



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Board Meeting		DATE: January 13, 2026	TIME: 7:00 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center			
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie L. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanissa Freeman, Deputy Superintendent	<input 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"/> 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"/> 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. All Trustees were present. M1 Studios is handling our technical support. All EDN Team members are in the audience. We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Board Matters

a. Oath of Office: Jenae' Anderson

- We are ready to welcome our newest board member, Jenae' Anderson.
- The Honorable Judge Kameisha Gant performed the Oath of Office for Trustee Jenae' Anderson. Judge Kameisha Gant spoke kind words about Trustee Jenae' Anderson's character.

b. Proclamation Presentation: Oakland County Commissioner Yolanda Smith-Charles

- County Commissioner Yolanda Smith-Charles presented the Trustees with a proclamation from Oakland County.
- We want to recognize Councilwoman Ashanti Bland. Thank you for all of your support and we support and love you in your new role.
- Happy New Year Everyone! Vice President Smith-Thomas gave an overview of the steps the Board took to fill the board vacancy position. She referenced the candidate interviews, Organizational Meeting and the Board Retreat. During the Board Retreat, the Trustees approved the board and superintendent goals.
- **Board goals:** mid-year review, policy review/updates, and board operating procedures
- Vice President Smith-Thomas indicated that through MASB she has reached the sixth out of seven level, which is the Master Diamond level.
- **Superintendent goals:** retention, Communication (Goal 4), math and reading growth, and SPS Foundation
- Treasurer Denson acknowledged Principal Baldwin, Vice Principal Pritchett, Chief Jackson, and Dr. Green for the successful Birney K-8 move to the two different buildings (Vandenberg Elementary: K-5 grades and Southfield Regional Academic Center: 6-8 grades).

3. Report of the Student Board Representatives

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

Happy New Year!

- The start of a new year brings fresh opportunities, new experiences, and renewed motivation across our school. January has already been a busy and successful month for our students.

Sports Highlights:

- Our boys basketball team is on the road headed to Waterford to compete and on Friday, they have a home game against Berkley.
- Our girls basketball team is hosting home games against Bloomfield Hills and Troy, as they continue their winning streak.
- Our wrestling team has been on fire. They finished 2nd place at the Bishop Foley Tournament and earning eight medals, including a 1st place finish by Kenneth Brooks. We are also proud of how our girl wrestlers represented Warrior pride at the first-ever Tri-County female only competition.
- The boys bowling team remains undefeated, with Aiden Mason bowling a game high 279 against Harper Woods. Jaysa Taylor placed 2nd in OAA Singles, Aiden Mason finished 5th, and the team earned 3rd place at the Early Bird Tournament.
- Our cheer team hosted the annual Beach Blast competition with over 20 schools in attendance. Our cheerleaders delivered a strong performance. The team also competed at Troy on Monday earning a 3rd place finish.
- The Warrior Band performed at UK12 on December 16, 2025, participating in the Band Jamboree on December 20, 2025, and taking part in the annual Canada parade in Essex. The band has proven that music truly has no limits.

Leadership and Activities Highlights:

- The senior board's Lip Sync show was a major success and continues to be a favorite school tradition. A special thank you goes to the Class of 2026 advisors, Mr. Green, and Mrs. Crosby, along with the Dance Company. Ms. Schinck ensured the event ran smoothly from start to finish.
- The National Honor Society's Mittens for Kiddies drive wrapped up in December. They collected winter gear for children and on December 16, 2025, they donated the items to Stevenson Elementary. A party was held for the top three seminar classes that collected the most donations.
- Our Student Council hosted a successful third blood drive of the year.
- Our Business Professionals of America (BPA) students attended the Regional Leadership Conference on December 15, 2025. Nine students qualified for the State Leadership Conference, showcasing their dedication and professionalism.

- Princess Tayo won 1st place for Fundamental Desktop Publishing

- Uche Adi came in 2nd place for Human Resource Management

- Small Business Support Team received 2nd place with Armani Davis, Salla Bah, Kory Hickman, and Kendall Shortridge on the team

- Administration Support team secured 2nd place with Leila Arrington, Princess Tayo, Paris Whitman, and Brooklynn Williams on the team

Leila Arrington and Paris Whitman were awarded the Diplomat Torch Award at regionals, recognizing outstanding leadership and service.

