



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Board Meeting		DATE: March 10, 2026		TIME: 7:00 p.m.		LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center	
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie L. Smith-Thomas, Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVauil, 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"/> Lanissa Freeman, Deputy Superintendent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Jackson, Chief of Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Devaughn Stephens, Chief of Talent Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Lightsey, Executive Director of Academic Advisement & SEL	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paris Whitman, SA&T <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chidi Nnaji, UK12		

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board President Belk at 7:04 p.m. Board President Belk read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Denson has an excused absence. Trustee Smith-Thomas arrived at 7:42 p.m. M1 Studios is handling our technical support. Members of the EDN Team were in the audience. We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Board Matters

- Trustee Anderson attended the UK12 parent meeting. The meeting flowed smoothly with questions being asked and answered. She thinks the meeting eased the minds of parents hearing about the transition.
- Secretary Ware-DeVauil mentioned having a schedule of the meetings ahead of time for parents that were not able to attend to put on their calendar.
- We will have those dates as we move forward this year and throughout the summer moving into next school year. We are working through a frequently asked question (FAQ) document. We are working to get it published relatively soon.

3. Report of the Student Board Representatives

a. Paris Whitman: Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology (SA&T)

- Welcome to March. This month represents growth, resilience, and fresh beginnings. March is also Women's History Month, is a time dedicated to honoring the women who lead, teach, support, and inspire every single day.
- We are especially fortunate to be part of a district where leadership at the board level is largely women-led. I would like to take a moment to recognize our district school board members:
 - Talisha Belk, Board President
 - Leslie Love Smith-Thomas, Board Vice President
 - Yvette Ware-DeVauil, Board Secretary
 - Nicole Denson, Board Treasurer
 - Jillian Holloway, Board Trustee
 - Janae' Anderson, Board Trustee

- Dr. Jennifer Green, Superintendent

Their leadership sets the tone for excellence across our schools.

- Beyond the board, we honor our female teachers, administrators, staff members, mothers at home, and women across the world who continue to shape communities and open doors for others. Their impact reaches far beyond what is always seen, and this month we celebrate their strength, dedication, and influence.

Our Sports Highlights:

- Our competitive cheer team had an outstanding finish, finishing first in the League Competition and second overall. Congratulations to Coach Stancie Napoleon for being named Coach of the Year.
- Our wrestling team was Gold Division League champions in just their second year, with several athletes earning first place finishes and multiple students qualifying for regionals.
- The bowling team had a successful season. The boys finished as Blue League champions, and senior Jaysa Taylor represented our school at the state level, finishing fourth in the entire state of Michigan.
- Both our boys and girls basketball teams had strong seasons and competitive playoff runs, with several seniors preparing to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.
- Our swim team advanced to the finals.
- Our Esports team is practicing and preparing for the playoffs.

Leadership and Activities Highlights:

- From February 21-February 23, 2026, Student Council attended the State Leadership Conference. Students participated in workshops, watched presentations from schools across Michigan showcasing their leadership initiatives, and listened to student speakers who shared powerful personal experiences centered around this year's theme, Mission Possible.
- On February 26, 2026, GEAR UP visited during senior English classes to introduce students to additional postsecondary options and to assist with OCC applications. They also met with juniors to discuss college preparation and planning for life after high school.
- The National Honor Society hosted the Student vs. Staff Volleyball game on February 27, 2026. The staff proudly maintained their winning streak.
- On March 4, 2026, C2 Pipeline welcomed back Tina Conway, a 2017 A&T graduate, for her continuing series titled Overreacting to Overachieving. Conway shared strategies for advancing academically and professionally and spoke about the importance of giving back and how to better perform in interviews using the STAR method. She expressed she continues returning to A&T because she wants to invest in the same community that helped shape her success.
- Also on March 4, 2026, we hosted 8th grade tours for Levey Middle School and Thompson K-8. On March 5, we welcomed Birney K-8 students. During these tours, members of Counselor's Council, Link Crew, and other student organizations guided middle school students throughout the building, showcasing our arts and technology programs, highlighted electives, and introduced career pathways available, including Culinary Arts and Fire Academy.
- Following the tours, students gathered in the auditorium for a panel featuring representatives from a variety of organizations who shared their experiences and answered questions from our future freshmen. The visit concluded with a soulful performance by our Dance Company.
- On March 5, 2026, GEAR UP also returned to English classes to assist students with financial aid, scholarships, and financial literacy guidance.
- From March 11-March 15, 2026, the Business Professionals of America will attend the State Leadership Conference. Students who qualified by placing at regionals will compete in their events, serve as voting delegates for state officer candidates, and attend workshops focused on leadership, time management, and scholarship opportunities. Those competing have been practicing and working extremely hard in preparation, and we are excited to see their dedication reflected at states.

