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends approval of the salary for the Project SCOPE Coordinator for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Johnson**) Moved, Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the salary for the Project SCOPE Coordinator for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

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

7.5 Approval of an Agreement with Instructure for the Canvas Online Instructional System

This resolution provides approval of a 3-year agreement with Instructure for subscription, implementation, training, and support of the Canvas cloud platform for e-learning. Total cost is \$184,012 spread over three fiscal years. Future funding is anticipated through a combination of Title I and CARES Act funds.

Resolution: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the proposal from Instructure for the three-year term subscription, implementation, training and support for the Canvas cloud e-learning platform.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Scott McFarland**) Moved, Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the proposal from Instructure for the three-year term subscription, implementation, training and support for the Canvas cloud e-learning platform'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 1. The motion **Carried. 6 - 1**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": Miller

7.6 Approval of the Preparation of the Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Budget

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

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of School District No. 186 in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, that Mrs. Jennifer Gill and Mr. Nathan Fretz are hereby appointed to prepare a tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, which tentative budget shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Johnson**) Moved, Member (**Scott McFarland**) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of School District No. 186 in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, that Mrs. Jennifer Gill and Mr. Nathan Fretz are hereby appointed to prepare a tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, which

tentative budget shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

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

7.7 Approval of a Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

The budget is being amended to reflect changes to revenue and expenses in various areas. The public hearing and adoption will occur on June 1, 2020.

Resolution: WHEREAS, a Board of Education may from time to time find it necessary to amend its budget; and

WHEREAS, Section 17-1 of The School Code of Illinois provides for such amendments; and

WHEREAS, the District has more accurate data because of the updating of certain information, which became available after the original budget was approved in September of 2019;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to amend the School District's Approved Budget for FY 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Tentative Amended Budget be made available for public inspection in the School District's offices located at 1900 West Monroe Street, Springfield, Illinois, for a period of not less than thirty (30) days beginning the 1st day of May 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board is directed to cause proper and legal notice of the availability of the Tentative Amended Budget for inspection to be published; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public hearing on the Tentative Amended Budget be established for 6:30 p.m. on June 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at any time during this period of examination the Tentative Amended Budget that is on file might be further revised or amended.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Scott McFarland**) Moved, Member (**Micah Miller**) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'WHEREAS, a Board of Education may from time to time find it necessary to amend its budget; and

WHEREAS, Section 17-1 of The School Code of Illinois provides for such amendments; and

WHEREAS, the District has more accurate data because of the updating of certain information, which became available after the original budget was approved in September of 2019;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to amend the School District's Approved Budget for FY 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Tentative Amended Budget be made available for public inspection in the School District's offices located at 1900 West Monroe Street, Springfield, Illinois, for a period of not less than thirty (30) days beginning the 1st day of May 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board is directed to cause proper and legal notice of the availability of the Tentative Amended Budget for inspection to be published; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public hearing on the Tentative Amended Budget be established for 6:30 p.m. on June 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at any time during this period of examination the Tentative Amended Budget that is on file might be further revised or amended'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, March 16, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

PUBLIC COMMENT

9.1 Click here for information about public comment during the virtual meeting

To register to provide comment during the Board Meeting. Please click the link below (or copy and paste into a browser).

Registration URL

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jco4fxbUTxGwOqvi3AuZEw

The meeting will be available to view live on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SPSchannel22>

No registration required to view only.

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Zimmers declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, April 20, 2020. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

J. Michael Zimmers, President

Julie Hammers, Secretary

Dated: April 20, 2020