



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- DeVaul, 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-DeVaul to call for the vote.

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

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-DeVaul to call for the vote.

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

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

Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Secretary