



# SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Board Meeting	DATE: February 10, 2026	TIME: 7:00 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Love Smith-Thomas, Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaull, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Denson Treasurer
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani Johnson, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, Trustee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenae' Anderson, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Devaughn Stephens, Chief of Talent Mtg
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Lightsey, Executive Director of Academic Advisement & SEL
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sommer Caldwell- Carruthers, Executive Director of Instruction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer
<input checked="" 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"/> Paris Whitman, SA&T <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chidi Nnaji, UK12

## 1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Belk at 7:00 p.m. Board President Belk read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Smith-Thomas has an excused absence. EDN members were in the audience. M1 Studios is handling our technical support. We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 2. Board Matters

- Secretary Ware-DeVaull mentioned if any of our families are in need of assistance, please reach out to Southfield Public Schools (SPS) for assistance. We want you to know that you are not alone. We are here to help you.
- The board moved to the Bond Committee Report.
- a. OCSBA Government Relations Committee**
  - Each year OCSBA asks every Member District Board of Education to appoint Trustees to OCSBA's Government Relations Committee (GRC): one delegate and one alternate. The appointed Trustees will be asked to attend GRC meetings, serve as your Board's contact for legislative communications and share information with your Board.
  - Secretary Ware-DeVaull will be the delegate and Trustee Holloway will be the alternate for the OCSBA Government Relations Committee.
  - The board moved to the Report of the Student Board Representatives.
- b. Bond Committee Report: Trustee Jillian Holloway**
  - Trustee Holloway states that the committee will be having a virtual meeting for Vendor Outreach on February 12, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
  - The bond committee will also be hosting a Vendors Fair on February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology (SA&T) auditorium for all the contractors that wish to apply for contracts.
  - Through move management for UK12, the elementary scholars will be going to Vandenberg Elementary, the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will be going to Eisenhower Elementary and the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will be going to Southfield Regional Academic Center (SRAC).

- There will be a traffic survey for UK12 families to assist with traffic flow when it reopens.
- There are a lot of moving pieces.
- c. **Board Sustainability Report: Trustee Amani Johnson**
  - The most recent meeting took place virtually, on January 30, 2026. SPS electric bus program remains on schedule. The charging infrastructure, including the tunneling and transformer pad are complete. We expect the first buses by mid-March. A two to three week testing period will follow before full deployment. The fire and police departments have received safety briefings and walkthroughs of the new equipment putting us in a great position as it relates to emergency preparedness and inter-departmental coordination.
  - At KLC, the recycling program has been fully launched and it is successful. They have six designated bins and a grade specific student responsibility model in place. Students are actively participating in sorting and collection efforts. KLC is a model for what recycling can look like districtwide. The Operations Team is planning to include this in their budget to expand it to additional campuses while pursuing grants to assist in covering the costs.
  - They are exploring solar energy models which would allow the district to install solar panels without upfront costs, maintenance obligations and financial risks. They are working on applying for EPA funding that can support solar installations, EV charging stations and expanded recycling costs.
  - They have drafted a comprehensive climate resilience and sustainability policy which they plan to bring to a study session this spring. The Sustainability Committee is looking to reduce and ultimately eliminate our carbon footprint over time. They would like to have information regarding their work on the District's website with more frequent updates via newsletters, social media and other communication channels in use by the District.
  - President Belk moved back up to the OCSBA Government Relations Committee.

### 3. Report of the Student Board Representatives

#### a. Paris Whitman: Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology (SA&T)

- February is a meaningful and exciting month for our school community. As we celebrate Black History Month, our school is honoring this history through spirit week, student activities, and learning opportunities.

