



# SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting		DATE: May 27, 2025		TIME: 6:00 p.m.		LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center	
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashanti Bland, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaul, Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani Johnson, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Denson, 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"/> , Chief of Talent Mtg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Luddington, Manager of Pupil Accounting	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Micaela Beckford, UHSA <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Spragins, Southfield A&T	

## 1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bland at 6:00 p.m. Board President Bland read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Smith-Thomas has an excused absence. Trustee Denson arrived at 6:11 p.m.

## 2. Information Items

### a. Report 63-86 Waste Reduction/Recycling Policy – Joe Corace

- The district shall implement and maintain a comprehensive recycling program in all district-owned facilities, with the goal of reducing landfill waste and promoting a culture of environmental responsibility among students, staff, and the broader community. Implementing a district-wide recycling program supports our core educational mission by creating real-world learning opportunities that teach environmental responsibility, critical thinking, and civic engagement. It models the values we strive to instill in students while contributing to a cleaner, more fiscally responsible learning environment.
- This is the first read for the proposed Waste Reduction/Recycling Policy for the Southfield Public Schools District.
- This is for recycling in all the district owned facilities.
- There will be monthly pickups that will incur a cost of roughly \$12,000 per year for our recycled products.
- Trustee Johnson will reach out to Councilman Hicks to see if it is a conflict with the City of Southfield to have the recycling bins. The bins will be placed inside the buildings.
- There are a number of state and federal grants that will allow us to obtain all the bins that we need.
- It is roughly \$20,000 to implement this program. We can get assistance from the Waste Management company to set up this program.
- The board would like to have the exact cost for this project to make an informed decision.

### b. Report 63-87 Food Service Management Company: Food Service Fund – Marc Ingram

- In alignment with the outcome of last year's Food Service RFP process, Southfield Public Schools issued RFP 2025-04 to secure a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) for the 2025–2026 school year and beyond. The scope of work remains consistent, covering all food, labor, and

supervision for district nutrition programs, including the National School Meals Program, Summer Meals Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. Pending Michigan Department of Education (MDE) approval, a board item will be submitted for contract renewal with Southwest Food Excellence (SFE) for the 2025–2026 school year. Final execution is subject to board approval following MDE authorization. 2025–2026 school year. The contract will be subject to final board approval following MDE authorization. This contract shall be for a period of twelve months effective on July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, for an estimated \$2,790,000. This amount includes the cost of all food, supplies, food service and non-aide labor and fringe benefits, a \$18,352 management fee and a \$28,794 administrative fee.

- SFE needs to have consistency on the quality of the food distributed to our scholars because their complaints are all the same.
- It is important for SFE to check in on our scholars to make sure that they are enjoying the food distributed to them.
- SFE is looking for ways to get feedback at a faster pace. Jordan is making changes to the menu.
- Jordan was commended for being open to the board members and staff. We need more consistency as we see the cost of the contract. The QR code is a great help when getting feedback from parents, students, and staff.
- Trustee Holloway moved to open and approve Report 63-87 Food Service Management Company and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.
- SFE will share the data/feedback with the district. SFE is willing to share the information by school, by the number of lunches, or whichever way works best for the district. They will share the data/feedback from other districts that are not in Michigan that contract their services.
- The Trustees would like to have the data/feedback presented to them for the December regular board meeting, so that they can be proactive with providing the parents, students, and staff with that information.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

**c. Report 63-88 2025-2026 AnthroMed SLP: Special Education Expenditure**

- Maintaining compliance will support student success as we address the learning gap and improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The district will reduce the risk of having to provide compensatory services and or financial sanctions from the Michigan Department of Education and federal monitors.
- AnthroMed SLP is a third-party contractor who provides speech pathologists for the district.
- The hiring process has been difficult.
- AnthroMed SLP is our fall back plan. We have five speech pathologists and we need two more.
- The AnthroMed SLP salary dollar amount in the report is the amount of the contract.

**d. Report 63-89 2025-2026 Staff Connections (OT & PT): Special Education Expenditure**

- As mandated by IDEA, we are required to provide the minimum amount of service time identified on IEP's and service plans for students currently enrolled in our district and for students who qualify for OT and or PT and attend a public or private school within the Southfield boundaries.
- Staff Connections (OT & PT) are not district employees. They are contracted employees.
- We use their services to stay compliant.

