



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Study Session		DATE: May 26, 2026	TIME: 6:00 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center			
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie Love Smith-Thomas Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaul, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Denson, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amani Johnson, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jillian Holloway, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenae' Anderson, Trustee	
ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Green, Ed.D. Superintendent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sommer Caldwell- Carruthers, Associate Superintendent of Instruction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Jackson, Chief of Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DeVaughn Stephens, Chief of Talent Mtg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Lightsey, Executive Director of Academic Advisement & SEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Smith, Director of ISSN
<input type="checkbox"/> April Rogers, Executive Director of State and Federal Programs		<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 Belk at 6:02 p.m. Board President Belk read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Denson has an excused absence. Trustee Johnson arrived at 6:10 p.m. Vice President Smith-Thomas stepped out at 7:30 p.m. and returned at 7:57 p.m.

2. Information Items

a. Enrollment Taskforce

- The Southfield Public Schools Enrollment Taskforce was created to increase student enrollment, strengthen family and community engagement, and promote the district's programs, services, and achievements. Through strategic outreach, data analysis, marketing, and partnerships, the taskforce supports long-term district growth, sustainability, and excellence for students and families.
- **Taskforce Members:** Office of the Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, Pupil Accounting, Communications, Career Focused Education, Intense Student Support Network, Athletics, SASA Leadership, SEA Leadership, Social Emotional Learning, Headstart, Avance Communications
- **Current Enrollment Environment:**
 - Michigan's school-age population is projected to continue declining through 2030 and beyond.
 - Metro Detroit districts face enrollment losses due to population shifts, charter growth, homeschooling, private school options, and schools of choice.
 - Many Detroit-area districts have had to consolidate schools, reduce staffing, and increase student recruitment to stay financially stable.
 - Nearly 80% of Michigan school districts have lost enrollment since 2009, with a projected statewide decline of more than 6% by 2030.
 - Competition for students continues to grow as charter schools and choice programs expand.
 - Public school districts must focus on innovation, specialized programs, family engagement, branding, and partnerships to attract and retain students.
- **Enrollment Analysis:**

- SPS currently serves 4,301 students, with enrollment projected to decline to 4,098 in 2026–2027.
- This represents an estimated decrease of about 202 students.
- Elementary students make up the largest share of enrollment at 43%, followed by high school at 25% and middle school at 23%.
- Pre-K and KLC programs account for the remaining 2%.
- The greatest student attrition occurs during key transitions: Pre-K to Kindergarten, 5th to 6th grade, and 8th to 9th grade.
- These transition points are key opportunities for targeted retention, stronger family engagement, and long-term enrollment growth.
- The projections in the report come from Middle Cities.
- **Retention Strategy:**
 - The effort is designed to build family trust, improve student satisfaction, and support long-term enrollment.
 - **Current Programs/Events**
 - Kindergarten Round-ups (January)
 - Bussey’s Kindergarten Showcase (Fall)
 - Bussey’s Kindergarten Signing Day (January)
 - State of the District Address (March)
 - Back to School Fair (August)
 - SPS Athletics Programs (Ongoing)
 - **Proposed Programs/Events**
 - Career Focused Education Showcase (NEW)
 - UK12 Academy Application Window (Fall)
 - Online School Matching Platform (Summer)
 - Marching Band Visits
 - Athletic Department Visits
 - Middle School and High School Showcases
 - Increased Communication of District’s Points of Pride
 - Senior Survey
- Oakland Schools has a senior survey they use to find out where seniors will attend after high school.
- We will be allowing last year UK12 scholars to return without take a readmittance test that left after one year and have grades that are comparable to where they were when they left UK12.
- **Attraction Strategy:**
 - The goal is to attract a broader student population by highlighting academic excellence, student support, extracurricular opportunities, and college and career readiness.
 - **Current Programs/Events**
 - Kindergarten Round-ups (January)
 - State of the District Address (March)
 - Spring Enrollment Fair (May)
 - Back to School Fair (August)
 - SPS Athletics Programs (Ongoing)
 - **Proposed Programs/Events**
 - Increased Social Media Postings (Ongoing)
 - Career Focused Education Social Media Campaign (Summer)
 - Online School Matching Platform (Summer)
 - Daycare & Preschool Outreach (Fall)
 - Daycare/Preschool Owner Breakfast (Fall)
 - UK12 Academy Application Window (Fall)
 - Realtor Breakfast (Spring)