- Our book club, *On the Same Page*, is hosting a book summary writing competition called the Summary Summit. Students will submit summaries of books they have read, and the best entries will earn prizes.

Academic Highlights:

- Progress reports were released on March 3, 2026. These reports serve as an important checkpoint for students to evaluate their progress, identify areas for improvement, and finish the quarter strong. It is a reminder that while we celebrate achievements, we also continue striving.
- As we continue through March, let us carry forward the spirit of growth and leadership that defines both this month and our district.
- Thank you, and I look forward to sharing more next month. Go Warriors!

b. Chidi Nnaji: University K-12 Academy (UK12)

- Alice Ball, Margaret Collins and Jewel Plummer Cobb are women that have contributed to STEM.
- We have a lot of brilliant students in our district. It is absolutely necessary to make sure our scholars know they can achieve anything they put their minds to.
- Our Black Excellence Program was filled with dancing, acting, poetry, singing, fashion, entrepreneurship, hairstyles, and beautiful artwork.
- Thank you to Ms. Barrett, Ms. Pope and Ms. Marsh for planning and organizing another year of a phenomenal program that continues to uplift, inspire and celebrate the brilliance within our school community.
- In Ms. Barrett's class there was a day of science, technology, engineering, arts, math, medicine, inventing, and innovation.
- Mr. Deegan and his African American studies class are going to the DIA. It was amazing learning about the Harlem Renaissance and how a simple chair can teach you about history.
- Timothy, Sanjay, Remington, and Evan made a poem that reads:
My origins are from afar
Miles across the deep blue
Follow the North Star
And you will discover something you never knew

Where the winds blow hot
Where the climate never changes
Animals with stripes and spots
Savannah desert and mountain ranges

A country full of culture
Hopes flying higher than vultures
Dancing, singing, and celebration
Tales of our story like the book of Revelations

- Our elementary scholars experimented with STEM which helped in expanding their imagination and creativity. They were tasked with building a roller coaster using Strawbees, as the scholars learned how to use them as connectors (hinges, constrain hinges, angles, branches, etc.). UK12 hosted the District's Science Fair this year.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Charles' scholar, Tiffany, for winning 2nd place in the K-2 category. Tiffany's project focused on the battery powered fan. Her question was, what type of battery makes the fan spin faster?
- Congratulations to Joseph for winning 1st place in the 3-5 Grade category. Joseph compared the effectiveness of different cleaning products on bacteria. Ms. Eidt's 1st and 3rd hour classes tied for 2nd place.

- Congratulations to Doyin, Camille and Micah placed 3rd in the 9-12 Grade category. They compared the temperature of water from different parts of the building. We are proud of all of you.
- Our 2nd grade scholars in Mrs. Charles' class enjoyed having the opportunity to come to school in their comfy pajamas.
- I would like to congratulate some people who have gone above and beyond. Paris and Navaya are heading the Podcasting Department of the school on their YouTube channel. Makenzie's and her soccer team went undefeated last season. Jacob, a 3rd grader in a new school managed to stand out with his ability to make everyone feel welcome.
- Our current plans start with:
 - Parent Teachers Conference this Thursday
 - The U will be doing State and District testing throughout April – SAT, PSAT, iReady, and M-Step
 - AP testing will happen in the first and second weeks of May
- Thank you!

