

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, June 1, 2020 (6:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on June 1 A.D., 2020, at 6:15 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Scott McFarland, President
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary
Nicole Irlam, Assistant Board Secretary

Judith Johnson
Tiffany Mathis
Micah Miller
Bill Ringer
J. Michael Zimmers

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools
Grace Beyers, Student Board Member

It was noted that all Board of Education members were in attendance via remote access, in keeping with the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. Superintendent Gill, Ms. Hammers and Ms. Irlam 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 McFarland 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)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) Moved, Member (**Bill Ringer**) 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)'

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

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

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:50 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that four Board members were present. Mr. Zimmers and Ms. Johnson joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Once the Executive Session adjourned, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Miller were unable to connect via Zoom immediately. Ms. Mathis, Mr. McFarland, Mr. Ringer and Mr. Zimmers joined the meeting upon reconvening. Ms. Johnson joined the meeting at 6:51 p.m. and Mr. Miller rejoined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1 Approve the Agenda for June 1, 2020

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Moved, Member (**J. Michael Zimmers**) 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: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Mathis, McFarland, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.1 President's Comments

President McFarland 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. He then 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.

On behalf of the full Board, Mr. McFarland saluted the faculty and staff that have worked on graduation ceremonies for the three high schools. He thanked those staff members and congratulated the graduating seniors.

Next, Mr. McFarland made a statement about the killing of George Floyd, the need to address racism and the need for systemic change. He called on other elected officials to commit to reform community service and bring about racial equity. He highlighted the three District students that recently led protests for racial justice and equity.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

5.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gill provided the following updates:

- Congratulations to the over 720 seniors that graduated over the weekend. Each was highlighted in a virtual graduation ceremony, as well as given the opportunity to walk across a stage and have pictures taken at their school, while adhering to social distancing guidelines. She thanked FOX Illinois and WICS Newschannel20 for their help to celebrate this year's senior class.
- She addressed the importance in the role of education to confront and dismantle racism. She committed to standing with and in support of the African American community as she leads the school district through the important work of addressing racism.
- She thanked the staff at each high school for their work to prepare for the graduation ceremonies.
- The Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology is offering school districts across the state the opportunity to obtain free high speed internet access. She provided some additional information about the service and indicated that additional information will be provided in the near future.
- She reported that Dr. Lance Thurman will be providing an update later in the meeting on transportation. She directed each of the Board members to a powerpoint attached to the Electronic School Board.
- She directed Board members to check her weekly communication for more information related to the summer feeding program, including the site locations. She directed the community to visit the District website for more information on the program, as well as summer school.

There was some additional discussion regarding the timing of when Board members were provided with the Transportation powerpoint.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

President McFarland 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.

6.1 Old Business

Mr. Ringer asked about the use of the Canvas platform. He reported that several individuals had reached out to him with concerns about perceived mandatory use of the platform. Superintendent Gill reported that teachers are not required to use the platform. Ms. Johnson asked if the platform will be mandatory at some point in time in the future. Superintendent Gill reported that teachers are going to be provided with professional development on the platform over the course of the next year with the hope that everyone will then become more comfortable with it enough to use it routinely. She indicated that the platform has never been mandatory for teachers.

6.2 New Business

There was no new business at this time.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

7.1 Transportation Update

Board members were provided with copies of a powerpoint presentation on the Transportation Update. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Dr. Lance Thurman, Coordinator of Transportation Services, provided the presentation. Dr. Thurman reported that bus service is provided for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade who live more than 1.5 miles from school or whose route to school includes an Illinois Department of Transportation designated hazardous area. High school students that live more than 1.5 miles from school and that same distance from their boundary school or access point for public transportation also qualify for bus services. Special Education and Early Start students are also provided transportation services. Services are provided to all students participating in class field trips, student activity trips and athletic competitions.

Dr. Thurman went on to report that 22 elementary, 5 middle and 3 high schools, as well as Douglas Alternative, Lawrence Alternative, the Springfield Learning Academy, the Early Learning Center and students from District schools, Sacred Heart Griffin and Calvary Academy that attend the Capital Area Career Center are provided transportation services.

First Student provides these services for the District. They are the largest school bus service provider in North America. The District will be in the first year of a three year contract with the company, once the contract is approved. The company provides the buses, drivers, monitors, mechanics and all other operating functions. The company operates 180 buses daily to the District, with 6,500 daily student riders. This does not include services provided for field trips. Of those 6,500 riders, 5,400 are regular education students, 1,100 Special Education students, 300 vocational education students, 500 Early Start students. There are also 160 homeless routes provided to support students identified as homeless. These routes amount to approximately 2.4 million miles traveled annually, using 325,000 gallons of fuel.

Dr. Thurman then provided information regarding First Student's bid which was accepted during the February 18, 2020, Board of Education meeting. He indicated that the total cost of the contract for 2020-2023 school years amounts to \$39.6 million. There is a one year increase of 8%. First Student's bid was 9% lower than the next lowest bid. Dr. Thurman reported that there were two areas in the bid where First Student was significantly lower than other bidders, the minimum bus charge and the extracurricular charge. Each of these carry a 3% increase, as do years two and three of the contract. The District does have the opportunity to extend the bid for an additional two years with a 2.5% increase. The cost increase over the life of the contract is \$1.7 million, which is \$1.1 million less than the next lowest bidder.