- There was mention of the Detroit Promise and the eligible to receive those funds.
- We should create a survey for our scholars in the pivotal grades asking whether they tend to exit the district.
- There needs to be a marketing campaign around being one of six districts in the State of Michigan with learning increases post-pandemic.
- It was mentioned to add a districtwide #hashtag marketing program.
- There was discussion about using the student board representative applicants to be the student voice at events with talking points in hand.
- We need to set a goal for the number of lost students from the district.
- We should use intranet services for our website.
- Chief Jackson sits on the Chamber of Commerce to support our business outreach.
- Employees and our third party vendors are allowed to enroll their students in the district.
- There was discussion about having SPS alumni enroll their students in the district.
- When the district has enough students to return to a D1 status, the dance program will be able to compete at D1 status as well.
- During the State of the City, the Trustees can have talking points regarding the bond work in the district.
- There has been communication sent to parents regarding the UK12 move and swing space visits.
- **Daycare and Preschool Outreach**
- **Next Steps**
 - Further Develop Daycare & Preschool Outreach Plan
 - Promote New School of Choice Guidelines to Target Audiences
 - Launch Summer Social Media Campaign
 - Host Groundbreaking Event for UK12 Campus
 - Participate in Two City Summer Events
 - Conduct Walkthroughs for UK12 Families
 - Host Back to School Fair with City of Southfield
- We are working to get the matching link for each of our buildings up and running on the website by this summer.
- The UK12 parent tours of the swing spaces are on: Monday, July 20th – high school (SRAC), July 21st – middle school (Eisenhower) and July 22nd – elementary school (Vandenberg)
- We need to market our 19 career pathways and all the different clubs we have in the district.
- We have to have our building level communications linked to the district website for those that may only visit the district website.
- **b. Parallel Learning Outcomes**
 - Parallel would be a virtual partner. They offer virtual, cross-disciplinary special education services including psychoeducational assessments and related services.
 - Every Parallel provider goes through a multi-stage screening process before ever working with a student: Clinical Case Study, Background Check, Verification of Credentials, Training and Onboarding, and Readiness Review
 - 98% of students served across SLP, BMH, and Specialized Instruction in 2024-2025 were at or above target expectations for their IEP goals.
 - How Parallel compares to other ways of delivering special education services: Provider quality, speed to staff, technology, outcomes, and partnership
 - Smarter Scheduling and Simplified Billing: weekly schedule visibility, time breakdown by type, billing-connected tracking and built-in compliance and balance
 - Clear Priorities, Tracked Daily: provider home page surfaces task due dates and status; task types span caseload management, payroll and more; color-coded flags make priorities front and center
 - Industry assessments built into the sessions:

- Riverside, Pearson and other leading assessment resources are integrated natively in the platform
- Test delivered live in the therapy room – stimulus materials stream to the student
- Auto-play audio, keep testing conditions standardized and valid
- Scores flow directly into reports
- Perfectly written reports, every time: build reports in-platform, custom templates ensure compliance, saves time, streamlining workflows for greater efficiency and clinically reviewed before delivery
- IEP goals tracked with full audit trail: goals tracked with clear metrics, progress updated each session, district-wide view of progress, and full history supports compliance
- Everything districts need, in one view: complete student snapshot in one place, real-time tracking of service minutes, IEP and re-evaluation due dates surface automatically and clear, at-a-glance view of goals and progress
- Parallel goes deep into the findings to support the needs of students that use phones, tablets and computers.
- We have eight Speech Pathologists currently in the district. Four (4) of the Speech Pathologists will be retiring at the end of the school year.
- Parallel is for scholars that can use a virtual platform.
- Each Speech Pathologist has a caseload of approximately 50-55 scholars.
- This would replace our current vendor that is multi-focused in other areas as well. Ms. Smith would be less hands on with the reports while using the Parallel platform.
- c. Report 64-89 Staff Connections (OT & PT) 2026-2027: Special Education Expenditure**
- As mandated by IDEA, we are required to provide the minimum amount of service time identified on IEP's and service plans for students currently enrolled in our district and for students who qualify for OT and/or PT and attend a public or private school within the Southfield boundaries.
- This will be a Special Education Expenditure with an impact amount of \$600,000.00.
- Report 64-89 Staff Connections (OT & PT) 2026-2027 was tabled.
- d. Report 64-90 AnthroMed 2026-2027: Special Education Expenditure**
- As mandated by IDEA, we are required to provide the minimum amount of service time identified on IEP's and service plans for students currently enrolled in our district and for students who qualify for Speech and Language services and attend a public or private school within the Southfield boundaries. This will be a Special Education Expenditure with an impact amount of \$300,000.00.
- Report 64-90 AnthroMed 2026-2027 was tabled.
- e. Report 64-91 Bussey Center Playground Renovation: Head Start Grant and 2020 Non-Voting Bond**
- Southfield Public Schools issued RFP 2026-14 – Playground Renovation (Bussey Center) for the demolition, site preparation, and installation of new playground equipment and surfacing. Three proposals were received and formally evaluated by an evaluation committee using the criteria outlined in the RFP. Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. achieved the highest overall evaluation score and was determined to be the most responsive and responsible bidder. The current confirmed Head Start budget for this project is \$92,132 for equipment and \$36,738 for installation, totaling \$128,870. The balance of \$150,455 will be paid by the 2020 Bond Fund. The recommended award amount of \$279,325.00 falls within the total potential budget, inclusive of carryover funds.
- Secretary Ware-DeVaul introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-91 Bussey Center Playground Renovation and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Anderson, Trustee Belk, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