#### **Sports Highlights:**

- Our competitive cheer team had an amazing week. They placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the League Competition and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the league. Congratulations to Coach Stancie Napoleon, who was named Coach of the Year. The team will compete at Districts on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Rochester Adams.
- Our wrestling team had an incredible season. In their second year, they became League Champions. Keith McKenzie Jr. placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, Aiden Saunders and Jeffrey Nicholson took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Kenneth Brooks led the program in placements for the second year in a row while placing 1<sup>st</sup>. Our three young lady wrestlers will compete at Districts on February 11, 2026 at Brother Rice.
- Our boys bowling team remains undefeated 7-0 league record and are 8-4 overall. Kalen Henderson bowled a 299. Aiden Mason has the highest average and series in the league, and Jaysa Taylor has the second highest average.
- Our boys basketball team is on a winning streak. One of their biggest wins came against Harper Woods. Marquese Winston and Donovan Morris helped secure the win.
- Our girls basketball team had a similar game against Troy. Erica Sheridan and Deziree Battle were key in this win, alongside Khyion Barber who led with 22 points and 8 rebounds.
- Our swim team is working hard and preparing to finish the season strong on February 25, 2026.
- Our Marching Warriors competed at the MSBOA Regionals on February 6, 2026. They were also invited to perform at Little Caesars Arena for the Detroit Pistons' HBCU/NPHC Night, with part of the ticket sales donated to the band.

#### **Leadership and Activities Highlights:**

- Student Council attended Regionals on January 29, 2026. They placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the Student Showcase. Congratulations to Oneyka Ballard, who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Student Voice competition.
- This week is spirit week, celebrating Black History Month and Valentine's Day. Monday: Best Dressed Day, Tuesday: Historical Figure or African American Artist Day, Wednesday: HBCU Gear Day, Thursday: African Pride Day, and Friday: Pink and Red Day.
- BPA Week is this week and includes daily activities. The week will end with a BPA Week Party on Thursday.
- The Culinary Program held a Valentine's Bake Sale on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, selling mini pies, brownies, and cookies.
- The Warrior Den, Student Council, and TV Production are working together to sell Valentine's Day baskets, sing-o-grams, and photo packages through February 11, 2026. They will deliver the baskets, songs, and photo packages on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- NHS is hosting a Little Caesars pizza kit fundraiser throughout February. Orders can be placed on the Instagram page.
- The NHS will host a Student vs. Staff Volleyball game during 6<sup>th</sup> hour. Sign up during A and B lunch.

#### **Academic Highlights:**

- The J&F Advisors are visiting the CTE Business Finance class every two weeks. They also started MACRS, the Minor Accounting Career Research Society. They have partnered with the Finance Advisory Program. Makayla Miller and Jasmine Lackley are part of the group.
- Students participating in the C2 Pipeline Program will be attending the Wayne State Detroit campus for their STEM lab experience.
- All category winners from our science related competitions will have their projects displayed at the District Science Fair on February 11, 2026 at UK12.

#### **Safety and Security Highlights:**

- February 11, 2026, is Count Day. Count Day affects school funding and resources.
- Mid-winter Break is from February 16-February 21, 2026 NO SCHOOL
- February has been an exciting month for our school.
- There is a lot to be proud of as a Warrior!

#### **b. Chidi Nnaji: University K-12 Academy (UK12)**

- We are in a new card marking and hopefully the report cards put a smile on everyone's face.
- The application period is still open until Friday, February 13, 2026. Please see our school's website.
- UK12's Science Fair took place on February 4, 2026. Students were finding a new love of STEM.
- The District's Science Fair is on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at UK12.
- The Girls Growing Stronger – STEM/Mentoring program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students concluded their six week afterschool program. They focused on self-esteem, self-love, positive identity, confidence, leadership skills, problem solving, and visions for the future.
- This initiative was a parent led program that encompassed 25+ scholars who benefited from her commitment to become a community partner with University K-5.
- UK12 has been ranked as Pre AP/AP Double Platinum by College Board. UK12 is an AP Capstone school, with the AP Capstone diploma available.
- On January 10, 2026, UK12 hosted the Academic Games welcoming schools from all around the tri-county area.
- We would like to give thanks to Ms. Nelson, Dr. Wilson and the countless parent volunteers that gave time so UK12 could truly shine.
- The U community would like to thank everyone that supported the PTSA sponsored Chipotle fundraiser on January 6, 2026. We raised \$400.00.
- The middle school cheerleaders placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the January 10, 2026 competition.

