



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Board Meeting		DATE: November 12, 2024	TIME: 7:00 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center			
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashanti Bland, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaull, Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darrell B. Joyce, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani Johnson, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> April Rogers, Exe. Dir., State and Federal Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Smith, Exec. Director of ISSN	<input type="checkbox"/> , Director of Comm.	MINUTES: Carolyn Foster		Student Board Representatives: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Micaela Beckford, UHSA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Spragins, Southfield A&T		

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bland at 7:00 p.m. Board President Bland read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. All Trustees were present. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Board Matters

- Congratulations to Trustee Leslie L. Smith-Thomas for her re-election to the Board and to Ms. Nicole Denson as the new Trustee-Elect. Welcome Ms. Denson!
- The card marking is over. The grades are in MiSTAR. If you are having problems accessing MiSTAR, please reach out to the building leader/student's teacher for assistance.
- Parent Teachers Conferences are coming up. Check with your student's school for those dates and times.
- Thank you to the Trustees. Many of the Trustees attended the CUBE Conference, which is a conference for urban school boards.
- Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. is the Safety Forum with Chief Elvin Barren. Southfield Public Schools and the Area Council PTA are hosting this event. Thank you to Ms. Sanders, Area Council PTA, President.
- Trustee Holloway attended an AmeriCorps session that Vice President Ware-DeVaull spoke about on her behalf.
- Vice President Ware-DeVaull mentioned a few points that Treasurer Belk provided: retention rates, volunteerism, community service, and leveraging AmeriCorps.
- Vice President Ware-DeVaull spoke about strategic collaboration and policies need to be equitable for all students.
- Secretary Smith-Thomas thanked the board and the audience for their congratulations and thank you to the community members for their support in her re-election.
- Secretary Smith-Thomas spoke to candidates not being familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the office they are running for.

- Secretary Smith-Thomas also attended CUBE and attended a session at one of the largest Charter Schools. Whose main focus was having three alternate tracks for graduation.
- Thank you to Lathrup Village City Council for allowing our students to report out at their council meeting.

3. Report of the Student Board Representatives

a. Micaela Beckford – University High School Academy (U K-12)

University as a Whole

October 9th: Meet the Teacher Night, where the Charger families visited our school to meet the teachers. This is always a great opportunity to establish open communication between teachers and parents, fostering a strong partnership for students' success.

October 11th: The students and faculty wore pink for the annual Pink Out Day to raise awareness for breast cancer.

October 14th: Picture Retake Day

October 15th: PTSA Meeting

October is also National Bullying Prevention Month and to celebrate unity, the Chargers wore orange. *October 29th*: Fall Festival planned by the student leadership clubs (StuCo, NHS, House Crew Leaders, and PTSA). The activities were separated by grade level: Elementary – Octoberfest, Middle School – Boo Bash, and High School – Fall Festival.

October 29th: Marks the end of card marking 1.

October 31st, Halloween: Students and staff wore their costumes.

November 11th-13th: Challenge Day is an event that helps young people learn to connect to one another and their teachers in an effective way.

Elementary Events

October 9th: The third-grade students attended the Detroit Zoo.

Middle School Events

October 12th and November 8th: The Lady Chargers (5th-8th grades) are celebrating an undefeated season. Congratulations to Coach Washington and Coach Blackwell.

High School Events

October 15th: SA&T Girls' Volleyball team hosted their Senior Night at their away game against Pontiac.

October 17th: Senior Pinning

October 18th: The Volleyball team took a trip to MSU to watch a college volleyball game against Nebraska.

October 22nd-23rd, 28th, and 29th: PSAT/NMSQT CollegeBoard testing

October 24th: The U K-12 juniors and seniors were bussed to SA&T for a College Fair.

October 25th: The African Student Association hosted a "Guess the Celebrities Ethnicity" game.

November 2nd: The senior class took a trip to Halloween at Cedar Point.

A special shout out to the debate team for their achievements as Double Octo-Finalists; they went 5-1 in the preliminaries. They received 13th seed out of 110 teams.

Upcoming Events

November 13th: Parent Teacher Conferences

November 14th: AP Exam payments are due; Michigan First Credit Union will be returning with pop-up banking.

November 15th: Student Council applications are due.

November 27th: Thanksgiving Day holiday break begins
Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

b. Eric Spragins – Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology (SA&T)

- Eric acknowledged his building leaders who will be presenting this evening.

Senior Updates – Class of 2025

Senior Dues: Option 2 for senior dues, which includes a cap and gown and diploma cover, is now available on GoFan. Please use the provided QR code to purchase senior dues by December 6, 2024.