4. Report of the Superintendent

- a. **Partner of the Month – March:** Officer Decari Cross, DM Burr Security at Thompson K-8
- b. **Employee of the Month – March:** Stacey Barrett, SPS Teacher at UK12
- c. **Legislative Update**
 - Secretary Ware-DeVaull shared some information with the Trustees.
 - Governor Whitmer signed into law the prohibition of cell phones in the classroom starting next school year.
- d. **Staffing Update Presentation – Dr. Green**
 - Dr. Green took a moment to recognize Ms. Yolanda Johnson. Ms. Johnson was on an alternate track to certification through Talent Together. Ms. Johnson passed her teacher certification exam on the very first time. By the end of this school year, Ms. Johnson will have completed her residency and she will be joining us in the fall as a certified ASD teacher.
 - Speech pathologist positions are districtwide positions. They are assigned to respective buildings based on their caseload. While we have the vacancies in our district, they are being filled by a partner organization. They are not full-time but they work during the hours outlined in the scholars individual education plan. It is based on the student need and not the adult schedule.
- e. **Bussey's Director's Report – Dr. Ursula Kelley-Wash**
 - March is Reading Month!
 - College begins at Bussey!
 - Enrollment Report: Total enrollment is 158 scholars.
 - Average Daily Attendance (ADA): Early Head Start (EHS): 84%, Head Start (HS): 83%, HS/GSRP: 82%, GSRP: 83%
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program: CACFP is a federal program that provides reimbursements for meals and snacks to eligible children and adults. Meals and snacks distribution totaled: 3,481.
 - Monitoring Report: Child Find Form
 - Timely Initial Evaluations: Total 19 March 2026
 - Education:
 - Child Observation Record (COR) Period: 3 (Ends – May 29, 2026)
 - MIAEYC Conference (5 Participants)
 - Crisis Prevention & Intervention Training – March 11 and 27, 2026
 - Progress Reports (March 13, 2026)
 - Educators Empowering Educators – Staff Meetings
 - Weekly Teacher/Staff Newsletter – Growing Leaders at Bussey

- Family Engagement: Black History Program – Bussey Center for Early Childhood Education Children’s Museum: Celebrating the African American Experience! Thursday, February 26, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- March is Reading Month
- InKind: February 2026 - \$133,816.63
- We have nineteen rising kindergarteners enrolled in the Summer Discovery Program.
- Student with dietary restrictions have to have medical documentation along with a form filled out from their parent/guardian.
- Secretary Ware-DeVaul thanked Dr. Kelley-Wash and Dr. Green and their teams for all of her work keeping the students in the district.

5. Public Participation

- Participant #1: UK12 Black History Month program. Cultural experience; where your student will be celebrated; UK12 is a great school; monthly meeting on Thursdays.
- Participant #2: Non-profit – Chief of Staff to speak with her regarding the nonprofit – assistance with signing day.
- Participant #3: Status of the hiring or any correspondence of the new head football coach.
- There will be a correspondence drafted for all of our athletes and their parents regarding the changes that just occurred within the last 24 hours.

6. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

- January 27, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Study Session
 - January 27, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Closed Session
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

7. Information Items

a. Report 64-56 Southfield A&T Fire Suppression Line Testing/Fire Hydrant Renovation: 2020 Non-voting Bond Dollars

- Through collective responsibility, and to assure we are code compliant going forward we must dig up eight (8) fire hydrants shut off valves and replace these hydrants with new quick connect /disconnect fittings. If current water lines can provide adequate pressure to support O-House fire suppression system, we can avoid the extreme expense of replacing outdoor underground water lines. To do that testing our current lines have to be turned off and on to establish the proper water pressure exists. An outside third-party contractor (Mot Mot) will do the testing under the guidance of our Architect Fanning Howey. These repairs must be done when school is closed as water needs to be shut down at the main causing water to be turned off to the high school. We are lining up the excavator for the spring break (March 30-April 3). Shut off valves and hydrant replacement will be done by a certified third party with our internal master plumber’s oversight.
- Hydrants can’t be retrofitted as our current models are too old to be retrofitted. We will do as much of these repairs in house as possible saving the district outside labor costs.