- Our middle school boys basketball teams had another amazing season this year. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team was undefeated this season and brought home another championship trophy. They won 29-17 against the Thompson Tigers.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team played hard but came up short against the Birney Bobcats with a score of 26-30. Even with this loss they had a commendable season coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- Our Optimist Club has been recognized with a Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Service Awards.
- Our U seniors participated in a dance clinic at Central Michigan University (CMU).

#### **Student Spotlights:**

- Aurelia understands the importance of reading and math. She advanced two grade levels in reading and an additional grade level in math.
- Christian B. understands the importance of reading and math. He showed the greatest overall improvement on the i-Ready assessment earning the largest increase in scores in both subjects.
- London is as smart as she is confident in her leadership. This year she discovered that her gift is in presentation and her confidence truly shows.

#### **Our current plans start with:**

- Black History Month
- Mid-winter Break is February 16-February 20, 2026
- Black History Month Presentations (MS – HS) Wednesday, February 25, 2026
- March is Reading and Women's History Month

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

- Dr. Green mentioned that both Paris Whitman and Chidi Nnaji are representing SPS on a WDIV episode about how social media affects the lives of teenagers. Congratulations to both of them.
- a. Partner of the Month – February:** Natalie Allen, Kitchen Manager (SFE) at Vandenberg Elementary aka (Birney North)
  - Our scholars have received a food service survey and we will have the results to the Trustees in a relatively short period of time.
- b. Employee of the Month – February:** Katie Sackett, Finance Department at JWE
  - Governor Whitmer signed into law that cell phones will not be allowed in classrooms during the 2026-2027 academic school year. There will be some local controls over some specific areas. People have realized that having cell phones in the classroom has become a distraction to the learning environment.
  - We have two final interviews with candidates for the Head Football Coach position, scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026. Dr. Green will share with the board on Friday, February 13, 2026, the final recommendation.
  - We changed student passwords today working to stay ahead of the scams that are targeting our scholars. We have had scammers reach out to some of our scholars to ask for banking information. A teacher had her account hacked. We truly apologize for the inconvenience that it has caused, but we want to keep our scholars safe.
- c. Enrollment, Recruitment and Retention Proposal – Dr. Green**
  - SPS is not the only school in the state that is losing students. The State of Michigan loses about 12,000 students every year. Oakland County over the last decade has lose 35,000 students. According to the SIMCOG report there will only be 6,000 additional school aged children in Oakland County collectively over the next 25 years. We must provide excellent customer service to our families. We have a customer service survey we will be issuing to our families that will be coming out on Friday, February 13, 2026 for their perspective schools. Our School of Choice window is still open at the U and our other schools throughout the district. To get information about our programming, log onto our website or contact our Pupil Accounting Office.
- d. Staffing Update Presentation – Dr. Green**

