

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,**  
**SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**Monday, December 4, 2017 (6:30 PM)**

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on December 4 A.D., 2017, at 5:30 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Adam Lopez, President  
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary

Chuck Flamini  
Judith Johnson  
Anthony Mares  
Donna Moore  
Jamie Sisti  
J. Michael Zimmers

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent  
Rekha Goswami, Student Member

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

President Lopez called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Moore moved to adjourn to Executive Session to consider the following matters:

- 2.1 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- 2.2 Contract Negotiations – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- 2.3 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9,10)

Motion seconded by Mr. Zimmers and carried by the following vote:

Those voting “aye”: Flamini, Johnson, Lopez, Mares, Moore, Sisti, Zimmers  
Those voting “no”: None.

**Adjournment to Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:39 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**3.1 President's Comments**

Mr. Lopez made the routine announcement that public comment on published agenda items would occur during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. He instructed those interested in addressing the Board to fill out the required Public Participation at Board Meetings Form and submit it to Communications in the front row of the audience. Additionally, he reminded those interested in addressing the Board that comments are limited to three minutes.

Mr. Lopez indicated that additional security measures for spectators would be implemented prior admittance at all boys varsity home basketball games and at the girl's city tournament basketball games. Mrs. Gill reminded individuals attending these games to please leave large bags at home to make the search process go more quickly.

### **3.2 Board Salutes**

Mr. Mares indicated that he recently visited Springfield and Southeast high schools. He commended the administration and staff of these schools for their responses to recent bomb threats. He then discussed a news conference that took place earlier in the day regarding a reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone involved in the recent bomb threats. He encouraged members of the public that may have information relevant to the threats to contact Crime Stoppers as an increased reward is offered for this information by the organization.

Additionally, Mr. Mares reported visiting Harvard Park, Owen Marsh, and Lindsay elementary schools over the past two weeks. He saluted the Springfield Public Schools Foundation on their recent Gratitude and Recognition Reception, which showcased teachers that have received grants from them, to date this school year. Next, Mr. Mares saluted Horace Mann for their ongoing support of the District and recent donation to the Springfield Public Schools Foundation.

Ms. Johnson saluted Harvard Park Elementary School on their recent Elementary Destination America event. She enjoyed the students' singing and performances.

Mr. Zimmers also saluted Harvard Park Elementary School on the Elementary Destination America event. He reported that he plans to reschedule a visit to Southeast High School that he had planned and looks forward to that visit.

Mrs. Sisti saluted Mr. Lopez for sponsoring, organizing and hosting a recent basketball tournament that benefited Lanphier High School. She reported that attendance at the tournament has become a Thanksgiving weekend tradition for her family.

Ms. Johnson then announced that it was Mr. Lopez' birthday. She wished him a happy birthday and encouraged others to do the same.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **4.1 Old Business**

There was no old business at this time.

### **4.2 New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

### **4.3 Student Business**

Ms. Goswami reported that the Superintendent's Student Roundtable would be participating in middle school visits in the upcoming weeks. Additionally, she reported that the group's Unity Day event would benefit a local organization, Sojourn House. She indicated that participants in the Unity Day event will prepare baskets for women and children being served by Sojourn House and will listen to a speaker from the organization. The group continues planning for the event, which will take place on January 20, 2018.

Mr. Mares inquired as to if the District would conduct the food drive that benefits St. Martin de Porres again this year. Mrs. Gill reported that the drive would take place again this year.

## **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

### **5.1 Our Schools, Our Future Facilities Master Plan Proposal**

Board members were provided copies of the facilities master plan presentation, the complete Master Plan and a summary of the Master Plan. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Mrs. Gill gave an overview of the plan. She explained that this was created as a result of an extensive facilities study conducted over the course of the last year. The study included nine community engagement sessions. The results of the study can be found on the District's homepage under the "Our Schools, Our Future" link. Mrs. Gill thanked those involved in creating the plan for their work. She then provided some data regarding community input gathered and statistics about the District's facilities.

Next, Mr. Jeff Lightfoot, Springfield High School teacher, parent to three District students and member of the facilities committee, addressed the Board. He provided information regarding the importance of creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment to better meet the needs of today's students and support collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking.

