



# SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting	DATE: December 15, 2025	TIME: 5:30 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center				
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaull, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani Johnson , Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Denson, Trustee	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacancy 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"/> 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 President Ware-DeVaull at 5:36 p.m. Board President Ware-DeVaull read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. All Trustees were present. Trustee Smith-Thomas arrived at 5:38 p.m.

## 2. Candidate Interviews

- a. **Jenae Anderson**
- b. **Alcott Germany II**

- The Trustees held the second round of interviews for these two candidates.

## 3. Action Items

- a. **Tally and Selection of Candidate**

- Trustee Holloway introduced a motion to select Alcott Germany II for the school board vacancy position and it supported by Vice President Johnson.
- The Trustees provided their feedback regarding the candidate's interview.

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

Ayes: Trustee Holloway

Nays: Trustee Ware-DeVaull, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Denson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Smith-Thomas

Motion failed: 5 no, 1 yes

- Treasurer Belk introduced a motion to select Jenae Anderson for the school board vacancy position and it supported by Vice President Johnson.
- The Trustees provided their feedback regarding the candidate's interview.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Denson, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ware-DeVaull, Trustee Smith-Thomas

Nays: Trustee Holloway  
Motion failed: 5 yes, 1 no

- The Trustees took a recess from 6:36 p.m. – 6:51 p.m.

**b. Report 64-39 OCSBA Proposed New and/or Amended Resolutions**

**Proposed new resolution #1:**

- OCSBA supports non-partisan school board elections.

Rationale for proposed new resolution #1:

- This proposed resolution is in response to HB 4588 that is now moving through the state House.

Link to the bill: <https://legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2025-HB-4588>

- Partisan school board elections will:

- Decrease the number of willing candidates, and
- Increase campaign costs (school board members would have to be successful in two elections – a primary election as well as the November election), and
- Align local education decisions with party interests rather than student needs, and
- Exclude thousands of current or potential board members, including federal employees, who are legally prohibited from running in partisan races.

**Proposed new resolution #2:**

- OCSBA supports full funding of Early On Michigan, an early intervention program for infants and toddlers from birth to age three with disabilities, developmental delays or are at risk for delay(s) due to certain health conditions.

**Rationale for proposed new resolution #2:**

- This resolution is proposed because we need to shine a light on the importance of early intervention programs such as Early On Michigan, and the need for additional state funding to adequately serve the families of children already identified as eligible, and to serve all children who should be identified as eligible.
- The Michigan Mandatory Special Education law (or MMSE) requires special education services be provided for eligible children and students from birth through age 25. Federal law also mandates early intervention programs.
  - Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) refers to special education services for students ages 3 through 21.
  - Part C of IDEA refers to early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers from birth through age 2.
    - In Michigan, Part C is called Early On.
  - Special education supports and services for students age 22 through 25 is part of MMSE.
- OCSBA has always supported early childhood education. The earlier the intervention begins, the greater the impact.
- Early On is Michigan's statewide, comprehensive, coordinated interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to age three years with disabilities and their families. Early On is coordinated by the Michigan Department of Education and provides services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Local communities receive funding through their local Intermediate School District (ISD) to implement Early On. Each local ISD jurisdiction has an interagency coordinating council (comprised of individuals from human service agencies, parents, educators, and other agency personnel who serve families) that guides implementation locally. Implementation is also guided through local memoranda of understanding between education, mental health, public health, and social services.
- For 50 years we have advocated for IDEA funding for students. The congressional promise to fund 40% of the cost of providing special education services applies to Part B (children age 3 to

-and- to Part C (early intervention services infants and toddlers through age 2). While we continue to advocate for federal funding, state funding for woefully lacking for Early On:

- The estimated annual cost is \$230M to provide high-quality early intervention services.
- The state should appropriate at least \$138M (60% of the estimated annual cost).
- Section 54d of the FY26 School Aid Act provides state funding of \$48M.
- For additional information on Early On Michigan visit:  
[https://earlyonfoundation.org/Files/Resources/EO\\_Case\\_for\\_Funding\\_FY26\\_w\\_taskforce.docx.pdf](https://earlyonfoundation.org/Files/Resources/EO_Case_for_Funding_FY26_w_taskforce.docx.pdf)
- Trustee Holloway moved to open and approve Report 64-39 OCSBA Proposed New and/or Amended Resolutions and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried.

#### **4. Superintendent Evaluation**

- Dr. Green held the Superintendent Evaluation in public.
- Component #1: Effective
- Component #2: Exemplary
- Component #3: Effective
- Component #4: Exemplary
- Component #5: Effective
- Component #6: Exemplary
- Student Growth and Assessment: Developing
- Secretary Smith-Thomas moves to accept the Effective Rating for the 2025 Superintendent Evaluation and it was supported by Vice President Johnson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried.

#### **5. Public Participation**

- There was no public participation.

#### **6. Adjournment**

- President Ware-DeVaull adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Approved on: January 13, 2025
Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Board Secretary

Proposed for Adoption