BPA's Café De' Warrior is open every Friday during seminar and continues to be a success. The experience has helped students develop organizational, teamwork, time management, and real world business skills.

- Our book club, "On the Same Page", has completed their first novel, "One of Us is Lying", and members are finishing their book reports. They have started their second book, "The Weight of Blood", a modern retelling of Carrie. The club continues to encourage discussion, literacy, and student connection.
- Our Debate Club consisted mostly of sophomores and has expanded to include students from multiple grade levels. Members focus on SAT preparation, debate topics, and guided discussions to help improve literacy, communication, and critical thinking skills.

- Our Counselor's Council made up of students recommended by teachers and selected by the counseling department, is currently planning honor roll activities for the second quarter. They organized a movie night to reward high achieving students from the first quarter.

Academic Highlights:

- Students in science classes participated in the Science Fair. Students selected their own topics, completed the steps of the scientific method, created physical boards, and presented their projects to judges.
- As the semester comes to a close, students are preparing for final assessments. On January 14th, January 15th, and January 16, 2026. Students will be released at 10:30 a.m., as those days are half days.

Safety and Security Highlights:

- C2 Pipeline students participated in a 90-minute training and discussion session focused on safety, bullying awareness, and student responsibility.
- The addition of metal detectors has improved school safety, and the transition has gone smoothly. Students and staff have adjusted well, and the process has been efficient and well-managed.
- The new year has started strong, with students staying engaged in leadership, academics, and service while continuing to prioritize safety and community. We look forward to all that 2026 has to offer.

Thank you!

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

- Newly Elected Board Officers
 - Ms. Talisha Belk, Board President
 - Ms. Leslie Love Smith-Thomas, Board Vice President
 - Ms. Yvette Ware-DeVaull, Board Secretary
 - Ms. Nicole Denson, Board Treasurer
- Alumni Day: seeing all the faces of the alumni made me smile. There were over 50 alumni that come out share their experiences to help students to prepare for college and life. We held a Student vs. Staff vs. Alumni game.
- The Winter Concert featured middle school and high school dance, band, choir, drama, and an art gallery. Jalyn did a great job as the emcee of this event.
- Last month, the 6th-7th graders attended "The Beat the Streets Homecoming". They learned about the harmful effects of vaping.
- UK12 students were given several copies of the New York Times best seller "We Beat the Streets" how a friendship pact led to success by Dr. Sampson Davis, Dr. George Jenkins, and Dr. Rameck Hunt with Sharon M. Draper.
- Our 8th graders visited the historical Frankenmuth where they had some interactive learning experiences and did a little shopping.
- The middle school House Party was a huge success. The crew leaders did a phenomenal job with planning and implementing their first house party.
- Last month, we had a Deck the Halls contest, the juniors won this contest. In my opinion, the seniors won in spirit.
- The elementary student council sponsored a Santa's Workshop where students were able to purchase holiday gifts for their loved ones. Mr. Grinch presented fun memories and took photos with the scholars. We had two great spirit weeks with holiday wear and themes.
- We are looking forward to the future of AI. We are participated in the Hour of AI event. Mrs. Green's elementary class has been learning about how computers learn, make decisions, and respond to us through chatbots. They have been learning and understanding the limits of AI.

- The Ron Clark Academy (RCA) Houses are learning different essentials throughout the classrooms: proper eye contact, hand shaking, exhibiting positive behavior, and standing when speaking with the class and teacher.
- The 5th-6th grade team is undefeated with a record of 3-0, while the 7th-8th grade has an impressive record of 2-1. Last Thursday, the 5th-6th grade students beat the Thompson Tigers 31-29 and the 7th-8th graders won 41-12. The middle school cheerleaders won 1st place at the Royal Oak High School cheerleading competition.
- We are currently in the middle of exam season. If you need help, you can join the tutoring club founded by Raegan S. Tutor U is open for middle and high school students. If your UK12 high school student is a good fit to be a tutor, contact Ms. Simmons through her GroupMe. Raegan is also organizing high school volunteers to assist with the elementary lunches.
- Elementary school scholars are preparing for their i-Ready mid-year assessments beginning on January 13, 2026.
- During mid-year exams, the high school would have a half day of school. The schedule has been listed in the U Scoop regarding the half days.
- Skylar won 3rd place in the District's Math Bee. She understands the importance of math.
- Afia is a true leader at heart.
- Marc connects us all through his love of music.
- MLK Day, January 19, 2026 and Records Day, January 20, 2026 – No Students
- Report cards – January 26, 2026
- University Science Fair – January 28, 2026
- Double Good Fundraiser
- Vice President Smith-Thomas reiterated a few things that were mentioned about the Warrior Marching Band. They are participating in the pre-game show for the Pistons on February 5, 2026 at Little Caesars Arena. This is a fundraiser for them. Please come and support our Warriors Band. They have been invited to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana to participate in two different parades during Winter Break. The fundraisers are really helping them in their travels. The band members are getting exposure to different opportunities which help them in their band experience and on a collegiate level.
- Dr. Green mentioned that February 5, 2026 at Little Caesars Arena is HBCU and NPHC night. We will have the QR code on our social media page for this fundraising event. The band has committed to selling 100 tickets.