Yearbook Sales: Yearbooks are on sale for \$75 until December 1, 2024, after which time the price will increase to \$85. We encourage students to purchase early to lock in the lower price.

Senior Fundraiser – Skating Party: Class of 2025 Warriors will be hosting a senior fundraiser skating party on November 13, 2024 at Northland from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Recognitions

Congratulations to Angel Unaegbu! Angel Unaegbu has been named the winner of “The World of Soft Robotics” KnoPro Skillbuilder, earning a \$100 Amazon gift card.

College and Career Update

FAFSA Workshop: The College and Career Center has arranged for representatives from the University of Michigan Office of Financial Aid to visit and discuss FAFSA and the financial aid process on Wednesday, November 13, from 12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Recent Educational Activities

Apple Orchard Field Trip: Students visited a local apple orchard, where they learned about sustainable agriculture practices and how the orchard reuses produce to enrich the land. Students also observed cider making and explored the different varieties of apples grown in Michigan.

Art Department Project: Students in Mrs. McNeece’s ceramics, drawing, and painting classes created clay magnets inspired by Michigan’s flora. These pieces will be exchanged with students across the country as part of a collaborative project, fostering cultural and artistic exchange.

Athletics Recap – Fall Sports Wrap-Up

Girls’ Golf: Our Girls’ Golf team wrapped a season of growth with a new team.

Boys’ Tennis: The Boys’ Tennis team advanced to the second round in Regionals. Davis Jones went undefeated in the Singles.

Football: Our football team started and ended the season with strong wins. Coach McKenzie is gearing up for an exciting next season.

Cheerleading: The cheerleaders are preparing for their Competitive Cheer season.

Boys’ Soccer: Our Boys’ Soccer team made impressive strides this year under Coach Joe’s leadership.

Girls’ Volleyball: The Volleyball team will compete in the Districts on November 4, 2024.

Winter Sports Tryouts

Girls’ Basketball: Girls’ Basketball tryouts for 9th – 12th grades will be held on November 18th and November 19th in the new gym.

Bowling Team: Varsity and junior varsity tryouts for both boys and girls will be on November 8th and November 9th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Boys’ Basketball: Boys’ Basketball tryouts for grades 9th – 12th will be on November 11, 2024.

Wrestling: Wrestling tryouts are currently underway.

- Thank you to Principal Reese for assisting students with registering to vote.
- Student Board Rep Eric had a conversation with President Bland about working Vice President Kamala Harris’ campaign event. He indicated that he did anything that they asked of him.
- Eric also mentioned working an event with Former President Barack Obama. Eric’s role was a volunteer coordinator and helped wherever he was needed.
- President Bland thanked Eric for being a servant leader and being an advocate for this community.
- President Bland thanked Hallie Snyder for working diligently with the CTE and Pathways programs.

4. Report of the Superintendent

a. Plante Moran – Matt Bohdan, Gabrielle Wafer, and Bailey Kahl-Wu

- Our Risk and Accounting Advisory Services (RAAS) practice specializes in information technology and financial/operational internal controls with extensive experience serving public sector and education clients of various sizes and complexities.

- Scope of Services
 - Identify and house all existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
 - Prepare new SOPs and identify gaps in internal control and recommended best practice
 - Professional training delivered to SPS personnel to implement standard procedures
 - Timeline is 10-weeks
- The board moved to Report 63-32 SPS Standard Operating Procedures.
- b. Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology (SA&T) Presentation – Principal David Reese, A.P. Aliyah Caggins, A.P. Gwendolyn Denham and A.P. Kelly Patterson SA&T Student Celebrations**
 - *Graduation Rate:* 90%+, first Fire Academy graduate, top Robotics recognition, and the Marching Band participating in National competitions and highly requested for local events.
 - *Focus Goals:* Increase Communication, Improve Building Culture, and Academic Growth
 - *Student Suspension Data:* Fighting, gang related activity, and physical confrontation have decreased drastically by 78% from this same time last year.
 - *Attendance:* Student attendance on Count Day has increased by 19%.
 - *CollegeBoard Score:*
 - Class of 2024: 29% student turnover from the PSAT 10 in 2022, to the SAT in 2023. 2021 was an optional “COVID” year.
 - Class of 2025: 40% student turnover from the PSAT 8/9 in 2022, to the SAT in 2024.
 - Class of 2026: 29% student turnover from the PSAT 8/9 in 2023, to the PSAT 10 in 2024.
 - *Diploma Plus:* 16 different career pathways, Dual Enrollment, AP classes, Certificate Programs
 - *Collegiate Connections:* OCC Lawrence Tech, Wayne State University, U of M, and Oakland University
 - *Academies and Competition Update:* Fire Academy, Culinary, Business, Engineering Robotics, Fine Arts, TV Broadcasting, and Health Sciences
 - Thank you to the administrative team at SA&T for the work they are doing.
- c. Legislative Update**
 - We will revisit the Legislative Updates when we have more information. It is important to have our voice heard at Advocacy & Symposium Institute in February.
- d. SLV Donation**
 - Thank you to the Class of 73’ – 74’ Southfield-Lathrup High School who donated their remaining balance of \$1039.06 from their 50th class reunions to support our scholars.
- e. Update on the Sale of Properties Brace Lederle and Magnolia the sale of those properties will come by the end of the year.**
 - We are looking to have the closing for those properties by the end of this calendar year.
- f. Staffing Updates**
 - Dr. Green went over the PowerPoint for the staffing updates per building.
- g. Bussey’s Director’s Report – Dr. Connie Thompson**
 - Director’s Report – for October 2024
 - **Enrollment:** Early Head Start – 16 enrolled, 7 waitlisted
Head Start – 82 enrolled, 46 vacant GSRP – 63 enrolled, 15 vacant
 - **Drops:** Early Head Start – 0 Head Start – 1 GSRP – 0
 - **Children Receiving Support Services:** 4 IEPs/IFSPs, 1 Referrals, 13 Compliance HS, 1 Compliance EHS
 - **Average Daily Attendance (ADA) – 88% ADA**
 - **Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Month of October 2024**
 - Breakfast, lunch, and snack meals provided during the month of October 2024 totaled 7,333.
- Compliance**
- **Education:**