- \$123,384.56 for materials and labor for fire hydrants that need to be replaced with quick connect/disconnect fittings.
 - Report 64-56 Southfield A&T Fire Suppression Line Testing/Fire Hydrant Renovation has been tabled.
- b. Report 64-57 BP #17A Birney K-8 Hard Tile: Bond Funds**
- On February 24, 2026, bid proposals were received and read publicly concerning Birney K-8 School Hard Tile / BP 17A. Barton Malow Builders has reviewed the proposals with the Project Architect (French). 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 companies for consideration by the administration and the Board of Education: Black Mont \$95,000.00 + \$9,500.00 = \$104,500.00.
- c. Report 64-58 BP #42 Thompson K-8 Site Upgrades: Bond Funds**
- On February 20, 2026, bid proposals were received and read publicly concerning Thompson K-8 School Site Upgrades / BP 42. Barton Malow Builders has reviewed the proposals with the Project Architect/Engineer (French / SME). 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 companies for consideration by the administration and the Board of Education: Asphalt Specialists LLC \$1,884,875.00 + Alternate #1b \$47,000.00 + Alternate #1c + CM contingency = \$2,167,357.50.
- d. Report 64-59 BP #43 Levey Middle School Site Upgrades: Bond Funds**
- On February 18, 2026, bid proposals were received and read publicly concerning Levey Middle School Site Upgrades / BP 43. Barton Malow Builders has reviewed the proposals with the Project Architect/Engineer (French / SME). 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 companies for consideration by the administration and the Board of Education: Jacklyn Contracting LLC \$1,390,000.00 + CM contingency = \$1,529,000.00.
- e. Report 64-60 BP #44 Birney K-8 Site Upgrades: Bond Funds**
- On February 19, 2026, bid proposals were received and read publicly concerning Birney K-8 School Site Upgrades /BP 44. Barton Malow Builders has reviewed the proposals with the Project Architect/Engineer (French /SME). 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 companies for consideration by the administration and the Board of Education: Asphalt Specialists LLC \$1,940,175.00 + Alternate #01 \$29,000.00 + CM contingency = \$2,166,092.50.
 - For Birney K-8 and Levey Middle, those campuses are currently vacant, we plan to have the site work contractors start relatively quickly. The work is expected to be complete before the first day of school for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - The material being used for the parking lots meet the Oakland County code requirements.
 - Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 64-57 BP #17A Birney K-8 Hard Tile, Report 64-58 BP #42 Thompson K-8 Site Upgrades, Report 64-59 BP #43 Levey Middle School Site Upgrades, and Report 64-60 BP #44 Birney K-8 Site Upgrades and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas.

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

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

Nays: Nil
 Absent: Trustee Denson
 Motion carried.

f. Report 64-61 Technology Designer – Integrated Design Solutions (IDS): Bond Funds

- With assistance from Oakland Schools (OS), the project team negotiated the contract and fee based on OS’s ongoing relationship with Integrated Design Solutions, LLC (IDS). Upon completion of subsequent discussions, and final review of the proposal, the project team unanimously recommends awarding the contract for Technology Designer consulting services to IDS. IDS presented a strong team, an effective process, and experience in developing Technology Design Consulting Services for public school districts, and their proposed hours reflect the effort required to execute the scope of services. The consultants fee will be a fixed lump sum in the amount of \$404,848.00. Reimbursable expenses are not anticipated for this project.
- We did not lose any money. We had to course correct back to Stevenson Elementary to make some adjustments.
- Trustee Johnson moved to open and approve Report 64-61 Technology Designer – Integrated Design Solutions (IDS) and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas.

President Belk asked Secretary Ware-DeVauil to call for the vote.
 Ayes: Trustee Belk, Trustee Anderson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Ware-DeVauil
 Nays: Nil
 Absent: Trustee Denson
 Motion carried.

g. Financial Report

h. Monthly Bill Disbursement

- There were no question regarding the financial report or monthly bill disbursement.

8. For the Good of the Order

- There was a warning to be careful with opening emails and clicking on links.
- Thank you to our Trustees for getting out and reading to our scholars for March is Reading Month.
- Thank you to our teachers for working hard every day. You are appreciated every month.

9. Future Meetings

- Wednesday, March 11, 2026, Professional Development — NO STUDENTS
- Wednesday, March 11, 2026, State of the District at Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology at the Fieldhouse @ 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Study Session @ 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 30–April 3, 2026, Spring Recess — NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, April 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

- President Belk adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 8:12 p.m.

Approved on: April 14, 2026

Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Secretary

Proposed for Adoption