**e. Report 63-90 Career Staff: Special Education Expenditure**

- As mandated by IDEA, we are required to provide the minimum amount of service time and care identified on IEP's and service plans for students currently enrolled in our district and for students who qualify for personal care; including but not limited to medical needs that attend a public or private school within the Southfield boundaries.
- Third party contractor for our nurses; they provide services to our SpEd scholars.
- Trustee Holloway moved to open and approve Report 63-88 2025-2026 AnthroMed SLP, Report 63-89 2025-2026 Staff Connections (OT & PT), and Report 63-90 Career Staff and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Bland, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Belk, Trustee Ware-DeVaul, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Denson

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

**f. Report 63-91 Non-Federal Match Waiver Request – Dr. Connie Thompson**

- A grantee must contribute 20% of the overall program budget as a non-federal share (match). Programs may request a non-federal match waiver if they were unable to meet the 20% as required by the Office of Head Start.
- These are projected numbers in the board report.
- This item is presented for information.
- June 30, 2025 is the deadline to approve this report.

**g. Report 63-92 Head Start/Early Head Start Budget Carryover: Grant Funded**

- Additional funds are needed to cover the cost of technology and playground improvements for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs: Total Head Start Carryover Grant Request: \$174,670 and Total Early Start Carryover Grant Request: \$54,632.
- This item is presented for information.
- The funds were provided to Head Start and Early Head Start and we are asking to carryover the respective amounts.
- June 30, 2025 is the deadline to submit the budget carryover.
- Dr. Thompson states that she will present the percentage of the grant used to the board members.

**h. Report 63-93 Bussey's Budget Revision**

- The challenges of hiring and retaining associate teachers and floater substitutes has resulted in funds not being fully expended. Although program funds were expended, they were not used at the level anticipated due to these staff shortages. Programs may request a budget revision in order to use unspent funds to purchase necessary equipment.
- This item is presented for information.

**i. Report 63-94 2024-2025 Head Start Disability Waiver**

- The program did not meet the 10% requirement of enrolling children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). While fourteen students enrolled in the Head Start program were referred for an evaluation, only three were evaluated and two were eligible to receive services. Program Standard 1302.14(b)(1) states that a program must ensure at least 10 percent of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA, unless the responsible HHS official grants a waiver.
- This item is presented for information.
- Report 63-91 through Report 63-94 were presented as information. They will be placed on the June 10, 2025, regular board meeting agenda for action.

**3. Public Participation**

- Participant #1: Looking to grow their school; the purchase of the Old Bussey on 12 Mile.

#### 4. Action Items

##### a. Consent Agenda

##### Approval of Minutes

##### i. May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting

- Trustee Holloway moved to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Denson, Trustee Bland, Trustee Belk, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

##### b. Report 63-76 Inkster Property Offer

- The Inkster Property Offer is a different offer from what the Trustees expected.
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 63-76 Inkster Property Offer and it was supported by Trustee Denson.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Nil

Nays: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion failed.

##### c. Report 63-77 12 Mile Rd. Property Offer

- Trustee Belk moved to open and approve Report 63-77 12 Mile Rd. Property Offer and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Bland, Trustee Belk

Nays: Trustee Denson, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, and Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Motion failed.

4 no and 2 yes.

Trustee Denson states that the offer is too low.

Trustee Johnson would like to see the property used to benefit the Southfield community.

Trustee Holloway would like the property to be used for the Southfield community.

Trustee Ware-DeVaul would like for the property to be used for additional business that the Southfield community could utilize.

##### d. Report 63-85 Avance Contract

- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 63-95 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Belk.
- Attorney Pitchford assisted with the Avance Contract.
- We are pivoting with the closure of University K-12 Academy for renovations at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. We will utilize Avance for the bond project and our big events in the district.
- Trustees will need to read over the contract before voting on it.

- The contract will be provided to the Trustees this evening.
  - President Bland asked to table Report 63-85 until June 10, 2025 at the regular board meeting.
  - Trustee Johnson moved to table Report 63-85 and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.
- e. Report 63-95 Personnel Action Report**
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 63-95 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Belk.

President Bland asked Vice President Ware-DeVaull to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVaull, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Denson, Trustee Bland, and Trustee Belk

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

## 5. For the Good of the Order

- Principal Hickman and some of her staff from Stevenson Elementary are attending the Community Schools forum in Minneapolis, MN. sponsored by United Way.
- There are multiple ceremonies in June, please take a look and see which ones we can attend so that we can have at least one board member representing. Chief Jackson will share the information regarding the high school graduation ceremonies.
- We need to select a date for the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the Mid-Year Superintendent Review. As a reminder: no goals have been set for Dr. Green.
- Vice President Ware-DeVaull is looking into dates for the Summer Board Retreat in August to address the Board Operating Procedures and some other things.

## 6. Future Meetings

- Friday, June 6, 2025, Graduation Day, Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre: SA&T @ 10:00 a.m. & UK12 @ 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 13, 2025, Last Day of School for Scholars: Half Day of School

## 7. Adjournment

President Bland adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 6:51 p.m.

Approved on: August 12, 2025

Yvette Ware-DeVaull, Board Vice President