



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting	DATE: April 22, 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- 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sommer Caldwell- Carruthers, Executive Director of Instruction	<input checked="" 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 President Bland at 6:10 p.m. Board President Bland read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Denson has an excused absence. Members of the EDN team are in the audience.

2. Information Items

a. Harmony Point Computer Training Center

- The Harmony Point project is envisioned to be:
 - A clean energy, world class computer CHIPS Manufacturing ECO System
 - The opportunity for Oakland County and suburbs to capitalize on Detroit's renaissance and rebrand Southfield as the Silicon Valley of the Midwest with an opportunity zone, excellent transportation and logistics, fits into Southfield's master plan, and a catalyst for investment, economic development and urban renewal.
 - A vibrant walkable hub that will support a thriving Downtown and \$400,000,000.00 Telegraph Business District
 - A foundation for growth and prosperity citywide optimizing the surrounding neighborhoods
 - Requires a \$550,000,000.00 investment
 - Smart Transit Center
 - Commercial and residential development
 - 450 EV charging station parking structure
 - Single family homes for manufacturing plant employees
 - Boutique hotel
 - Movie theater
 - Grocery store
 - Community Center
 - Pre-K – 8 School
 - 750 new jobs
- Location:
 - Qualifies for Opportunity Zone funding
 - On the Telegraph Trunk Line

- Southfield's Smart Zone Community
- Planning:
 - Fits into Southfield's Master plan
 - Catalyst for investment
 - Economic development and urban renewal
 - Positively impacts city and region
- Prospective Funding Sources and Uses
 - NIST CHIPS \$300M Grant
 - State of Michigan \$125M Manufacturing Grant
 - MEDC Gap Grant
 - Arctaris Opportunity Zone Funding
 - Department of Energy BBB Grant
 - New Market Tax Credits
 - Pace
 - Gershwin VC HUD Lending
- b. Report 63-70 E-Rate Structured Cabling and Structured Fiber Cabling: 2025-26 E-Rate, 20% from the Bond**
 - This project will cover replacing structured cabling (standardized system of organizing and installing the physical infrastructure for telecommunications and data transfer in a building or campus) and structured fiber cabling (designing and installing fiber optic cable systems to support high-speed data, voice, and video communication across a building or campus) for the following schools- **STRUCTURED CABLING:** Birney K-8, Levey Middle School, Thompson K-8, Stevenson Elementary, Vandenberg World Cultures Academy. **STRUCTURED FIBER CABLING:** Southfield High School for Arts & Technology, Birney K-8, Bussey Early Childhood, Kennedy Learning Center, Levey Middle School and Vandenberg World Cultures Academy. We are utilizing the E-Rate program for this project, which will allow us to receive up to 80% back on this project. Nerds Xpress provided the lowest and complete bid for both projects. Structured Cabling: \$28,248.43 (20% of \$141,242.15). Structured Fiber Cabling - \$21,215.81 (20% of \$106, 079.04).
 - Report 63-70 E-Rate Structured Cabling and Structured Fiber Cabling was presented for information only this evening.
- c. Report 63-71 E-Rate Network Electronics: 2025-26 E-Rate, 20% from the Bond**
 - This project will cover refreshing network closet equipment (UPS units and switches) and adding additional network closets as needed for the following schools- Stevenson Elementary, Birney K-8, Levey Middle School, Thompson K-8, Southfield High School for Arts and Technology. We are utilizing the E-Rate program for this project, which will allow us to receive up to 80% back on this project. The bid from Delta Network Services was accurate, complete, and substantially lower. This is the vendor who has provided all of our network electronics in the district and aligns with what we currently have in place. The purchase and installation of network electronics is in the amount of **\$80,563.06 (20% of \$402,815.32)** from Delta Network Services.
 - Report 63-71 E-Rate Network Electronics was presented for information only this evening.
- d. Report 63-72 2025-26 Oakland Schools Budget**
 - Per the Michigan Student Code, Section 380.624(2), the proposed FY 2025-26 General Fund budget is submitted to its constituent districts' Board of Education for review by May 1. Not later than June 1, the board of each constituent district shall adopt a resolution of support or non-support of the General Fund budget.
 - Report 63-72 2025-26 Oakland Schools Budget has been presented for information only this evening.
 - This is a projected budget with a 5-year capital plan
 - It is due to Oakland Schools by June 1, 2025 for approval or disapproval of the projected budget.

