



# SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

|                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MEETING:<br>Regular Board Meeting                                                     |                                                                                     | DATE:<br>January 14, 2025                                                   | TIME:<br>7:00 p.m.                                             | LOCATION:<br>John W. English Administrative Center                                                                                         |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
| BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:                                                                |                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashanti Bland,<br>President                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware-<br>DeVaull,<br>Vice President      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie L.<br>Smith-Thomas,<br>Secretary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk,<br>Treasurer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani<br>Johnson,<br>Trustee                                                                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jillian<br>Holloway,<br>Trustee                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole<br>Denson,<br>Trustee                                                                                                  |                                                                                      |
| ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:                                                               |                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer<br>Green, Ed.D.<br>Superintendent        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanissa<br>Freeman,<br>Deputy<br>Superintendent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James<br>Jackson, Chief<br>of Staff     | <input type="checkbox"/> , Chief of<br>Talent Mtg              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc<br>Ingram, Chief<br>Financial<br>Officer                                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca<br>Luddington,<br>Manager of<br>Pupil<br>Accounting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sommer<br>Caldwell-<br>Carruthers,<br>Executive<br>Director of<br>Instruction                                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph<br>Corace, Chief<br>Operations<br>Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April Rogers,<br>Exe. Dir., State<br>and Federal<br>Programs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela<br>Smith, Exec.<br>Director of<br>ISSN   |                                                                             |                                                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minutes: Carolyn Foster,<br>Executive Assistant to the<br>Superintendent and the Board<br>of Education |                                                                                                 | Student Board Representatives:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Micaela Beckford, UHSA<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Spragins, Southfield A&T |                                                                                      |

## 1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bland at 7:00 p.m. Board President Bland read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. All Trustees were present. Ron Sallade and M1 Studios are handling the technical support. Members of the EDN Team are present. Thank you to the community for being here. We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 2. Board Matters

- We will start the evening with reelected Trustee Smith-Thomas and newly elected Trustee Denson taking the Oath of Office.
- Thank you to the Honorable Judge Kameisha Gant for stepping in at the last minute.

### a. Oath of Office: Nicole Denson

Honorable Judge Kameisha Gant performed the Oath of Office for Trustee Nicole Denson.

### b. Oath of Office: Leslie L. Smith-Thomas

Honorable Judge Kameisha Gant performed the Oath of Office for Trustee Leslie L. Smith-Thomas.

- Congratulations to Trustee Leslie L. Smith-Thomas and Trustee Nicole Denson!
- President Bland moved to the Report of the Student Board Representatives.

## 3. Report of the Student Board Representatives

### a. Micaela Beckford – University K-12 Academy (U K-12)

- December 12, 2024 started our FASFA week. Thank you to Ms. Green, Ms. Padgett, and Ms. Foster for putting this together.
- December 13, 2024 – Elementary Sing-a-Long
- December 17, 2024 – Middle School Band Concert
- December 18, 2024 – The Grinch made his way through every classroom from K-12 spreading his own unique holiday cheer.
- December 19, 2024 – Winter Concert
- Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Deck the Doors/Halls. A special shout out to the freshman class and staff for their excellent execution.
- December 20, 2024

