



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Student Hearing		DATE: January 20, 2026		TIME: 5:30 p.m.		LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center	
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie Love Smith-Thomas Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaul, Secretary	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Green, Ed.D. Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanissa Freeman, Deputy Superintendent	<input checked="" 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 Vice President Smith-Thomas at 5:39 p.m. Board Vice President Smith-Thomas read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Belk and Trustee Denson have excused absences.

2. Action Items

a. 01-2025-26

- Vice President Smith-Thomas and the other Trustees introduced themselves.
- Chief Jackson introduced himself and Ms. Foster.
- The administrator introduced their self.
- The parent, grandparent, family friend, and student introduced themselves.
- The parent stated they did not received the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct as follows:

Article V, Section D: Specific Prohibited Behaviors/Conduct:

#05 Possession, Sale or Use of a Weapon

- The parent understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The parent wished to hold the meeting in private.
- Secretary Ware-DeVaul moved to hold the board meeting in closed session under section 8 (b) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider the dismissal, suspension or disciplining of student hearing 01-2025-26, at the parent's request and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

Vice President Smith-Thomas asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Belk and Trustee Denson

Motion carried.
5 yes, 0 no

- Closed Session started at 5:43 p.m.
- Closed Session ended at 6:19 p.m.
- No decisions were made.
- Vice President Smith-Thomas asked the parent, grandparent, family friend, student and administrator to step out for deliberations.
- After deliberations, the parent, grandparent, family friend, student and administrator were asked back in.
- Secretary Ware-DeVauld introduced a motion to permanently expel student 01-2025-26 from Southfield Public Schools and it was supported by Trustee Anderson.

Vice President Smith-Thomas asked Secretary Ware-DeVauld to call for the vote.
Ayes: Trustee Anderson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVauld
Nays: Nil
Absent: Trustee Belk and Trustee Denson
Motion carried.
5 yes, 0 no

3. Public Participation

- There was no public participation.

4. Adjournment

- Vice President Smith-Thomas adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Student Hearing at 6:36 p.m.

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