



# SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Board Retreat	DATE: January 10, 2026	TIME: 9:00 a.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center				
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie Love Smith-Thomas Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVault, 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 type="checkbox"/> Lanissa Freeman, Deputy Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/> James Jackson, Chief of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Devaughn Stephens, Chief of Talent Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Luddington, Manager of Pupil Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/> Sommer Caldwell- Carruthers, Executive Director of Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> April Rogers, Exe. Dir., State and Federal Programs	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Paris Whitman, SA&T <input type="checkbox"/> Chidi Nnaji, UK12			

## 1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Belk at 9:23 a.m.. Board President Belk read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Holloway arrived at 9:25 a.m. Trustee Johnson left at 11:17 a.m.

## 2. Welcome & Ground Rules

- Ms. May, the MASB facilitator of the Board Retreat, introduced herself to the Trustees and spoke to her background.

## 3. Icebreaker & Introduction

- Each of the Trustees introduced themselves and spoke a little bit about themselves and their roles and tenure on the board.

## 4. Expected Outcomes

- Ms. May explained what the Trustees should take away from the information presented during this session.

## 5. Building Consensus

- The Trustees worked through a scenario outlining team building.

## 6. Next Steps

- There was discussion on the next steps for the board.

## 7. Recess

- The Trustees held recess from 12:00 p.m. – 1:19 p.m.
- Dr. Green and the Trustees took a tour of the building and workspaces at Plante Moran.

**8. Board Goals**

- Mid-year Review: Early childhood initiative, administrative guidelines – June 2026
- Policy review/updates: Ongoing – 2 times a year
- Board Operating Procedures: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Anderson and Trustee Holloway – 60 days
- Trustee Education and Readiness – 1 conference, 2 courses, all new trustees complete 100 level courses in the first nine months or travel is restricted, return to Honor Board status based on MASB certification year
- Trustee Holloway moved to open and approve the board goals: Mid-year Review, Policy review/updates, Board Operating Procedures, and Trustee Education and Readiness and it was supported by Treasurer Denson.

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

Ayes: Trustee Anderson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Ware-DeVault

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion carried.

- Dr. Green gave her annual familial disclosure indicating that she would have family members working in the district and they are not paid by our local, state or federal dollars.

**9. Superintendent Goals**

- Retention: Move management, transportation, specific to transitional grades (elementary to middle and middle to high school) 90% for all three subgroups – December 2026
- Communication (Goal 4): Website development, social media sites, email, robo calls – December 2026
- Math & Reading Growth: CSI/MiCip to guide this measurement of student goals – December 2026
- SPS Foundation: Re-establish Board of Directors, develop bylaws, Nicole Denson – December 2026
- Trustee Holloway moved to open and approve the superintendent goals: Retention, Communication (Goal 4), Math & Reading Growth, and the SPS Foundation and it was supported by Treasurer Denson.

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

Ayes: Trustee Anderson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Ware-DeVault

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion carried.

**10. Adjournment**

- President Belk adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Board Retreat at 2:45 p.m.

Approved on: February 10, 2026
Yvette Ware-DeVault, Board Secretary

Proposed for Adoption