- Staff participated in COR Advantage training
- Implementation of High Scope Curriculum
- COR Advantage Data Collection Period 1 – 9/3/2024 to 11/17/2024
- Weekly Tips for Teachers – Academic and Social Emotional
- Fire Simulation House – Fire Safety Month
- Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader
- **Family Engagement:**
 - Curriculum Night
 - Muffins for Moms
 - Annual Harvest Festival In-House Field Trip
 - Policy Council Meeting
 - Link Sheets
- **Communications:**
 - [Performance Standards Information Center](#)
 - [Facilities Guidance - ACF-OHS-IM-24-04](#)
- **Enrollment Updates:**
 - Feather Flags – Advertising Opportunities to enroll in GSRP
 - The ERSEA team is actively processing applications and continuing to enroll children for the 2024-2025 program year.
- **Vacancies:**
 - 5 Teachers CDA (Assistant Teachers) – 2 Head Start, 1 Head Start/GSRP
 - 1 Family Service Worker
- **InKind Contributions for October 2024**
 - July 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024: \$75,000
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Thanksgiving Basket Distribution – Monday, November 25, 2024
 - Pajama Night – Bedtime Routines – Thursday, December 19, 2024
- Dr. Green mentioned that she will be out of the district in March and May for personal business.

5. Public Participation

- Participant #1: SA&T culture.
- Participant #2: No permanent teacher in University K-12 5th grade class.
- Participant #3: New President of SA&T PSAT and teacher vacancies.
- Participant #4: U K-12 parent, student is in the 5th grade class with the vacancy.
- Participant #5: Students attend U K-12 and they are having some issues with other students.

6. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- i. **October 15, 2024, Special Board Meeting/Student Hearings**
 - ii. **October 22, 2024, Special Board Meeting/Study Session/Closed Session**
- Vice President Ware-DeVauil moved to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Joyce.

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

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauil, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Joyce, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Bland, and Trustee Belk

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

- The order in which the blue cards are provided is the order in which individuals are called to speak.
- There was mention of the history, culture, and the current state of U K-12.

b. Report 63-27 Personnel Action Report

- Vice President Ware-DeVauall moved to open and approve Report 63-27 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.
- #1 is just being updated. They moved to a different building and then moved back to their building.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Joyce, Trustee Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVauall

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Report 63-28 Southfield Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (SAC) Resolution

- The Southfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (SAC) was chartered on November 17, 1984. Due to the vision and efforts of 31 women, SAC became the 738th chapter of the sorority, the first African American Greek-letter organization to be established in the city of Southfield, MI, and one of the city's first African American women's organizations. Today, SAC has grown to more than 500 members. For well over two decades, the chapter has had a long-standing partnership with Southfield Public Schools (SPS). We are honored and proud to recognize their loyalty and dedication to educational excellence and public service. Our community, schools, and students have benefitted from their service and will continue to do so for years to come.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauall moved to open and approve Report 63-28 Southfield Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated Resolution and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauall, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Joyce, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Bland, and Trustee Belk

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Information Items

a. Report 63-29 BP #54 Stevenson Playground Demolition – Bond Funds: Dan Anderson and Tawanesha Jones-Williams

