



# 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				
<b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>							
<input type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie Love Smith-Thomas Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVault, 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	
<b>ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:</b>							
<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-DeVault 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-DeVault to call for the vote.

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

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-DeVaull 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-DeVaull to call for the vote.

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

Navs: Nil

Absent: Trustee Belk and Trustee Denson

### Motion carried

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