- Alumni College Day
- Student vs. Staff/Alumni Basketball Game
- Middle School Field Trip: Skate World of Troy
- December 23 – January 3, 2025 – Winter Recess – No School
- January 8, 2025 – Hot Cocoa Sale (during lunch)
- January 13, 2025 – Winter iReady Assessment begins
- January 15 – January 17, 2025 Exams (half days for high school students only)
- January 17, 2025 – Senior Ice-Skating Trip @ Campus Martius
- January 20, 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
- January 21, 2025 Records Day – No School
- January 22, 2025 – Semester 2 begins
- January 27, 2025 – Collaborative Monday
- Ms. Nelson provides math tutoring for 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade scholars before school starts on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Congratulations to the middle school boys' basketball team for their win over the Levey Jaguars. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders won 30-16 and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders won 36-23. The middle school boys' basketball team won their game against the Birney Bobcats. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades won 22-7 and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade fought hard but lost 28-35. They played the Thompson Tigers on January 9, 2025.
- Michigan First Student Banking has started.
- The Social Committee came out and shared breakfast with us.
- There will be hall sweeps conducted for middle schoolers, due to the excessive tardiness.
- Mrs. Smith coordinated and the PTSA sponsored the Adventures in Reading that brought learning to life for our K-5 scholars.
- Our Social Committee hosted a festive Christmas breakfast for our teachers.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- February 14, 2025: U K-12 5K Club – Love on Wheels roller skating field trip.
  - February 14, 2025: Varsity Debaters – Lola and Daelynn will be going to Harvard University for a debate.
- b. Eric Spragins – Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology**
- Eric is excited to announce that he has completed his senior courses.

#### **Board of Education Recognition Month**

January is School Board Recognition Month. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Education members for your leadership, tireless efforts, and unwavering commitment to advancing our district.

#### **Recent Events and Updates**

December 19, 2024 – Annual Lip Sync Event

December 20, 2024 – CHEAT CODES - Your Future, Your Way

January 9, 2025 – Grade Level Meeting

- Principal Reese and the administrative team hosted a grade-level meeting. With just five months left in our final year, seniors were reminded to focus on academics, maintain good attendance, and strive for success.
- During the meeting, student voices were highlighted, with 90% of the feedback noting a positive shift in the building's culture. Students reported visible improvements in the overall atmosphere.

#### **Senior Updates – Class of 2025**

- Senior Dues: The deadline to purchase graduation caps, gowns, and diploma covers is January 31, 2025. The cost is \$95. Students can use the QR code posted around the school to pay.

**National Honor Society**

- We proudly welcome 17 new members into our chapter of the National Honor Society. Their formal induction ceremony will take place on January 31, 2025.
- Eric stated that he is one of those new members.

**Business Professionals of America (BPA)**

- Congratulations to Micah Owens and Brooklynn Williams of the Southfield BPA Chapter!
- Micah Owens, Chapter President, placed 7th in Presentation Individual Competition.
- Brooklynn Williams, a new member, placed 2nd in Entrepreneurship.
- Both members will compete at the BPA State Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from March 13–16, 2025.

**Warrior Athletics***Wrestling*

- Our Wrestling team has excelled in its first year back, securing first place as a team at Waterford Mott.
- Key athletes, including Aden Saunders, Jakari Dixon, Keith Finley, and Karson McKenzie, brought home medals.
- Special recognition goes to Jeffrey Nicholson, Athlete of the Week, for his impressive performance as a freshman.

*Boys Basketball*

- Despite a few tough losses, the team has shown determination and is preparing for a strong comeback.

*Girls Basketball*

- The team has a 5-2 record, a three-game winning streak, and demonstrated community spirit by adopting a family for Christmas.
- Athlete of the Week, Kianna Harrison, is recognized for her outstanding heart and teamwork.

*Competitive Cheer*

- The team achieved 3rd place recently and is gearing up for the 3rd Annual Beach Blast on January 11, 2025.

*Bowling*

- The younger Bowling team continues to show steady improvement.

*Swimming*

- The Swim Team is striving for success, with Tanner Harrington expected to qualify soon.

*Unified Basketball*

- A joy to watch, the Unified Basketball Team fosters teamwork and inclusivity.
- They face Lake Orion and Berkley in upcoming games.

**College and Career Support****Upcoming Events:**

- January 22, 2025 – University of Detroit Mercy College Admission Presentation (12:30 PM–1:30 PM)
- January 29, 2025 – "Invest in Your Future: Create Your FSA ID Event" during A Lunch (10:50 AM–11:30 AM) and B Lunch (11:50 AM–12:30 PM)
- January 30, 2025 – Baker College Admission Presentation (12:30 PM–1:30 PM) Registration Methods: Scan QR codes on flyers around the school or the display board outside the College and Career Center.
- Visit the College and Career Center during school hours.

