



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Board Meeting	DATE: April 8, 2025	TIME: 7:00 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashanti Bland, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaull, Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, Treasurer
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani Johnson, Trustee
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, Trustee
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Denson, Trustee
ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Green, Ed.D. Superintendent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanissa Freeman, Deputy Superintendent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Jackson, Chief of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> , Chief of Talent Mtg
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Luddington, Manager of Pupil Accounting
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sommer Caldwell- Carruthers, Executive Director of Instruction
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> April Rogers, Exe. Dir., State and Federal Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Smith, Exec. Director of ISSN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minutes: Carolyn Foster, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board of Education	Student Board Representatives: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Micaela Beckford, UHSA <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. Trustee Smith-Thomas is absent this evening. Trustee Johnson arrived at 7:02 p.m.

2. Board Matters

- Our political climate is changing daily.
- We are pausing on taking applications for Head Start for the next school year.
- We have lost the federal funding for our Oakland County funded district nurses that work in our school buildings.

3. Report of the Student Board Representatives

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

- 3/12/2025: PD Day (No School for Students)
- 3/17/2025 – 3/21/2025: Scholastic Book Fair and Spring Spirit Week
- 3/21/2025 – 3/25/2025: Senior Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser
- 3/24/2025 – 3/28/2025 Career Week (Daily Activities)
 - 3/24/2025: First Responder Day (K-12)
 - 3/25/2025: A Day with Pathful (K-12)
 - 3/26/2025: Family Career Day (K-12)
 - 3/27/2025: College and Career Exploration Fair (6th – 12th)
 - 3/28/2025: Dress for Success (K-12)
- 3/28/2025: 2025 Grammy Performance
- 3/31/2025 – 4/4/2025: Spring Break
- 4/7/2025 – 5/2/2025: M-Step Testing begins
- 5/1/2025: Decision Day
- 5/3/2025 (Tentative Date): Senior Banquet
- 5/5/2025 AP Exams begins
- 5/12/2025 – 5/16/2025: Senior Week

- 5/19/2025 – 5/22/2025: Senior Spirit Week (Spirit Days TBD)
- 5/20/2025 – 5/22/2025 Senior Exams
- 5/22/2025: Senior Clap Out & Senior Sunset at Belle Isle
- 5/29/2025: Prom – “Enchanted Oasis”
- 6/2/2025: Graduation rehearsal (auditorium), book and chromebook drop-off, cap and gown pickup, alumni shirt and yard sign distribution
- 6/6/2026: Graduation at 2:00 p.m. @ Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre

Recent Achievements and Announcements

- 3/1/2025: Shoutout to the U K-12 JV and Varsity Cheer Teams: 1st Place at the Southfield Middle School Competition
- Art Excellence: Davin Jackson (11th grade) and Nahla Banks (8th grade) for advancing in the Umoja Fine Arts Gallery Black History Month Contest
- Girls’ Volleyball Team: won multiple games this season
- Spelling Bee Success: 6th Grader Axel

b. Eric Spragins – Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology (SA&T)

- April 8 – April 11, 2025: Testing Week
- National Honor Society: 17 inductees have been introduced and welcomed.
- In March, SA&T held its annual Student vs. Staff Basketball Game.
- “We Are One Pep Rally” is a joint celebration between SA&T and U K-12. It is in its final stages.
- SAT Bootcamp: students receive preparation for their performance on the exam.
- Career Fair and Schools to Tools Event: welcomed 40 organizations.
- April 15, 2025: Lunch & Learn follow-up to the Career Fair and Schools to Tools
- April 17, 2025: Glow Ups for Girls Workshop
- April 17, 2025: Financial Literacy Workshop: financial responsibility for college-bound students.
- College and Career Center Updates: students are asked to monitor scholarship and college application deadlines closely.
- FASFA Submission Deadline: June 30, 2025 @ 11:59 p.m. CST
- Spring Athletics Update:
Softball 1:1 Upcoming games include Renaissance and Farmington.
Girls Soccer: The team continues to show resilience. They face Harper Woods and River Rouge this week.
Baseball: Opening Day is Wednesday, April 9, 2025 vs. Harper Woods.
Track & Field: Official season launch is next Wednesday, April 16, 2025.
Girls Tennis: scheduled to begin this week.
Boys Golf: the team is prepared to compete this season.
- Battle of the Bands: SA&T Marching Band will participate on Saturday, April 12, 2025 in Oak Park.
- April 16, 2025: Professional Development – No school for students
- April 18, 2025: Good Friday – No school
- Youth Civic Engagement Opportunity: Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib has launched a Youth Advisory Council for high school students (9th – 12th grade) who are passionate about leadership and civic engagement.
- Dr. Green mentioned the Superintendent’s Senior Scholarship Banquet on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at the Pearl Center. It is for all seniors that have an overall 3.5 or better GPA. We will celebrate their success. Each of these seniors will be invited along with two (2) guests. The invitations will be sent out electronically on April 9, 2025. Families have two (2) weeks to confirm their attendance.