- Dr. Green presented the Staffing Update Presentation.
  - Thank you to Mr. Stephens and his hard working department, Talent Management.
  - The customer service survey will provide feedback on the satisfaction of our families in their respective schools.
  - e. **Bussey's Director's Report – Dr. Ursula Kelley-Wash**
  - **HighScope Preschool Wheel of Learning:**
    - **Assessment:** Teamwork; Daily Anecdotal Notes, Daily Planning; Child Assessment
    - **Adult-Child Interaction:** Interaction Strategies, Encouragement, Problem Solving Approach to Conflict
    - **Daily Routine:** Plan-Do-Review; Small-Group Time; Large-Group Time
    - **Learning Environment:** Areas; Materials; Storage
    - **Active Learning:** Initiative Key Developmental Indicators
  - **Enrollment Report:** Total enrollment is 145 scholars.
  - **Average Daily Attendance (ADA):** Early Head Start (EHS): 83%, Head Start (HS): 84%, HS/GSRP: 83%, GSRP: 83%
  - **Child and Adult Care Food Program:** CACFP is a federal program that provides reimbursements for meals and snacks to eligible children and adults. Meals and snacks distribution totaled: 3,888.
  - Thank you to SFE's Jordan Groves and Kim Tomrell.
  - **Monitoring Report: Child Find Form**
    - Timely Initial Evaluation Total: 18 – February 2026
    - Early Childhood Support Data Driven
  - **Education:**
    - Child Observation Record (COR) – Period 2 (Ends – March 1, 2026)
    - Home Learning Packet
    - Educators Empowering Educators – Staff Meetings
    - Weekly Teacher/Staff Newsletter: Growing Leaders at Bussey
  - **Black History Month:** Black History Program
  - Bussey Center for Early Childhood Education Children's Museum: Celebrating the African American Experience! Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
  - In Kind: February 6, 2026 - \$102,973.22
  - **Bussey Center for Early Childhood Education: Q & A**
  - The Kindergarten Singing Day was well attended. The elementary school principals and their kindergarten team, transportation and enrollment were all present.
  - Thank you to Dr. Freeman and Dr. Green for all of their support and help.
- 5. Public Participation**
- Participant 1: Michigan Education Justice Coalition; ballot initiative; Invest in My Kids – funding for our public schools; need volunteers; have over 200K signatures
  - Participant 2: National Council of Jewish Women; voter registration for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Participant 3: Closing schools – bonds and funds; student enrollment low; SpEd issues; financial reports presented by the Financial Manager during the board meeting
  - Participant 4: UK12 PTSA meeting; UK12's mindful transition; reminding parents why their students should stay in the district
  - Dr. Green spoke, not addressing anyone directly. She stated that during the Legislative Briefing we shared all of our finances with the entire community. The only empty building we have is currently under contract.

## 6. Action Items

### a. Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes

- i. December 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
  - ii. January 6, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Organizational Meeting
  - iii. January 10, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Board Retreat
  - iv. January 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Student Hearing
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Anderson.
  - A student hearing is held for students that violate the Student Code of Conduct. They come before the board to explain their actions and the Board of Education has the ability to exclude that student from the district for 180 school days.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Anderson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

**b. Report 64-47 Personnel Action Report**

- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 64-47 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Holloway.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVaul, Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, Trustee Anderson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

**7. Information Items**

**a. Report 64-48 Countywide Millage Resolution**

- The School District hereby requests that Oakland Schools submit to its electors the question of a regional enhancement millage proposal for 1.50 mills for a period of six (6) years, 2026 to 2031 inclusive, at the school election to be held on August 4, 2026, pursuant to a ballot proposal substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A. The School District hereby approves the ballot wording of the regional enhancement millage proposal substantially in the form attached hereto at Exhibit A, provided that such ballot wording is subject to revision and finalization by Oakland Schools as may be necessary. The Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of the Board of Education of Oakland Schools. This Resolution is only a request to Oakland Schools and the regional enhancement millage proposal will only be submitted to the voters if Oakland Schools receives a request to submit the question to the voters from its Constituent School Districts representing a majority of the combined membership of its Constituent School Districts on-or-before March 31, 2026. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.
- The vote is to have the countywide millage added to the ballot for the community to decide whether to accept it or not.
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 64-48 Countywide Millage Resolution and it was supported by Trustee Holloway.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Anderson, Trustee Denson, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Trustee Belk, Trustee Holloway  
 Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas  
 Motion carried with 4 yes and 2 no votes.

- Trustee Belk does not think it is necessary.
- Trustee Holloway does not understand it completely.