**Parent Resources:**

- Parents are encouraged to register for upcoming FAFSA webinars:
- January 15, 2025, at 6:30 PM
- January 28, 2025, at 12:30 PM

**Additional resources and information:**

- Michigan Student Financial Aid Resources

### **College Panel**

- 9th and 10th graders will attend a College Panel on February 11, 2025, in the Auditorium.

### **Wolverine Pathways**

- Ninth graders with a 3.0 GPA or above are invited to attend a Wolverine Pathways presentation on January 22, 2025.

### **Third Annual Blood Drive**

- Student Council will host the 3rd Annual Blood Drive on January 31, 2025.

### **Important Dates**

- 1st Semester Finals: January 15 – January 17, 2025
- Senior Pinning: February 12, 2025
- Mid-Winter Break: February 17 – February 21, 2025
- Spring Break: March 31 – April 4, 2025
- Senior Exams: May 27 – May 28, 2025
- Prom: May 29, 2025
- Graduation: June 6, 2025
- President Bland moved back up to Board Matters.
- The Board was provided gifts from Principal Hickman and Stevenson Elementary for National School Board Recognition.
- Thank you to Principal Hickman and the Stevenson Elementary School family!
- Condolences to everyone who lost someone over the break. You are in our hearts and prayers!
- SA&T Marching Band will not be marching at the MLK Walk because of the inclement weather.
- There was a reminder to the Trustees to pull their MASB transcripts. Secretary Smith-Thomas would like to see Southfield Public Schools Board of Education get back to being an Honorary Board.

## **4. Report of the Superintendent**

- Dr. Green thanked the Trustees and presented them with a gift for National School Board Recognition Month.
- a. Employee of the Month**  
January: LaShawn Gary, Band Director  
December: Gwendolyn Whittington-Reese, Instructional Support Coordinator
- b. Partner of the Month**  
January: Mygelic Rivera, GDI Staff Member  
December: Leslie Singleton, GDI Supervisor
- c. Thompson K-8 Academy Presentation**
  - Community Snapshot: IB Programs (PYP & MYP), ISSN Classrooms, ESL Teachers/Paraprofessionals, Eight Extended Learning Clubs, Spanish (2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade), Four Core Plus Classes, Therapy Dog, and PTSA
  - Academics: School Wide 30 Days of Practice
    - November 2024 – Vocabulary Terms/Academic Language
    - December 2024 – Identifying the Question
    - January 2025 – Charts and Diagrams
    - February 2025 – Talking to the Text/Word Problems
    - March 2025 – Citing Textual Evidence/Identifying Important Information in Word Problems
    - April 2025 – Expository (identifying/explaining the process to solve problems), Descriptive, Persuasive, Narrative
    - May – Critical Thinking Questions
    - June 2025 – Correct and Reflect