4. Report of the Superintendent

a. Math Bee Participants – Sommer Caldwell-Carruthers & Helen Jackson & Celeste Johnson

Adler Elementary: David Sharp, Kayden-Zan Wright

Thompson K-8: Alex Rowe, Rashard Jackson, Van Peng, Violet Jones, Jordan Reed

Stevenson Elementary: Brielle Hollaway, Grant Brady

University K-12: Austyn Maschat, Ryder Bateast, Adasyn Reed, Austin Sims, Elijah Sartor, Jordyn Johnson, Armani Echols, Japheth Heloo, Axel Castillo-Lozano, Messiah Dickerson, Kema Anyadike, Jayden Davis

Birney K-8: Julian Austin, Knowledge Williams, Jason Tnes

McIntyre Elementary: Lincoln Snow, Princess Jordan

Levey Middle: Aaliyah Layne

- Thank you to Mrs. Caldwell Carruthers and her team for the great job they are doing.
- b. Employee of the Month – Hope Bocker: McIntyre Elementary School**
- c. Partner of the Month – Andrew Gaughan: Oakland Schools, IT Department**
- d. Wayne State C2 Pipeline Presentation – Tracey Spencer**
 - **What We Think About C2:** Three students gave their testimonial about the benefits of being in the Wayne State C2 Pipeline program.
 - **Things We do:** Student-led activities, field trips, and curriculum
 - **Youth Council** has four members.
 - **Extra Activities and GCU:** On March 27th, C2 Pipeline took a trip to Grand Canyon University in Arizona to tour and partake in daily activities.
 - Thank you to Ms. Spencer for the partnership and the work you do in our district.
- e. McIntyre Elementary School (MES) Presentation – Principal Orlando Bogins and Staff**
 - Principal Bogins touched on McIntyre's many Points of Pride.
 - He shared a few of the student and parent testimonials.
 - McIntyre's Key Area of Focus: engaging instruction, family connections, school climate, social and emotional learning, and rigor and fun.
 - MES Proficiency: 13% grow in math between card marking 1 and card marking 3; 14% growth in Reading proficiency between card marking 1 and card marking 3.
 - Mrs. Bush utilizes manipulatives while teaching object/number correspondence.
 - Mrs. Croitori taps into kinesthetic learning while exploring the Area Formula.
 - Ms. Purdy's 4th graders conducted as experiment where they compared 2 different types of "lava", thick and thin. They used this information to figure out why volcanoes have different shapes and how the type of lava explains why some volcanoes explode.
 - Mrs. Cuthrell teaches genres, media, library information and so much more.
 - Ms. Miller showcases student artwork throughout the school.
 - Mrs. Ault is using innovative glow in the dark rhythm sticks to work on practicing rhythm within her third-grade music class.
 - iReady Go Schoolwide Challenge: students race the iReady Go track each week as a grade level. Students have a goal of 3 lessons a week for each subject. The grade gets a score based on the percentage of students that meet their weekly goal.
 - School Climate impacts student engagement, increases academic achievement, and improves morale and retention.
 - 5th Grade Leadership: Breakfast Brigade, Hall Monitors, Dismissal Delegates, Reading Buddies, and Daily Announcers
 - Exotic Zoo: animals providing an interactive learning experience for students and staff.
 - "Pink Out": students released balloons in memory of those lost to cancer and in honor of our survivors.
 - Community Involvement: Celebrity readers from the Southfield Police Department, Southfield Public Schools, and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. brought engaging stories to our scholars for March is Reading Month.