4. Report of the Superintendent

- Partner of the Month – December:** Leonardo Tyner, DM Burr Security
 - Employee of the Month – December:** Principal Tierra Baldwin, Birney K-8 School
 - Partner of the Month – January:** Lourdes Aguilo-Lagos, GDI
 - Employee of the Month – January:** Vice Principal Kimberly Pritchett, Birney K-8 School
- Dr. Green hopes that the move management information is assuring to our UK12 parents whose students will be moving to three different buildings next year. We are actively engaged in the planning for your move as well. We will afford you an opportunity to see the campuses that your scholars will be moving to for the next three years as we go through this process and the new build of the UK12 campus.
- Staffing Update**
 - Dr. Green presented the Staffing Update.
 - Bussey's Director's Report – Dr. Ursula Kelley-Wash**
 - The Benefits of Early Childhood Education:
 - Cognitive Development, Social and Emotional Growth, Improved Academic Achievement, Enhanced Communication Skills, Promotes Creativity and Curiosity, Encourages Lifelong Learning, Support for

Families, Reduces Inequality, Health and Well-being, Better Prepared for Future Challenges, and Economic Benefits

- Enrollment Report: Total enrollment is 143 scholars.
- Average Daily Attendance (ADA): Early Head Start (EHS): 84%, Head Start (HS): 83%, HS/GSRP: 83%, GSRP: 84%
- 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: 4,030.
- Monitoring Report: Child Find Form
 - Timely Initial Evaluations: Total 14
- Early Childhood Support Data Driven
- Education:
 - FA1 Review Head Start Focus Area Program Systems Review (December 2025)
 - Child Observation Record (COR) Period: 2 (Ends – March 1, 2026)
 - Home Learning Packet
 - Educators Empowering Educators – Staff Meetings
 - Weekly Teacher/Staff Newsletter
- Family Engagement: Kindergarten Signing Day Thursday, January 15, 2026 from 5pm – 7pm Class of 2039
- Congratulations to our newly elected Board of Education Officers!
- We will pose a question about the changes to our Program Management of Head Start. Until we received something confirmed, we will continue to use the same immunization chart.
- We love that you reference your educators as Pre-School Professors.
- There was an ask of Dr. Green to make sure that the InKind is also represented on the report. The board would like to have all policies that will support the work happening at Bussey with any provisions necessary.
- Thank you Dr. Kelley-Wash for all your hard work and seeing the numbers rise.

5. Public Participation

- Participant #1: The UK12's AP Platinum status has improved from last year; academic success; finish O-House so the UK12 high school scholars can move there.

6. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

- i. December 6, 2025, Special Board Meeting/Candidate Interviews
 - ii. December 8, 2025, Special Board Meeting/Candidate Interviews
 - iii. December 15, 2025, Special Board Meeting/Candidate Interviews
- Vice President Smith-Thomas moved to open and approve the Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Report 64-40 Personnel Action Report

- Vice President Smith-Thomas moved to open and approve Report 64-40 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Information Items

a. Report 64-41 University Auditorium Elevator Renovation: Bond Funds

- This is required to be in compliance with state regulations for safety and the American Disability Act. If approved, the District would move forward with awarding Kone's offer in the amount of \$182,030. This amount will cover all renovation costs.

b. Report 64-42 Food Service Truck Lease: General Funds

- To make sure we have adequate mobilization of food services to satellite school cafeterias to accommodate the Birney move to Vandenberg and SRAC. A second food service truck is needed to accommodate Birney move of January 5, 2026 so construction can be completed by BMB at that campus. \$645 a month, 3-year lease from Ryder (basic pm included in price) The vehicle has been leased and will be put in service on January 2, 2026. \$7740 per year for 3 years (\$23220) Residual purchase price of approximately \$15k on a vehicle currently valued at approximately \$36K.

c. Report 64-43 Stormwater Board Resolution

- In 2023, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) issued individual permit number MI0060055 for the authorization to discharge water through the district's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) to waters of the state. To retain the authorization to discharge, Southfield Public Schools must submit a new application by April 1, 2026.

