



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Study Session/Closed Session	DATE: October 28, 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 type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, Trustee
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Denson, 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 type="checkbox"/> , Chief of Talent Mtg
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Luddington, Manager of Pupil Accounting
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sommer Caldwell- Carruthers, Executive Director of Instruction
<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"/> Paris Whitman, SA&T <input type="checkbox"/> Chidi Nnaji, UK12

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bland at 6:02 p.m. Board President Bland read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Smith-Thomas has an excused absence. Trustee Holloway will not be present. A number of EDN Team members are in the audience.

2. Information Items

a. Bond/Move Management Logistical Updates: Tawanesha Jones-Williams (TJ) & Juan Vazquez

- **2022 Capital Facilities Bond – Study Session Update**
- 2025-2026 Swing Space/Construction Relocations
- **Program Milestones:**
 - Adler relocation: 255 days 7/10/2023 – 6/28/2024
 - Stevenson relocation: 310 days 6/17/2024 – 8/22/2025
 - Thompson relocations: 370 days 3/17/2025 – 8/14/2026
 - Levey relocation: 305 days 6/16/2025 – 8/14/2026
 - Birney relocation: 155 days 12/15/2025 – 7/17/2026
 - McIntyre relocation: 28 days 6/15/2026 – 7/22/2026
 - University relocations: 875 days 2/16/2026 – 6/22/2029
 - JWE Admin relocation – Phase 1: 2 days 7/27/2026 – 7/28/2026
 - JWE Admin relocation – Phase 2: 154 days 6/25/2029 – 1/24/2030
- **Thompson K-8 International Academy:** Phase 1 101 days; Phase 1.5 (elevator) 254 days; Phase 2: 40 days. The elevator will be complete by April 17, 2026.
- **Levey Middle:** There is some site work currently occurring. They have been relocated to Eisenhower Elementary.
- Levey Middle is not expected to encounter the same delays as Stevenson Elementary.
- **Birney K-8 School:** K-5 will move to Vandenberg and 6-8 will move to SRAC.
- There are many parents upset about the timing of the move. They would have liked to have the information before school started so that they could have chosen a different school for their scholars

to attend. Trustee Denson would like more communication sent to parents before the move. The communication was shared with families in October regarding the transition.

- As we are looking to transition UK12 into three different swing spaces we have to start the communication now to go out to our families.
- We were looking to moving Birney K-8 to just one school. After learning of the enrollment numbers, we decided to move them to two locations to complete the construction based on the amount of work remaining on the project. Principal Baldwin was credited with providing the information to her families on the call.
- We will be modifying the start and end times to support the families that have multiple students that may be going to both campuses.
- At Vandenberg, the boilers have been upgraded, all the toilets are in working condition, the roof will receive some work, there has been some painting, and the carpet will be removed.
- Southfield Regional Academic Campus (SRAC) is in good condition. Some of the ceiling tiles have to be replaced, and the classrooms need to be cleaned out.
- Mrs. Glass stated that parents felt that they did not receive the information regarding the move until after school started.
- Every Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Principal Baldwin and Avance are addressing any questions parents may have regarding the move and location for the second semester of 2025-2026 school year.
- Chief Jackson is meeting with the staff to address their concerns.
- They are working on FAQs for parents for Birney's move so that they can be out and published.
- Avance will be using this as the model for the University K12 move. There is a meeting with the UK12 staff, coming up. Then there will be a meeting with the parents.
- The Birney K-8 staff move will be happening before the Christmas break.
- The plan was to use the first week in January to do virtual work, but the State indicated that we are not able to do that we had to pivot and make the adjustments to have the move occur before the Christmas break.
- **McIntyre Elementary:** The remaining scholars will move to Birney K-8 School starting the 2026-2027 school year.
- We need to start the communication with the Birney K-8 staff about the transition of the last group of students from McIntyre Elementary.
- **University K12 Academy:** UK12 will relocate to their swing spaces at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. K-5 grades will move to Vandenberg, 6-8 grades will move to Eisenhower Elementary, and 9-12 grades will move to the O-House at Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology.
- **JWE:** will move to the O-House at Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology in 2 phases. Phase 1 will occur during the summer of the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Phase 2 will occur at the start of the second semester of the 2029-2030 school year.
- Transportation improvement or repercussion.
- For the record, President Bland would like to keep the memorabilia and pay homage to the fact that this was Southfield-Lathrup High School.
- Dr. Green stated that we would bring those items to JWE to preserve them for a later use. There was conversation about selling the bricks but there is not an official alumni association to take on these tasks.
- Trustee Johnson states that he will chair the construction committee for UK12.
- Thank you to TJ and Juan for the presentation.
- Dr. Green states that if there are Birney K-8 families that would like to move to another campus, we will allow them the option to change campuses.

3. Public Participation

- Participant #1: Transportation late picking up a Birney K-8 student.
- President Bland apologizes for the transportation issues. We are aware of the issues with transportation – poor, negative, and distrust.

4. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

i. October 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

- Vice President Ware-DeVauld moved to open and approve the Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Denson, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ware-DeVauld

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Holloway

Motion carried.

b. Report 64-27 Personnel Action Report

- Vice President Ware-DeVauld moved to open and approve Report 64-27 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.
- # 4: this position was backfilled; the position was applied for based off the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).
- #1 & #7 – Sad to see them go. There is a candidate in mind with the same credentials as #7. They could move to that position if they choose.

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

Ayes: Trustee Bland, Trustee Ware-DeVauld, Trustee Denson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Johnson

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Holloway

Motion carried.

c. Closed Session

- Vice President Ware-DeVauld moved to go into Closed Session under the Open Meetings Act pursuant to Section 8 (1)(a) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or discipline of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing. An individual requesting a closed hearing may rescind the request at any time, in which case the matter at issue must be considered after the rescission only in open sessions and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Denson, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ware-DeVauld

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Holloway

Motion carried.

Closed Session started at 6:59 p.m.

Closed Session ended at 8:14 p.m.

No decisions were made.

- There was no For the Good of the Order.

- Tuesday, November 4, 2025, NO STUDENTS — Election & Professional Development
- Tuesday, November 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- November 26, 2024–November 28, 2024, Thanksgiving Recess: NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, December 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

- President Bland adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 8:15 pm.

Approved on: November 11, 2025

Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Vice President