Mrs. Melissa Hamilton, District graduate, parent and Springfield community business owner, addressed the Board regarding the specifics of the vision created from the engagement sessions. Mrs. Hamilton reported that the vision includes:

- Future focused learning environments that support the success of all students.
- Smartest use of the District's financial resources.
- Places our community can gather and be proud of to strengthen the District and community bonds.

She then overviewed examples of renovations and updates made to buildings in other school districts including schools located in Decatur, Illinois, Mt. Zion, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa.

Next, Mrs. Serita Lott, District administrator and parent, addressed the Board, presented the components of the master plan. She reported the master plan was directly developed from input gathered during the community engagement sessions. It is comprised of individual building plans for each building within the District and takes into community preferences and costs. She then overviewed the individual plan components and reported that buildings were assessed by their functional suitability to ensure equitable learning environments are created district-wide. The plan removes all modular classrooms. Consideration was given to expanding early learning opportunities. Mrs. Lott then overviewed individual school plans.

Mr. Tod Davis, District administrator and parent, presented information about the strengths of the master plan. He reported that the plan:

- Equitably addresses functional and physical needs of each building throughout the District
- Creates student centered learning environments based on current and future needs
- Is cost effective
- Maintains historic and cultural aspects of current facilities
- Enhances community pride and access to venues
- Creates learning environments and athletic facilities that are competitive with surrounding school districts
- Removes portable classrooms
- Addresses all Health Life and Safety needs

Ms. Johnson expressed concern about the size of the gymnasium at Matheny-Withrow Elementary School.

Lastly, Sam Johnson, Principal Architect with BLDD Architects, and Mrs. Gill provided information on the next steps for the plan of action, which include plans for broader community engagement in the spring of 2018 to:

- Obtain broader, statistically significant community input
- Partner with the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield
- Research funding mechanisms and amounts
- Prioritize the work
- Develop a schedule of proposed work

Mr. Johnson reported that this process is the same process that the Decatur Public Schools used however; the process conducted here in Springfield engaged many more community members during the community engagement sessions. He reported that he found these sessions to be very well attended, especially when compared to the processes of other districts. He then provided a timeline for the remainder of the process. Ms. Johnson asked if the work associated with the remainder of the process would come at an additional cost to the District. Mr. Johnson reported that the remainder of the process is included in his firm's fees that have already been paid. Mr. Zimmers thanked the committee for their work. Mr. Mares asked about estimated costs associated with the broader community engagement work with the University of Illinois Springfield. Mrs. Gill reported that any costs associated with that work are within the budget for the project. Ms. Johnson asked if this cost is included in the current budget. Mrs. Gill reported that the costs associated with the work with UIS are anticipated to be minimal and were taken into consideration when developing this year's budget. Ms. Johnson then asked about parking at some of the facilities. Mrs. Gill reported that parking would be taken into consideration when developing the individual plans for each building. Mrs. Moore asked at what point are plans developed for individual schools. Mr. Johnson reported that the building design occurs after funding has been secured, the 4<sup>th</sup> phase in the process. Mrs. Moore then asked Mr. Johnson what his firm's role would be during the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of the process. Mrs. Gill reported that once phase 3 is complete, the work to prioritize individual projects would be developed by the District. Requests for proposals will then be issued which firms like BLDD can submit along with any other firms interested in taking on the construction work. Ms. Johnson then asked how old the building at the Decatur Public Schools is that was showcased in the presentation. Mr. Johnson reported that the building is approximately the same age as Southeast High School and was very similar to Southeast High School with respect to the original design. Mr. Flamini then discussed the work on Eisenhower High School in Decatur. Mrs. Moore asked how the community would be further engaged with the next portion of the process. Mrs. Gill reported that focus groups would be developed. Mr. Lopez then addressed funding possibilities.