- Social Emotional Learning boosts self-awareness, social skills and leads to reduced behavior issues.
- Mindfulness is something all our classrooms focus on. We use Inner Explorer, yoga, and other strategies to teach students mindful coping strategies to be mentally strong.
- f. Staffing Update Presentation**
 - For the sake of time, Dr. Green went over the Adler Elementary slide.
 - Dr. Green acknowledged Principal Deane and her team.
 - She and Principal Deane are very sensitive after the loss of a long-time teacher after 25+ years of service. Her class will be covered by two (2) substitute teachers that were hand selected by Mrs. Simone Babridge.
 - President Bland recognized those that came out to support/assist Adler Elementary staff and students.
- g. Legislative Updates: Dr. Green**
 - The ISSN nurses are still here in place.
- h. Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) – Acknowledgement of Accomplishment**
 - Vice President Ware-DeVaul received Level 4 – Master Board Member Award
 - Thank you and congratulations Vice President Ware-DeVaul!
- i. Bussey's Director's Report – Dr. Connie Thompson**
 - Director's Report for March 2025
 - The regional offices have been closed and there are two (2) Interim individuals that have been assigned to Washington, D.C. to support the country.
 - **Enrollment:** Early Head Start – 16 enrolled, 10 waitlisted
Head Start – 80 enrolled, 16 vacant GSRP – 69.5 enrolled, 10.5 vacant
 - **Drops:** Early Head Start – 0 Head Start – 0 GSRP – 0
 - **Children Receiving Support Services:** 4 IEPs/IFSPs, 2 Referrals, 1 In Process, 1 R.E.E.D., 10 Compliance HS
 - **Average Daily Attendance (ADA) – 77% ADA**
 - **Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Month of February 2025**
 - Breakfast, lunch, and snack meals provided during the month of March 2025 totaled 5,947.
- Compliance**
- Education:**
 - Implementation of High Scope Curriculum
 - COR Advantage Data Collection Period 3 – 3/3/2025 to 6/2/2025
 - Virtual High Scope 2 training for lead teachers and assistant teachers
 - Weekly Tips for Teachers – Academic and Social Emotional
 - March is Reading Month Readers – Marc Ingram, April Rogers, Dr. Lanissa Freeman, Jessica Hines, and Instructional Coaches, Southfield Resource Officers, Officer Hood, Officer Walker, Officer Jarrett
- Family Engagement:**
 - Kindergarten Signing Day – Tuesday, March 18, 2025
 - Parent Readers for March is Reading Month
 - Link Sheets – educational resources provided to parents to support and extend their child's learning experiences from the classroom
 - Family Volunteers – creating bulletin boards, assisting in classrooms, reading to students, daily living skills
- Enrollment Updates:**
 - The ERSEA team is actively processing applications and continuing to enroll children for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 program years.
- Vacancies:**
 - 1 Lead Teacher (GSRP)

- 5 Teachers CDA (Assistant Teachers) – 2 Head Start, 2 GSRP, 1 Head Start/GSRP
- **InKind Contributions for March 2025**
 - July 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025: \$221,968.20
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Parents vs. Staff Basketball Game – Saturday, April 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., @ Southfield A&T, Auxiliary Gym
- We are looking at blended and braided plans for our Early Head Start, Head Start and GSRP programs.

5. Public Participation

- Participant #1: U K-12 parent is grateful.
- Participant #2: April is the month of Financial Literacy.
- Participant #3: Spoke about U K-12 ranking and McIntyre Elementary School being an excellent school.

6. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- i. March 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
- ii. March 18, 2025, Special Board Meeting
- iii. March 20, 2025 Special Board Meeting
- Trustee Holloway moved to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Denson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, and Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

b. Report 63-65 Personnel Action Report

- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to open and approve Report 63-65 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

7. Information Items

a. Report 63-66 BP #31 Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology Roof – Bond Funds