- Academics: iReady Data Tracking – Scholars and teachers track the data. iReady Challenges and Incentives – Scholars that pass 16 iReady Math and 16 iReady Reading lessons at 75% in November and December will earn a free educational field trip. For January and February, scholars will earn a pizza party.
- International Baccalaureate at Thompson K-8: PYP – K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and MYP – 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Units of Inquiry
- PYP Exhibition – 5<sup>th</sup> grade scholars engage in an in-depth collaborative inquiry through the lens of a transdisciplinary theme.
- Community Project: Action Stage - through the lens of a global context, 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholars actively engage in service learning by addressing a need within their community.
- SEL and Culture: Morning greetings in the courtyard and car line, reciting the Thompson Pledge, building walkthroughs and check-ins with scholars and staff, house system with slide certification, free parent coaching sessions, Inner Explorer and Navigate 360 Programs, Rock-Paper-Scissors, themed days, spirit weeks, Calming Corner for scholar and staff support, Sister-to-Sister, and Project Manhood initiatives
- Stakeholder Engagement:
  - PTSA – established in October 2024
  - Parent Survey – December 2024
  - Family Events – PT Conferences, Holiday Concert, Bingo Night, Oktober Harvest Fest
  - Partnerships – Empowerment Church, Tappers Jewelry, Pawsitive Paws, Thyssenkrupp, United Way and Costco
- Looking Ahead: Transitioning to an IB-Community School, expanding partnerships, upgrading facilities, hosting Career Readiness Events and extended learning opportunities, strengthening collaboration with SA&T and U K-12, and enhancing training for new staff in the IB practices
- d. Staffing Update Presentation**
  - Chief Jackson gave a warm welcome to the new Communication Coordinator, Tyler Schmidt.
  - Chief Jackson indicated that we have hired a new Assistant Athletic Director, Robert Blackwell.
  - Dr. Green went over the PowerPoint presentation for the staffing updates per building.
- e. Bussey's Director's Report**
  - Director's Report for December 2024
  - **Enrollment:** Early Head Start – 14 enrolled, 2 vacant, 7 waitlisted  
Head Start – 81 enrolled, 47 vacant      GSRP – 63.5 enrolled, 16.5 vacant
  - **Drops:** Early Head Start – 2 students transitioned to Head Start; 2 new students are starting in Early Head Start in January 2025      Head Start – 0      GSRP – 0
  - **Children Receiving Support Services:** 2 IEPs/IFSPs, 2 Referrals, 13 Compliance HS, 1 Compliance EHS
  - **Average Daily Attendance (ADA)** – 84% ADA
  - **Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Month of December 2024**
    - Breakfast, lunch, and snack meals provided during the month of October 2024 totaled 4,593.
- Compliance**
  - **Education:**
    - Implementation of High Scope Curriculum
    - COR Advantage Data Collection Period 2 – 11/18/2024 to 3/2/2025
    - Weekly Tips for Teachers – Academic and Social Emotional
    - Teacher Post Observation Conferences
    - Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader Program – implemented to support literacy development
  - **Family Engagement:**
    - Policy Council and Parent Representatives greeting students and families daily

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Donuts with Dads – December 10, 2024
- Winter Showcase – December 11, 2024
- Bike Giveaway – Krista Kares Foundation – December 19, 2024
- Toys Giveaway – Krista Kares Foundation – December 20, 2024 (toys distributed to all students)
- Link Sheets – educational resources provided to parents to support and extend their child's learning experiences from the classroom
- **Communications:**
  - [Reporting Child Health and Safety Incidents ACF-OHS-IM-24-06](#)
- **Enrollment Updates:**
  - The ERSEA team is actively processing applications and continuing to enroll children for the 2024-2025 program year.
- **Vacancies:**
  - 1 Assistant Teacher resignation
  - 4 Teachers CDA (Assistant Teachers) – 1 Head Start, 2 Head Start/GSRP – two assistant teachers are in the hiring process
  - 1 Family Service Worker
- **InKind Contributions for December 2024**
  - July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024: \$119,607.44
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Staff Mental Health and Wellness Day – Friday, January 10, 2025
  - Dentist R Us, Thursday, January 16, 2025
  - Multicultural Day – Monday, January 27, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- The vacancies in Head Start will be reduced with the approval of the vacancy grant. The 47 vacancies will decrease.
- Dr. Thompson states that she can provide the data as it relates to kindergarten readiness.
- Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled during the February Showcase.
- Kindergarten and Pre-K teachers have been together once to discuss the scholar's trends as it relates to Kindergarten Roundup.
- Bussey is still partnering with the Grandparents Program.
- The staffing shortages is the reason that Bussey is faced with student vacancies.
- It takes someone about 2-3 weeks to complete the hiring process.
- We usually get a general reason for the resignation from the staffing company.
- The staff handbook is developed through the Bussey leadership.
- The evaluations are handled by Bussey leadership.
- Our staff will be working remotely on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 due to the frigid weather conditions.

## 5. Public Participation

- Participant #1: Bussey Center complaints
- Participant #2: Partnering with the State of Michigan Labor and Economic Opportunity Office for teacher apprenticeship programs and staffing at Bussey, as well.