## **BUSINESS REPORTS**

### **6.1 Financial Report**

Board members were provided with electronic copies of the Financial Report for November 2017. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Mr. Joseph Bascio, Business Manager, reported Education Fund revenues of approximately \$6.2 million for the month and expenditures of approximately \$12.9 million for the month. The Operations and Maintenance Fund saw revenues of approximately \$345,000 for the month and

expenditures of approximately \$980,000 for the month. Mr. Bascio further reported outstanding payments from the State of Illinois currently total approximately \$3.9 million.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **7.1 Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Gill provided the following updates and shout outs:

- She thanked Mr. Lopez for hosting and organizing the Thanksgiving basketball tournament that benefited Lanphier High School. She commended him on his attention to detail as it relates to the organization of the event.
- She thanked Horace Mann for their continued support and donation provided from the proceeds of the Horace Mann Golf Outing that benefited the Springfield Public Schools Foundation. She indicated the event raised \$22,500 for the Foundation's grants and technology initiatives.
- Asked anyone in the community that may have information related to the recent bomb threats to contact Crime Stoppers.
- She saluted the students that were honored and recognized at the Springfield Urban League dinner.

## **CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Approval of Consent Action Items**

Approval of consent action items as listed in the agenda.

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 8.2 through 8.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Donna Moore)** Moved, Member **(Michael Zimmers)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 8.2 through 8.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Flamini, Johnson, Lopez, Mares, Moore, Sisti, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": None.

### **8.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2017**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 reviews the minutes of the regular session and the executive session of the previous Board Meetings; and WHEREAS, copies of these sets of minutes were distributed to the Board in the board packet prior to this meeting; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the aforementioned set of regular session and executive session minutes and directs the Secretary to include them in the official records of the Board of Education meetings.

### **8.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable**

**Resolution:** That the Board of Education approves payroll and bills payable as shown in the attached report.

### **8.4 Approval of an Agreement with Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center**

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, District 186 has students who are provided inpatient services by Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center (LPBHC); and WHEREAS, said students require appropriate educational supports and services; and WHEREAS, The District is able and willing to collaborate with LPBHC by providing the academic education component to inpatient District students at

LPBHC; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the agreement between Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center and Springfield Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

## **ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations**

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Donna Moore**) Moved, Member (**Jamie Sisti**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0** Abstain: **1**. The motion **Carried. 6 – 0 - 1**

Those voting "aye": Flamini, Johnson, Mares, Moore, Sisti, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": None.  
Those voting "abstain": Lopez

### **9.2 Acceptance of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017**

Acceptance of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

**Resolution:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution: WHEREAS, the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 105, Article 5, Section 2-3.17a require the completion of an annual financial audit by all school districts; and WHEREAS, the accounting firm of RSM US LLP., has conducted such an audit in accordance with all prescribed statutory requirements, rules, regulations, and/or standards; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received and reviewed said audit from, RSM US LLP; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (audit) for Fiscal Year 2017 as presented.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Donna Moore**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution: WHEREAS, the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 105, Article 5, Section 2-3.17a require the completion of an annual financial audit by all school districts; and WHEREAS, the accounting firm of RSM US LLP., has conducted such an audit in accordance with all prescribed statutory requirements, rules, regulations, and/or standards; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received and reviewed said audit from, RSM US LLP; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (audit) for Fiscal Year 2017 as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Flamini, Johnson, Lopez, Mares, Moore, Sisti, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": None.

### **9.3 Student Discipline**

**Resolution:** That the Board approves the student discipline as discussed in Executive Session and summarized by the Superintendent as follows:

- One 8th grade student be hereby expelled from further attendance at Washington Middle School through the end of the 2017-2018 school year with a program.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Michael Zimmers)** Moved, Member **(Charles Flamini)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board approves the student discipline as discussed in Executive Session and summarized by the Superintendent'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **1** Abstain: **1**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 1 - 1**

Those voting "aye": Flamini, Lopez, Mares, Sisti, Zimmers  
Those voting "no": Moore  
Those voting "abstain": Johnson

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**10.1 Next Regular Meeting – Monday, December 18, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. – Board Room**

**10.2 Upcoming District Events**

No School - Winter Break - December 22 – January 2 (regular calendar) December 18 – January 8 (balanced calendar)

**10.3 Freedom of Information Report**

Attached to Electronic School Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Lopez declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, December 18, 2017. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Lopez, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie A. Hammers, Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_