f. Report 64-92 BP #65 Levey Middle Exterior Painting: Bond Funds

- Based upon the evaluation of the project team, we present the following company for consideration by the administration and the Board of Education: Seven Brothers Painting Inc. The total contractor award amount for BP #65 Levey Middle Exterior Painting Upgrades is \$41,500.00. The contingency amount is 10% of the project total value. The total contingency amount is \$4,150.00, bringing the construction total to \$45,650.00. This project will be funded by bond funds.
- Report 64-92 BP #65 Levey Middle Exterior Painting was tabled.

g. Report 64-93 High School Credit Recovery Summer School – Educere: 31A Grant

- The Administration recommends approval of a contract with Educere to provide an online High School Credit Recovery Summer School program for Southfield Public Schools students. Educere is a Michigan-approved online learning provider offering a comprehensive, standards-aligned credit recovery platform designed to serve students who have failed one or more courses required for high school graduation. The program will be administered by district staff and online teachers available to eligible high school students during the summer. This initiative directly supports the district's commitment to ensuring every student has a pathway to on-time graduation and postsecondary readiness. The impact amount is \$78,000.00 from the 31A Grant.
- The 31A Grant funds are for at risk students.
- Report 64-93 High School Credit Recovery Summer School – Educere was tabled.

h. Report 64-94 OCSBA 2026 Spring Proposed Bylaw Changes

- Proposed bylaw changes:
 - The Intermediate School District pays annual membership dues directly to the Association, and is therefore entitled to appoint one (1) Trustee to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors. If the ISD chooses to not exercise their right to appoint a Director, the Board of Directors shall be notified, in writing, within 30 days of a Board election so that the seat can be filled by election.
 - In the event that the elected committee chair is not a member of the Board of Directors, the Association Board shall appoint one of its Directors to serve as Vice-Chair of the committee.
 - ~~In the absence of an elected Vice Chair, the Vice President of OCSBA will assume the position of Vice Chair.~~ In the event that the elected committee chair is not a member of the Board of Directors, the Association Board shall appoint one of its Directors to serve as Vice-Chair of the committee.
- Report 64-94 OCSBA 2026 Spring Proposed Bylaw Changes was tabled.

i. Report 64-95 OCSBA 2026 Spring Proposed New Resolution

- Proposed new resolution: OCSBA opposes tying any school funding to waiving the attorney-client privilege.
- Report 64-95 OCSBA 2026 Spring Proposed New Resolution was tabled.

j. Report 64-96 OCSBA Vote for Member

- Trustee Johnson introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-96 OCSBA Vote for Member and for Secretary Ware-DeVaull to offer the vote for the district and it was supported by Secretary Ware-DeVaull.
- There was discussion regarding the candidate.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

k. Report 64-97 Rescinded and Revised Policies – First Read

- i. Policy 1422.02 – Rescinded
 - ii. Policy 1662 – Rescinded
 - iii. Policy 3122.02 – Rescinded
 - iv. Policy 4122.02 – Rescinded
 - v. Policy 4362 – Rescinded
 - vi. Policy 8510 – Wellness Policy
- Report 64-97 Rescinded and Revised Policies – First Read was tabled.

