



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Regular Board Meeting	DATE: April 14, 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer
<input checked="" 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 7:01 p.m. Board President Belk read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Smith-Thomas and Trustee Denson arrived at 7:10 a.m. Technical support is being handled by M1 Studios. We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Due to the weather forecasted for this evening, we will be moving swiftly this evening, so that our families are not caught in the impending weather.
- President Belk read a statement indicating that the Board will be considering administrative non-renewals due to student decline in enrollment.

2. Board Matters

- Secretary Ware-DeVauil discussed that as she and Trustee Holloway are delegates for the Governance Relations Committee; they received updates regarding the White House decisions and other topics. She will be reporting out on that information at a later date.
- Trustee Johnson reported out on the sustainability program. He spoke about where we are with the electric buses and the recycling program. The recycling program at KLC is going well, where student engagement is really high. We have received four electric school buses, which are currently being inspected. We anticipate an additional fleet later this summer. At the end of phase two we will have a total of 20 electric school buses. We will have a public event happening in the coming weeks to highlight this work from First Students communication team. This is a major step for our district, not just from an environmental standpoint but from an operational and financial one as well.
- The Board moved to the Report of the Superintendent.

3. Report of the Student Board Representatives

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

- April is a meaningful month for recognition and reflection. Internationally, Black Women's History Month honors the achievements, resilience, and impact of black women throughout history and across the globe. Nationally, Arab American Heritage Month celebrates the rich culture, history, and contributions of Arab Americans to society. These observances provide an opportunity for our

school community to learn, appreciate diversity, and recognize the influence of different voices and experiences.

Sports Highlights

- Our girls soccer team opened their season with an impressive performance which resulted in a tie.
- The Warriors softball program is continuing to grow, with the addition of a new junior varsity team this season.
- Our boys baseball team is building momentum and setting a strong foundation for the season ahead.
- Our Lady Warriors tennis team has standout performances including a singles victory by Adaya Eaton. It has also been encouraging to see several first-time players earn wins in their matches.
- Our track and field athletes had the opportunity to work with Lawrence Technological University's track program over the summer. They learned valuable insight and training from collegiate coaches.
- The boys golf team began their season with indoor training and has since transitioned onto the course.
- The majorette tryouts for the dance line, Royal Heat are quickly approaching. Mandatory clinics will take place from April 20-April 23, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The official tryouts will be held on April 24, 2026 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Students interested in joining are encouraged to attend and take part in this exciting opportunity.

Leadership and Activities Highlights

- Our book club, On the Same Page, continues to foster engaging discussions and thoughtful analysis, creating a space where students can share ideas and connect over literature.
- Student Council hosted a Family Feud event.
- Members of the National Honor Society attended the MYIG trip from March 26-March 29, 2026 representing our chapter with professionalism and leadership.
- Business Professionals of America is selling chicken baskets through the Warrior Den school store. Each basket is priced at \$10 and includes three chicken wings and fries, available during A and B lunches. Chicken and biscuits are also being offered.
- Senior Superlatives and mock elections are currently underway. Students may either run or nominate a peer, with submissions due by the end of the week. Voting will take place from April 21-23, 2026 and winners will be announced at the Grammy's event on April 24, 2026.
- Student Council will host the final blood drive of the year on April 21, 2026.

Academic Highlights:

- We are proud to recognize the students who advanced to the state level for the Science Fair. This accomplishment reflects significant dedication, critical thinking, and perseverance, and we look forward to their continued success as they represent our school.
- Testing season is currently underway. On April 7, 2026, 10th graders completed the PSAT. On April 8th and 9th, 11th graders participated in the SAT and M-Step. On April 10, 2026, 9th grade students completed their PSAT.
- As Decision Day approaches, seniors are reminded to complete both required forms: the form distributed by counselors for official recognition at the Decision Day ceremony, and the form for senior social media page to be featured with their post-graduation plans.

Thank you.

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

- Hello Everyone.
- The Robotics Team won the square one award at the Regional V2X Robotics Competition.
- Last month was March is Reading Month and the middle school students were tasked with reading a novel and then designing a book jacket that included important elements.
- The ELA Department hosted local authors that spoke with our students and discussed their different writing styles.