**b. Report 64-49 Henry Ford Southeast Michigan Community Health Interagency Agreement**

- This amendment to memorandum of understanding (“Amendment”) is entered into by and between Henry Ford Southeast Michigan Community Health f/k/a Ascension Southeast Michigan Community Health and Southfield Public Schools and is effective as of the date of last signature. “The parties acknowledge that Henry Ford Southeast Michigan Community Health operates in accordance with the Ethical and Religious Directives and the principles and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church (“Directives”). It is the intent and agreement of the parties that neither this MOU nor any part hereof shall be construed to require Henry Ford Southeast Michigan Community Health to violate said Directives. All parts of this MOU will be interpreted with the intent that Henry Ford Southeast Michigan Community Health remains consistent with the Directives.
- This interagency agreement is at no cost to the District.
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 64-49 Henry Ford Southeast Michigan Community Health Interagency Agreement and it was supported by Trustee Holloway.
- The Henry Ford Community Health Center’s door is adjacent to Door 13.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ware-DeVaul, Trustee Anderson

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

**c. Report 64-50 Systems Integrator Services – Macomb Mechanical Incorporated: Bond Funds**

- The Project Team recommends awarding the Systems Integrator Services for the project to Macomb Mechanical Incorporated, pending final review of terms by district legal counsel. The total contract award recommendation is \$107,663. This recommendation will be funded out of 2022 Bond proceeds. The recommendation is further defined as follows: \$48,539 BAS Master Systems Integrator Services, \$3,600 BAS MSI (Alt #1), \$15,000 BAS MSI (Alt #2), \$4,864 Preventive Maintenance Services Year One BAS, \$4,960 Preventative Maintenance Services Year Two BAS, \$15,200 100 Banked Service Hours Year One, \$15,500 100 Banked Service Hours Year Two Total: \$107,663 Total Contract Award Recommendation
- This ties all the buildings heating, cooling and things of that nature together so that the operations team can manage it from one central location.

**d. Report 64-51 French Associates, Inc Amendment 8: Bond Funds**

- The amendment is to assist and advise Southfield Public Schools in the selection and procurement of the AE Basic Services to include furniture services at Thompson K-8 International Academy. Compensation for these services is a fixed fee of \$102,996.70 plus the previous authorized compensation of \$5,283,828.00 totals \$5,386,794.70.
- FFE – Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 64-50 Systems Integrator Services – Macomb Mechanical Incorporated and Report 64-51 French Associates, Inc Amendment 8 and it was supported by Trustee Holloway.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Denson, Trustee Anderson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Ware-DeVaul, Trustee Johnson

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

**e. Financial Report**

**f. Monthly Bill Disbursement**

- Thank you to President Belk for answering all of Treasurer Denson’s questions regarding the financial reports. She has nothing to report out. Everything is good within our financials.

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

- Dr. Green mentioned events happening in the District for Count Day.
- On March 28, 2026, we are doing a farewell stroll on the Southfield-Lathrup Campus from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. The alum can take their final stroll through the building.
- We are wishing traveling mercies for everyone traveling during the Mid-winter Break.
- The Warriors Marching Band are traveling to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras parade.
- Parents make sure your students are on time and present all day for Count Day.
- We will have the data from the surveys at our study session.
- UK12 parents please check your email for additional information sent out today.
- Thompson K-8’s Black History Wax Museum is February 25, 2026 for 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Shout Out to Levey Middle and hosting their Amazing Shake program.
- Parents, please fill out the survey coming out this Friday, February 13, 2026.

**9. Future Meetings**

- Wednesday, February 11, 2026, Spring Count Day
- Monday, February 16-Friday, February 20, 2026, Mid-Winter Recess: NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Study Session @ 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 7, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Role of the Board in the Non-renewal Process at JWE @ 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 11, 2026, State of the District at Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology in the Fieldhouse @ 6:00 p.m.

**10. Adjournment**

- President Belk adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 8:26 p.m.

Approved on: February 24 , 2026

Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Secretary