To fulfill the application requirements, the permittee must submit the following:

- An ordinance or regulatory mechanism that prohibits non-stormwater discharges into the applicant's MS4.
- An ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to address post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects, including preventing or minimizing water quality impacts.

To meet the ordinance requirements of the permit, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) will accept a Stormwater Board Resolution in its place. An approved Stormwater Board Resolution is required for permit renewal/application.

d. Report 64-44 Southfield Public Schools 2026 Physical Move Services - Palmer: Bond Funds

- Upon completion of the post-bid review and analysis The Project Team is recommending a Total Award Recommendation of \$478,786.00. The total award recommendation includes a contract award to Palmer Moving Services, as well as additional insurance and a district contingency for potential unforeseen tasks that may arise and require physical move support (Birney & Levey to origins, McIntyre to Birney & Thompson with crate rentals).

e. Report 64-45 Southfield Public Schools 2026 Physical Move Services - Premier: Bond Funds

- Upon completion of the post-bid review and analysis The Project Team is recommending a Total Award Recommendation of \$504,790.00. The total award recommendation includes a contract award to Premier Relocations, as well as additional insurance and a district contingency for potential unforeseen tasks that may arise and require physical move support (University K12 Academy to Vandenberg, Eisenhower & SRAC with crate rentals).

f. Report 64-46 Droplet Renewal: General Funds

- The Business Office recommends renewing the district's subscription to Droplet, the digital workflow platform currently used to manage several critical operational processes because the platform remains central to our internal workflow automation and compliance tracking.

- Current Uses of Droplet
- Droplet supports multiple high volume, compliance sensitive processes across the district, including:
 - Semi Annual Certification Form Ensures required documentation is completed, stored, and auditable.
 - Field Trip Admission Requests Streamlines teacher submissions and administrative approvals.
 - Field Trip Transportation Requests Coordinates transportation needs efficiently and reduces manual scheduling errors.
 - Conference/Workshop Requests Provides a consistent workflow for professional development approvals and tracking.
- These workflows reduce paper handling, improve turnaround time, and create a clear audit trail - critical for compliance, transparency, and operational efficiency.
- Rationale for Renewal
- Renewing Droplet supports the district's goals of:
 - Increasing operational efficiency
 - Strengthening compliance and documentation
 - Reducing manual administrative workload
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 64-41 University Auditorium Elevator Renovation, Report 64-42 Food Service Truck Lease, Report 64-43 Stormwater Board Resolution, Report 64-44 Southfield Public Schools 2026 Physical Move Services – Palmer, Report 64-45 Southfield Public Schools 2026 Physical Move Services – Premier, and Report 64-46 Droplet Renewal and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

g. Financial Report

h. Monthly Bill Disbursement

Treasurer Denson thanked President Belk, Dr. Green and the Finance Department for their assistance in a smooth transition. There are currently no risks. The board will not put the district at risk by opting in to 31aa, which we have discussed at prior meetings. 31aa would eliminate attorney client privilege and create state oversight for certain educational activities. Please note: the funding for social emotional support is secure in Southfield Public Schools through June 30, 2026.

8. For the Good of the Order

- Trustee Holloway would like to revisit the dress code. It was mentioned that we can revisit it.
- President Belk thanked our amazing board for their collaborative consensus. She is looking forward to working with each and every board member in serving their community. President Belk states that all of their armor fits different.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, January 19, 2026, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL
- b. Monday, January 19, 2026, MLK Peace Walk Hope United Methodist Church @ 9:30 a.m.
- c. Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Records Day – NO STUDENTS
- d. Tuesday, January 27, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Study Session @ 6:00 p.m.
- e. Wednesday, January 28, 2026, Capital Facilities Bond Legislative Briefing at Adler Elementary @ 5:30 p.m.