## 6. Action items

### a. Consent Agenda

#### Approval of Minutes:

- i. December 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
- j.

ii. December 12, 2024, Closed Session/Superintendent Evaluation

- Vice President Ware-DeVauil moved to open and approve Consent Agenda Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Secretary Smith-Thomas to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauil, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Denson, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Bland, and Trustee Belk

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Report 63-39 Personnel Action Report**

- #5: glad to see this one.
- #2: sad to see this one.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauil moved to open and approve Report 63-39 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Secretary Smith-Thomas to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Denson, Trustee Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVauil

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Information Items**

**a. Report 63-40 Budget Revision (non-Federal Match Waiver) for 2023-2024: Revised**

- A grantee must contribute 20% of the overall program budget as a non-federal share (match). Programs may request a non-federal match waiver if they were unable to meet the 20% as required by the Office of Head Start. The application requests a waiver for the non-federal share, totaling \$93,643.00.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauil moved to open and approve Report 63-40 Budget Revision (non-Federal Match Waiver) for 2023-2024 and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.
- This is to amend the Non-Federal Match Waiver with the accurate amount.

President Bland asked Secretary Smith-Thomas to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauil, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Denson, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Bland, and Trustee Belk

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Report 63-41 Applied Innovation Copier Refresh, Phase 1: General Funds – Allyson Dewar**

- The district will be refreshing the first phase of copy machines for a lower cost through MITN Pricing. MITN Pricing is available to all publicly funded entities in Michigan that was bidding out through the City of Farmington Hills. This contract was re-bid in January of 2023 and awarded to Applied Innovation. The proposed pricing reflects the new agreement that Southfield Public Schools can utilize. The pricing is published on the City of Farmington Hills website. The current Phase 1 fleet was acquired utilizing a Muni-Lease at a monthly expense of \$7,581.19. Utilizing the updated MITN pricing and Ricoh equipment, the proposed monthly lease payment is \$4,014.48. This presents a reduction of \$3,566.71 per month from the previous monthly lease expense. SPS will also see a reduction in the monthly service expense. With the current printers and Phase 1 copier service agreements, SPS is paying \$5,014.84 monthly. With the proposed solution, SPS will pay \$2,050.38 monthly. This presents a monthly savings of \$2,964.46 on the service agreements SPS staff will

continue to have access to high quality dependable copy machines with appropriate functionality and service. Applied Innovation has provided the district exceptional support and customer service, regularly touching base with the technology department.

- Vice President Ware-DeVauil moved to open and approve Report 63-41 Applied Innovation Copier Refresh, Phase 1 and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Secretary Smith-Thomas to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Denson, Trustee Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVauil

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

**c. Financial Report**

**d. Monthly Bill Disbursement**

- The Financial Report and Monthly Bill Disbursement will be added to the agenda for the Board Retreat.
- There will be an extensive conversation covering a few organizational items.
- Add Trustee board goals to the Board Retreat agenda.

**8. For the Good of the Order**

- Treasure Belk has experienced some loss as well and she still showed up for the district at the board meetings.
- Dr. Carey has also loss her father.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauil works hard and assists our scholars and staff at U K-12.
- Thank you to this Board for doing the work.
- MLK Peace Walk on Monday, January 20, 2025.
- Some upcoming events: Thompson K-8 Spelling Bee, middle school basketball games, and the band is always performing somewhere.
- Thank you to the Principals for bringing our students back with a smile on their face and to transportation for getting our scholars back and forth on these icy roads.
- Beginning March of 2025, eastbound I – 696 will close completely from Lahser to I – 75, for 2-years.
- Happy Birthday to Vice President Ware-DeVauil: December 28<sup>th</sup> and President Bland: January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Future Meetings**

- a. Saturday, January 25, 2025, Board Retreat
- b. Tuesday, January 28, 2025, Special Board Meeting

**10. Adjournment**

President Bland adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 9:14 p.m.

**Approved on: February 11, 2025**

**Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Board Secretary**