Next, Dr. Thurman reported that the company will provide 76 new buses in year one at a cost of \$6.384 million, which they absorb. The fleet will have tablet technology and updated digital cameras on each bus. Starting wages for drivers will increase to \$19 per hour and the company is adding an additional site management person. Other services include full support for the First View App (GPS) and First Acts App (Discipline) for grades K-12, as well as tele-matrix data, which is tablet data in graphic format that will provide the school district with the percentage of on time arrivals and other data.

Dr. Thurman indicated that the contract with First Student does include a Force Majeure Provision, which will provide options to discuss any undetermined issues that affect services due to the COVID 19 crisis. Additionally, the school closure notification time has been set at 5:45 a.m. from the previous 6:00 a.m. The contract includes technology updates, the additional management position and 76 new buses the first

year, 6 buses the second year and 2 buses the third year. The student discipline reporting timeline has also been moved up which will be beneficial for school administrators dealing with student discipline.

With respect to the return on investment during the COVID 19 crisis, the District has seen a savings to the transportation budget of \$366,000 and will see an additional \$131,000 savings over the summer. First Student is working to develop cleaning protocols for the fleet. Dr. Thurman then detailed repairs and maintenance that had occurred to portions of the fleet during the COVID19 crisis. He indicated that the route preparation for the fall has begun, with a willingness to remain flexible. He indicated that the COVID 19 crisis has helped with emergency preparedness.

Superintendent Gill reported that the approval for the contract will be brought to the Board for consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Ringer asked what the average age of the fleet will be once the new buses are incorporated. Dr. Thurman reported that after year one, 67% of the fleet will be from 2018 or newer. He reported that the industry standard is to replace buses at 12 years of age but the District asked bidders to ensure that no buses older than 10 years of age are in the fleet providing its services. Ms. Johnson expressed concern about the length of time provided to drivers and monitors to report discipline. She asked that communication related to discipline be given to school administration the same day and that the written report have the new 24 hour guideline. Dr. Thurman reported that drivers and monitors have the ability to report discipline immediately, if it is possible to safely do so.

Student Board Member

Ms. Beyers thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. She reported that the Roundtable has remained busy during the pandemic, helping with locker clean out at the middle schools and creating a library of videos to help students with remote learning in the fall, if necessary.

PUBLIC HEARING

8.1 Public Hearing on the FY20 Amended Budget

Resolution: That the Board of Education adjourns into the Public Hearing on the FY20 Amended Budget and that upon conclusion of such hearing, the Board shall immediately reconvene into open session.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Moved, Member (**Bill Ringer**) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education adjourns into the Public Hearing on the FY20 Amended Budget and that upon conclusion of such hearing, the Board shall immediately reconvene into open session'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

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

The meeting adjourned into the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Board members were provided with copies of the FY20 Amended Budget. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Mr. Fretz provided a brief overview of the changes to the amended budget since it was first put on display in April.

Mr. McFarland then opened the floor to discussion by members and public comment.

There was no public comment or additional discussion at this time.

Regular session resumed at 7:48 p.m.

BUSINESS REPORT

9.1 Business Report

There was no business report at this time.

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 10.5 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**J. Michael Zimmers**) Moved, Member (**Judith Johnson**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 10.2 through 10.5 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, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": None

10.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of May 18, 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 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment

Bid #20-11 — Roof Replacement – Addams School

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion:

Bid #20-11 — Roof Replacement – Addams School

10.5 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment

Bid #20-06 — Partial Roof Replacement – Springfield High School

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion:

Bid #20-06 — Partial Roof Replacement – Springfield High School

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented with one change as follows:

- Summer SchoolPage 1, I. Approval of Personnel for Special Education Extended School Year Services Summer 2020: – Teacher - \$28.99 per hour – 90.50 hours – Total of \$2,623.60 – effective June 5 through June 26, 2020: (10-1200-0000-1142-541-0). Rudd, Lindsey is being hired for this position. Her name was inadvertently omitted off of this agenda item.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Johnson**) 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, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting “no”: None

11.2 Approval of a Resolution for the Adoption of the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

The original FY 2020 budget was adopted in September 2019. Additional information is known regarding the District’s revenues and expenditures. This allows us to adopt a budget that is reflective of what our actual revenue and expenditures are projected to be as of June 30, 2020.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, has accepted an Amended Budget for the fiscal year 2020, and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Amended Budget on the 1st day of June 2020, notice of said hearing having been given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said District that the Amended Budget for FY 2020 is hereby adopted for said fiscal year.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member(**Michael Zimmers**) Moved, Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, has accepted an Amended Budget for the fiscal year 2020, and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Amended Budget on the 1st day of June 2020, notice of said hearing having been given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said District that the Amended Budget for FY 2020 is hereby adopted for said fiscal year'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, June 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. — Board Room

12.2 Freedom of Information Act Report

12.3 Alliance Legislative Reports– 101-16, 101-17, 101-18, 101-19, 101-20

Available at <https://www.iasb.com/govrel/alrmenu.cfm>

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Sherina Douglas addressed the Board regarding diversity, tolerance and the importance of education in addressing these topics within the community.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. McFarland declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, June 15, 2020. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Scott McFarland, President

Julie Hammers, Secretary

Dated: June 15, 2020