- The project scope includes a new roofing system covering the entirety of the building and the construction of a new masonry parapet wall. The total amount of Bid Package #31 \$5,110,520.00 plus a contingency amount of \$511,052.00 for a total of \$561,572.00.
 - Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 63-66 BP #31 Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology Roof – Bond Funds and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.
- President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Bland, Trustee Ware-DeVaul, and Trustee Johnson
 Nays: Nil
 Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas
 Motion carried

b. Report 63-67 BP #40 Stevenson Elementary Site Renovations – Bond Funds

- This work incorporates site drainage improvements, upgrade of storm water management system, replacing site concrete, and asphalt paving. The total award amount for BP #40 is \$1,082,000.00. The contingency total is \$108,200.00 bringing the construction total to \$1,190,200.00.
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report BP #40 Stevenson Elementary Site Renovations and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVaul, Trustee Bland, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, and Trustee Holloway
 Nays: Nil
 Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas
 Motion carried

- For clarification for our viewing audience, there are several ranking systems utilized by the State of Michigan as well as national ranking systems. Research all of the ranking systems for accuracy. We do not announce anyone's retirement until we receive something official. The information that was submitted in our PQ Application to the State outlined the things that we are committed to do.

c. Report 63-68 Bus Garage Environmental Clean Up – Operations Budget & 90% Musta

- To comply with our latest FAR the district must test groundwater quarterly and submit samples for analysis. Arch Environmental personnel will revise the Final Assessment Report for the site based on these sample findings. The original FAR was withdrawn from review by EGLE in September of 2024. The reason for withdrawal was based on discussions between EAG, SPS, and EGLE. During these discussions EGLE staff stated that new Risk-Bases Corrective Action (RBCA), criteria would become available in the spring or early summer of 2025, EGLE staff stated that new RBCA criteria would be less stringent. Arch will also prepare all the paperwork necessary to receive reimbursement from Musta. \$37,810.00 for quarterly groundwater sampling and \$17,415.00 for revised FAR or \$55,225.00 which up to 90% Musta reimbursable.
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 63-68 Bus Garage Environmental Clean Up and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.
- The testing goes to the area where the busses are parked.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Denson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Ware-DeVaul, and Trustee Bland
 Nays: Nil
 Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas
 Motion carried

d. Report 63-69 Staffing & Payroll Services – ECE SubHub

- Head Start Performance Standard 1302.21 Center-based option. A program must maintain appropriate ratios during all hours of program operation, except:
- (i) For brief absences of a teaching staff member for no more than five minutes; and,

- (ii) During nap time, one teaching staff member may be replaced by one staff member or volunteer who does not meet the teaching qualifications required for the age.
- An Early Head Start or Migrant or Seasonal Head Start class that serves children under 36 months old must have two teachers with no more than eight children, or three teachers with no more than nine children.
- A class that serves a majority of children who are three years old must have no more than 17 children with a teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers.
- A class that serves a majority of children who are four and five years old must have no more than 20 children with a teacher and a teaching assistant or two teachers.
- Impact amount of \$100,000.00.
- For Information only to receive additional information
- Committee of the Whole Meeting coming up.

e. Financial Report

f. Monthly Bill Disbursement

- Federal funding is considered a risk because of its uncertainty.
- Thank you to Mr. Ingram for implementing the electronic payment system.
- Thank you to Dr. Green for keeping the S&P rating at an A.

8. For the Good of the Order

- Spring Enrollment Fair on May 8, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at SA&T.
- There are lots of programs happening in our school buildings.
- Make sure your scholars are getting to school on time. We have testing and instruction going on in the start of classes.
- Trustee Johnson states that he would like to continue the work of the Sustainability Committee. Trustee Denson indicated that she wants to join the Sustainability Committee.
- May 1, 2025 is the deadline for the Summer Discovery Program. Families can register through MiStar.
- We have started testing and it is imperative that scholars arrive to school on time.
- Students must use their district provided Chromebook for testing. They will need to use them until the second week of May.
- K-5th students will not need their Chromebooks. We have enough Chromebooks in class for them. 6th-11th grade students will need to bring their Chromebook. We do not have enough Chromebooks for all students.
- Please provide some information to parents and students about the need for their Chromebooks for testing.

9. Future Meetings

- a. April 18, 2025, Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
- b. Tuesday, April 22, 2025, Special Board Meeting/Study Session @ 6:00 p.m.
- c. Wednesday, April 23, 2025, Professional Development – No School for Students
- d. Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Superintendent's (Senior) Scholarship Showcase @ 6:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

President Bland adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 9:26 p.m.

Approved on: April 22, 2025
Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Vice President

Proposed for Adoption