



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Student Hearing	DATE: June 17, 2025	TIME: 5:30 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashanti Bland, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware-DeVaull, Vice President	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer
<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	Student Board Representatives: <input type="checkbox"/> Micaela Beckford, UK12 <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Spragins, Southfield A&T

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bland at 5:33 p.m. Board President Bland read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Smith-Thomas arrived at 5:40 p.m. during Closed Session. All Trustees were present.

2. Action Items

a. 16-2024-25

- President Bland and the Trustees introduced themselves.
- Chief Jackson introduced himself and Ms. Foster.
- The administrators and other attendees introduced themselves.
- The parent and student introduced themselves.
- The parent states they received the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct.
- The parent understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The student wished to hold the meeting in private.
- Vice President moved to meet in closed session under Section 8 (b) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of student #16-2024-25 at the student's request and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

Closed Session started at 5:35 p.m.

Closed session ended at 6:17 p.m.

No decision was made.

- President Bland asked the administrators, parent, and student to step out for deliberations.
- The administrators, parent and student were asked back in after deliberations.
- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to expel student 16-2024-25 from Southfield Public Schools and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion carried.

b. 17-2024-25

- The meeting was held in absentia. The parent and student were not in attendance.
- The parent was provided the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct as follows.
- The meeting was held in public.
- The student does not receive special education services.
- President Bland asked anyone who might give testimony before the Board of Education to raise their right hand and swear that the testimony they are about to give is the whole truth.
- All hands have been sworn in and affirmed.
- The Trustees were provided with an email communication from the parent about not attending the student hearing.
- The administrator provided testimony.
- There was discussion regarding the incident.
- President Bland asked the administrators to step out for deliberations.
- The administrators were asked back in after deliberations.
- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to expel student 17-2024-25 from Southfield Public Schools and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Bland asked Secretary Smith-Thomas to call for the vote.

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried

3. Public Participation

- There was no public participation.

4. Adjournment

- President Bland adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 6:44 p.m.

Approved on: August 12, 2025
Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Board Secretary Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Vice President

Proposed for Adoption