- The budget may change due to the political climate.
- There will be a County-wide Millage Act coming before the board fairly soon.
- e. Report 63-73 2025-26 Curriculum Budget**
- The Curriculum team put together a PowerPoint that reflected the resource, the description, stage, cost, and the funding source for each of the programs the District uses, for each of their departments.
- Report 63-73 2025-26 Curriculum Budget was present for information this evening.
- Thank you to the Communications team!
- Advance contract will be on the agenda at the regular board meeting.
- Thank you to the Curriculum team!
- Thank you to Tyler for his hard work in getting everyone filmed for the SPS PTA 2025 Founders Day Reflections Talent Showcase.
- Today is Earth Day.
- Thank you to Dr. Freeman for her efforts with Earth Day!

3. Public Participation

- There was no public participation.
- There was mention of having Secret Shoppers for the food service program in a few of our school buildings.

4. Closed Session

- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to go into closed session, under the Michigan Compiled Law, Open Meetings Act, Section 15.268, Section 8(b) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a student if the public body is part of the school district, intermediate school district, or institution or higher education that the student is attending, and if the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed hearing and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

Closed Session started at 6:52 p.m.

Closed Session ended at 7:24 p.m.

No decisions were made.

5. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- March 25, 2025, Special Meeting
 - April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting
- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes 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 Smith-Thomas, and Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

b. Report 63-69 Staffing & Payroll Services – ECE SubHub: Head Start, Early Head Start, and GSRP Grants

- Head Start Performance Standard 1302.21 Center-based option. A program must maintain appropriate ratios during all hours of program operation, except:
 - (i) For brief absences of a teaching staff member for no more than five minutes; and,
 - (ii) During nap time, one teaching staff member may be replaced by one staff member or volunteer who does not meet the teaching qualifications required for the age.
 - An Early Head Start or Migrant or Seasonal Head Start class that serves children under 36 months old must have two teachers with no more than eight children, or three teachers with no more than nine children.
 - A class that serves a majority of children who are three years old must have no more than 17 children with a teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers.
 - A class that serves a majority of children who are four and five years old must have no more than 20 children with a teacher and a teaching assistant or two teachers.
- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to open and approve Report 63-69 Staffing & Payroll Services – ECE SubHub: Head Start, Early Head Start, and GSRP Grants and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

c. Report 63-74 Personnel Action Report

- Vice President Ware-DeVaul moved to open and approve Report 63-74 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.
- #4: resigned from a contracted position.
- #3: elimination of a position.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

d. 13-2024-25

- Vice President Ware-DeVaul recommended a motion to expel 13-2024-25 and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.

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

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

Nays: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Absent: Trustee Denson

Trustee Smith-Thomas recommends a long-term suspension with mentoring opportunities for 13-2024-25.

5 yes and 1 no votes.

Motion carried.

e. 14-2024-25

- Vice President Ware-DeVauld recommended a motion to expel 13-2024-25 and it was supported by Treasurer Belk.

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

Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Bland, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Ware-DeVauld

Nays: Trustee Smith-Thomas

Absent: Trustee Denson

Trustee Smith-Thomas recommends a long-term suspension with mentoring opportunities for 13-2024-25.

5 yes and 1 no votes.

Motion carried.

6. For the Good of the Order

- SPS PTA 2025 Founders Day & Reflections Talent Showcase on April 24, 2025 (virtual) from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Spring Enrollment Fair on May 8, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- U K-12 application will re-open from Friday, May 9, 2025 – Friday, May 16, 2025
- The enrollment billboards are working.
- There was mention of shifting to have GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program) placed in our elementary schools.
- There was mention of expanding Stevenson Elementary to a K-8 school.
- Dr. Green gave her annual familial disclosure indicating that she would have family members working in the district and they are not paid by our local, state or federal dollars.

7. Future Meetings

- a. Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Superintendent's Senior Scholarship Showcase @ 6:00 p.m.
- b. Tuesday, May 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

President Bland adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 8:04 p.m.

Approved on: May 13, 2025

Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Board Secretary