- The project scope includes the demolition and removal of playground equipment at Stevenson Elementary School. The total award amount for Bid Package 54 Stevenson Playground Demolition is \$18,150. The total contingency amount for Bid Package 54 Stevenson Playground Demolition is 10% of the project total value. Total contingency amount is \$1,815, bringing the total construction cost to \$19,965. This project will be funded by Bond Funds.
- Trustee Joyce moved to open and approve Report 63-29 BP #54 Stevenson Playground Demolition and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.
- This is the expected cost for this project.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Joyce, Trustee Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVauil

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Report 63-30 IDEA Resolution

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Resolution is calling for full and permanent funding by the federal government. IDEA was passed in 1975, the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education to ensure that every child with a disability has access to a high-quality education. The financial pledge for IDEA has never been met and is currently funded at approximately 10.7 percent, leaving a gap of billions of dollars needed for students. Southfield Public Schools is proud to serve a student population that includes 21 percent of students with disabilities. SPS school board calls on Congress to immediately pass the IDEA Full Funding Act (S.2217/H.R. 4519) which would create a 10-year mandatory path to fully fund IDEA. SPS school board calls on the state legislature to provide adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding increases to districts to mitigate the harm caused by decades of underfunded schools.
- Secretary Smith-Thomas moved to open and approve Report 63-30 IDEA Resolution and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauil, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Joyce, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Bland, and Trustee Belk

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Report 63-31 Access Controls Upgrades – Bond Funds: Matt Tarrow and Allyson Dewar

- To approve contracts with Nerds Xpress of Detroit, MI in the amount of \$38,427 for low voltage cabling, and with Moss Telecommunications of Grand Rapids, MI in the amount of \$369,909.15 for building access systems.
- The cost will cover the system and the first phase of the project based on the number of doors where the buildings have been renovated.
- Some of the pieces there today are compatible with this system.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauil moved to open and approve Report 63-31 Access Controls Upgrade and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Joyce, Trustee Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVauil

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Report 63-32 SPS Standard Operating Procedures – General Funds

- Plante Moran's consulting services will consist of developing detailed standard operating procedures (SOPs) to support Southfield Public Schools in standardizing key processes and supporting management's process improvement objectives. Plante Moran's service offering will be delivered via a combination of on-site and remote collaboration over the course of a 10-week period of time with weekly status updates. The scope of services are detailed SOPs – 11, estimated 245 hours, and an estimated fee of \$49,000. The process flowcharts – 11, estimated 50 hours, and an estimated fee of \$10,000.

- The Standard Operating Procedures would support the Administrative Guidelines.
- The Office of the Superintendent would be accountable for the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures.
- Identifying the gaps in the system. While we have a lot of systems, they do not talk to each other for that seamless workflow.
- It will also provide us with areas of duplication so that we can streamline some of the processes and procedures for seamless workflows.
- Dr. Green asked if the board could approve both the detailed SOPs at \$49,000 and the flowcharts at \$10,000 for a total of \$59,000.
- Trustee Joyce moved to open and approve Report 63-32 SPS Standard Operating Procedures.
- Treasurer Belk would like for the board to be made aware of any pricing adjustments to this report.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Joyce, Trustee Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVauil

Nays: Trustee Holloway

Trustee Holloway states that she needed additional time to review the report.

Motion carried. 6 yes and 1 no

- The Board moved back to the Report of the Superintendent – Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology – Presentation.

e. Financial Report

f. Monthly Bill Disbursement

- We need to have a Committee of the Whole meeting to determine what the board wants to report out. This should be done before the Organizational Meeting and the Board Retreat.
- Treasurer Belk has had a significant death in her family. Our condolences to her and her family.

8. For the Good of the Order

- Ask that we provide factual information to our community.
- The Board to continue to review our policies and administrative guidelines.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauil and Secretary Smith-Thomas were delegates for our district. The delegates went over their policies and learned quite a bit.

9. Future Meetings

- Thursday, November 14, 2024: Southfield Public Schools with the Area Council PTA – Safety Forum @ 6:00 p.m.
 - Monday, November 25, 2024, Festival of Lights featuring the SA&T Marching Band @ 5:30 p.m.
 - November 27, 2024 – November 29, 2024, Thanksgiving Holiday Break – NO SCHOOL
 - Thursday, November 28, 2024, America’s Thanksgiving Parade featuring the SA&T Marching Band @ 9:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- Our Regular board meetings are the second Tuesday of every month with the exception of July, at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom unless stated.

10. Adjournment

President Bland adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Approved on: December 10, 2024
Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Board Secretary

Proposed for Adoption