



# SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Student Hearings	DATE: March 18, 2025	TIME: 5:30 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ashanti Bland, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, Treasurer
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani Johnson, Trustee	<input type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, Trustee
			<input 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 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 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 Vice President Ware-DeVaul at 5:46 p.m. Board Vice President Ware-DeVaul read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Smith-Thomas arrived at 6:48 p.m. Trustee Bland, Trustee Belk, Trustee Holloway, and Trustee Denson were excused from this meeting.

## 2. Action Items

### a. 07-2024-25

- Vice President Ware-DeVaul and Trustee Johnson introduced themselves.
- Chief Jackson introduced himself and Ms. Foster.
- The administrators introduced themselves.
- The parents and student introduced themselves.
- The parents states they received the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct as follows:

Article V, Section D: Specific Prohibited Behaviors/Conduct:

**#01 Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Drugs**

**#19 Disobedience/Failure to Cooperate with School Personnel**

**#19g Habitual Persistent Misconduct**

- The parent understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The parent wished to hold the meeting in private.
- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to hold the board meeting in closed session under section 8 (b) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider the dismissal, suspension or disciplining of student 07-2024-25, at the parents' request and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.
- There was no quorum.
- Closed Session started at 5:49 p.m.
- Closed Session ended at 6:39 p.m.

- Vice President Ware-DeVauall asked the administrators, parents, and student to step out for deliberations.
- The family was advised that they would receive a decision after the March 25, 2025, Study Session.
- No decision was made.

**b. 08-2024-25**

- Vice President Ware-DeVauall and the Trustees introduced themselves.
- Chief Jackson introduced himself and Ms. Foster.
- The administrators introduced themselves.
- The parent, student, grandparent, and mentor introduced themselves.
- The parent states they did not receive the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct as follows:

Article V, Section D: Specific Prohibited Behaviors/Conduct:

- #09 Physically Assaulting (fighting) a Staff Member/Person Associated with the District**
- #19 Disobedience/Failure to Cooperate with School Personnel**
- #19c Violation of Individual School Rules**
- #19g Habitual Persistent Misconduct**
- #27 Safety Concerns**
- #29 Disruptive Behavior**
- #31 Gross Behavior**

- The student pled guilty to #19 and not guilty to #09, #19c, #19g, #27, #29, and #31.
- The parent understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The parent wished to hold the meeting in public.
- The student does not receive special education services.
- All hands were sworn.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauall read the statement provided by the building administration.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauall asked the student about the incident that caused the violations to the Student Code of Conduct.
- The student provided their recollection of events leading to the incident.
- The parent answered the questions presented to them.
- The administrators added additional context to the events.
- The Board Trustees asked questions and spoke regarding the incident.
- Chief Jackson commented on the behaviors involved in the occurrences.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauall asked the administrators, parent, student, grandparent, and mentor to step out for deliberations.
- The administrators, parent, student, grandparent, and mentor were asked back in after deliberations.
- The parent, student, grandparent, and mentor were advised that they would receive a decision after the March 25, 2025, Study Session.
- There was no quorum and no decision was made.

**c. 09-2024-25**

- Vice President Ware-DeVauall and the Trustees introduced themselves.
- Chief Jackson introduced himself and Ms. Foster.
- The administrators introduced themselves.
- The parent and student introduced themselves.

- The parent states they did not receive the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct as follows:

Article V, Section D: Specific Prohibited Behaviors/Conduct:

- #11 Verbal Threats/Bomb Threats**
- #19 Disobedience/Failure to Cooperate with School Personnel**
- #19f Off-Campus Misconduct in General**
- #19g Habitual Persistent Misconduct**
- #27 Safety Concerns**
- #31 Gross Behavior**

- The student pled guilty to #19g and not guilty to #11, #19, #19f, #27, and #31.
- The parent understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The parent wished to hold the meeting in public.
- The student does not receive special education services.
- All hands were sworn.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauld read the statement provided by the building administration.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauld asked the student about the incident that caused the violations to the Student Code of Conduct.
- The student provided their overview of events regarding the incident.
- The parent provided some feedback and answered the Trustees questions.
- The administrators added additional context to the events.
- The Board Trustees asked questions and spoke regarding the incident.
- Chief Jackson commented on the behaviors involved in the situation.
- Vice President Ware-DeVauld asked the administrators, parent, and student to step out for deliberations.
- The administrators, parent and student were asked back in after deliberations.
- The parent and student were advised that they would receive a decision after the March 25, 2025, Study Session.
- There was no quorum and no decision was made.

### 3. Public Participation

- There was no public participation.

### 4. Adjournment

- Vice President Ware-DeVauld adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Student Hearings at 8:40 p.m.

**Approved on: April 8, 2025**

**Yvette Ware-DeVauld, Vice President**  
**Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Board Secretary**