3. Action Items**a. Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes****i. May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting**

- Trustee Johnson introduced a motion to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Secretary Ware-DeVauil.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVauil to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Belk, Trustee Anderson, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Ware-DeVauil

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

b. Report 64-87 BP #46 Kennedy Learning Center (KLC) Boiler Replacement: Bond Funds

- On April 14th, 2026, formal bid proposals were received and read publicly concerning BP 46 Kennedy Boiler Replacement. The collective Bond Team (BMB, French, PMR, and SPS) has reviewed the proposals. The attached bid tabulation lists all of the bid proposals received. After a review of all bid proposals, post bid reviews were conducted to verify the proposals were inclusive of the scope of work and schedule. Based upon the evaluation of the project team, we present the following company for consideration by the administration and the Board of Education: The initial low bidder, A.J. Miller Mechanical, Inc., did not provide a complete bid per the bidding documents. The second low bidder, Delta Temp Services, Inc., provided a complete bid per the bidding documents and is the recommended bidder. Alternate M1 was accepted and incorporated into the project and are identified in the bid tabulation. The project scope includes the installation of the pre-purchased boilers and associated pumps at Kennedy Learning Center. The total cost of the project plus the contingency is \$357,720.00.
- Secretary Ware-DeVauil introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-87 BP #46 Kennedy Learning Center (KLC) Boiler Replacement and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVauil to call for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauil, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Belk, Trustee Anderson

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

c. Report 64-88 DTE Method of Permanent Electrical Service – UK12 Campus Construction: Bond Funds

- Our current circuit feed is inadequate for our new University campus. Some of our current equipment will be fused to new equipment giving us adequate electricity to run our new campus. To perform the work necessary to accommodate this feed we will install a new 300 VAR capacitor,

replace 1 pole with a 50' class 2 pole, install 2 tangent fiberglass crossarms, install 2 dead end fiberglass crossarms, install 2 sets of 600 amp disconnect switches.

- The cost of the system work is \$107,787 and will include an additional \$1500 primary service connection fee. Total cost of the job is \$109,287.
- Secretary Ware-DeVaul introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-88 DTE Method of Permanent Electrical Service – UK12 Campus Construction and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

d. Report 64-98 The Board Sabbatical During the Month of July

- Secretary Ware-DeVaul introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-98 The Board Sabbatical During the Month of July and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas.
- Vice President Smith-Thomas asked about the expenditure of a certain amount for the Board to vote on. Dr. Green indicated that she will have it added to the next agenda.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

e. Report 64-99 Personnel Action Report

- #3 is posted
- #1 was grant community school position
- Trustee Johnson introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-99 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Secretary Ware-DeVaul.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVaul to call for the vote.

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

4. Public Participation

- Speaking on behalf of her grandchildren; not able to attend graduation; great children
- Speaking on behalf of her children; not able to attend graduation; close knit family; labeled as a gang
- Unable to attend the meeting; they know that they were wrong; student was their friend; the outcome is not fair; want students to walk across the stage; had their punishment
- Advocate of the Justice Center; cousin of the families that spoke; harsh judgement; how sexual harassment is handled in the school; level of responsibility for students

5. For the Good of the Order

- The ask was to keep the board abreast of the placement and staffing – right of assignment within the district.
- We will be following the Collective Bargaining Agreement for those select groups.
- We used zero based budgeting last year.
- We are looking to align the number of administrators to their enrollment to ensure we have the support in each building. We are looking at everything.
- Summer PD is handled by the Instructional Team.
- This particular instance with the reference of a gang label has become a legal issue now.
- There was mention to encourage the Trustees to try to attend the promotional ceremonies around the district.
- We have been working diligently with the Southfield and Lathrup Village Police Departments as it relates to the “teen takeovers”. We have two proms coming up.
- Move management – tours for our teachers/staff and they have been provided additional packing materials. We have a lot of moving pieces this summer.
- We need to place the information regarding the tours on our District website.
- Dr. Green read a section from po6320 regarding the superintendent making purchases and then bringing the purchases to the board at the next scheduled meeting.
- Teen takeovers have been deadly and we need to send warnings out to our students.

6. Future Meetings

- a. Friday, June 5, 2026, Graduation Day, Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre: SA&T @ 10:00 a.m. & U K-12 @ 2:00 p.m.
- b. Tuesday, June 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- c. Thursday, June 11, 2026, Students Last Day of School
- d. Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Truth in Taxation @ 5:30 p.m.
- e. Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Study Session @ 6:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

- President Belk adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 8:45 p.m.

Approved on: June 30, 2026

Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Secretary