- Our 6th grade students recently participated in an exciting and educational field trip to Junior Achievement Finance Park. They learned about money management and how they had a chance to step into the role of adults managing real-life financial responsibilities. They were given a career, salary, and lifestyle scenario and was tasked with creating and balancing a monthly budget.
- Last month, the U hosted a College Fair for the juniors. Students had an opportunity to learn about the different colleges and universities.
- Our scholars enjoyed our University Campus Night event which showcased many STEM and classroom activities for parents and students. Each scholar who completed their “course” received a Certificate of Completion at the University.
- We will be hosting our yearly blood drive.
- We had a house party, where we participated in dodgeball and musical chairs. This was in celebration of our school once again earning the College Board Platinum recognition.
- Dr. Green mentioned the Superintendent’s Senior Scholars Showcase coming up on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. This event celebrates any scholar having earned a 3.5 overall GPA or higher. More information will be provided at a later date.
- We moved down to the Bussey’s Director’s Report.

Report of the Superintendent

a. Math Bee Winners

- Ms. Sommer Caldwell-Carruthers and the Curriculum/Instructional team came up to provide the certificates for the winners and their teachers that assisted them from their respective schools.
- Ms. Christa Claxton-Saylor read the names of the Math Bee winners.

b. Black History Trivia Quiz Bowl

- Ms. Jessica Hines read the names of the Black History Trivia Quiz Bowl winners.

c. Lawrence Technological University (LTU) Dual Enrollment – Game Design Program

- Ms. Arese Robinson introduced Christopher Jones, student and Ms. Julia Ward, counselor.
- Ms. Arese Robinson and Ms. Julia Ward gave some background on the program and on the student. Ms. Ward spoke to Christopher’s dad being his role model and playing an active part in his son’s daily life.

d. Employee of the Month – Tricia Barnes, Teacher at Adler Elementary School

e. Partner of the Month – Shannon Dingman, Champions at UK12

- Ms. Foster could not get the video to project.
- Athletic Director, Shaquita Coltrane (Coach Q) came to announce our new Head Football Coach, Antwon Robinson and his Assistant Coach, Leviticus Payne. They are both alumni of SPS.

f. Legislative Update: The cell phone ban will be going into effect in the fall.

g. Staffing Update Presentation – Dr. Green

- Dr. Green presented the Staffing Update Presentation.
- We moved back to the Report of the Student Board Representatives.

h. Bussey’s Director’s Report – Ursula Kelley-Wash

- College begins at Bussey!
- **Week of the Young Child: April 11-17, 2026**
- This annual event, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), focuses on the importance of early childhood education and the contributions of families, educators, and advocates in supporting young children.
- **FA₁ Review Summary Highlights:**
 - Education & Child Development, Safe & Healthy Learning Environments, Fiscal Infrastructure, Program Design, Program Government, Facilities & Equipment Management Systems, Budget Development, Implementation & Oversight, Comprehensive Financial Management and Enrollment

- Topics for Review & Action Plan: Staffing and Staff Member Supports, ERSEA: Selection, and ERSEA: Eligibility
- The April 7, 2026 audit returned no findings.
- Enrollment Report: Total enrollment is 152 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: 4,030.
- Monitoring Report: Child Find Form
 - Timely Initial Evaluations: Total – 19, April 2026
- Education:
 - Child Observation Record (COR) Period: 3 (Ends – May 29, 2026)
 - March 11 & 27, 2026: Crisis Prevention & Intervention Training
 - Crisis Prevention & Intervention Training – March 11 and 27, 2026
 - Parent Teacher Conferences: April 10th & April 17th
 - ERSEA: Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance
 - Educators Empowering Educators – Staff Meetings
 - Weekly Teacher/Staff Newsletter – Growing Leaders at Bussey
- ERSEA: Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance
- April 10, 2026: Family Partnership Process: Engaging & Goal-Setting with Families Training
- Weekly Meetings (Mondays)
 - Weekly Strategy Meetings: Policy & Procedures
 - Enrollment Application & Enrollment Files
- Bussey is hosting an Enrollment Fair on Friday, April 17, 2026.
- InKind: April 2026 - \$164,811.89
- The FA₁ Review is getting Bussey ready for FA₂ Review.
- These reviews happen during the second year of the grant cycle.
- Thank you for fostering partnerships with other childhood organizations in the community.
- The action plan for the staffing and the qualification changing will be updated during our monthly report relative to that process.
- President Belk reiterated that we are trying to move the meeting along due to the forecasted weather.

4. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

- i. February 24, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Study Session
 - ii. March 7, 2026, Special Board Meeting
 - iii. March 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
 - iv. March 17, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Student Hearings
- Trustee Johnson introduced a motion to open and approve Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes and it was supported by Trustee Holloway.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Report 64-62 Plante Moran Standard Operating Procedure – Phase 2

- **Scope of Services:**
 - A comprehensive gap analysis between department-level administrative guidelines, department-level standard operating procedures (SOP), and the Southfield Public Schools Board of Education Policies Manual (Board policies). The analysis will consist of: engaging key stakeholders via interviews to understand current practices; examining administrative guidelines, SOPs, and Board policy documents for each in-scope section outlined below; identifying non-compliance with Board policies, conflicting or redundant procedures, gaps in internal controls, and unclear responsibilities; and performing minor to moderate updates to existing SOPs.
 - A fixed asset accounting process assessment. The assessment will entail the following: a performing process level walkthroughs with key stakeholders responsible for fixed asset accounting; reviewing current state fixed asset documents including but not limited to the fixed asset register, depreciation schedules, and fixed asset tracking reports, and reconciliations; and identifying areas of improvements to enhance internal controls, support completeness and accuracy of fixed asset records, and strengthen the adequacy and timeliness over the accounting for capital project transactions.
- **Deliverables**
 - Gap analysis memo outlining: summary of compliance gaps and conflicts and prioritized, actionable recommendations for efficiency, internal control enhances, and best practices to effectively execute monitoring and oversight of the accounting for ongoing capital projects.
- **Fees and Timing**
 - Plante Moran is available to begin on March 2, 2026. The targeted completion date for all consulting activities is July 31, 2026
 - Policy gap analysis – 300 estimated hours - \$60,000
 - Fixed asset process assessment – 90 estimated hours - \$18,000
 - Total estimated hours 390 – Not to exceed fee \$78,000
- Trustee Johnson introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-62 Plante Moran Standard Operating Procedure – Phase 2 and it was supported by Treasurer Denson.
- The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and different from the Strategic Planning Process. This is only relative to the SOPs.

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

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

Nays: Trustee Anderson

It does not encompass everything we need to do at this time.

Motion carried. 6 yes 1 no votes

- Dr. Green indicated that the strategic planning process is under MASB and that the SOPs are under Plante Moran scope.

c. Report 64-65 New, Revised, Rescinded, and Reissued Policies – Second Read

- Policy 0100
- Policy 1623
- Policy 2210
- Policy 2260.01
- Policy 2370.01
- Policy 2412
- Policy 2417
- Policy 2418

- Policy 3120.09
- Policy 3123
- Policy 3362
- Policy 4120.09
- Policy 4123
- Policy 5120
- Policy 7541
- Policy 8402
- Policy 8655
- Trustee Johnson introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-65 New, Revised, Rescinded, and Reissued Policies and it was supported by Trustee Holloway.
- Trustee Anderson moves to amend policy 1623, policy 2260.01, policy 3123, and policy 4123. Currently the policy states that you have to write your complaint and you also have to provide a solution in order for your complaint to be considered. Trustee Anderson moves to change the language to you have to write your complaint and/or because someone may not know the solution to their complaint/problem. This still gives them the opportunity to bring this issue forward.
- Trustee Johnson accepted the friendly amendment to change the language to and/or in writing a complaint and it was supported by Trustee Holloway.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Report 64-68 Personnel Action Report

- Trustee Johnson introduce a motion to open and approve Report 64-48 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Treasurer Denson.
- #2's workload has been reallocated; position was up for consideration of non-renewal.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Information Items

a. Report 64-69 Budget Resolution FY27 – OS General Fund Budget

- This is for the services that we receive from Oakland Schools, if the budget did not pass by all of the districts in Oakland County, then we would be in jeopardy of losing all of those services. We would have to provide those services to our scholars out of our general fund, which could have an adverse effect to our budget.
- Report 64-69 Budget Resolution FY27 – OS General Fund Budget is tabled.

b. Report 64-70 Asbestos Abatement Total Environment Services UK12: Bond Funds

- AEG has reviewed and evaluated all submitted bids and conducted post-bid interviews to discuss the scope of work for Bid No. 26.02, with City Abatement Services LLC, and Total Environmental Services LL. After completion of post-bid interviews, and further discussion with SPS, AEG is recommending the second lower bidder, Total Environmental Services LLC. AEG has determined

that the second low bid for Bid No. 26.02, Total Environmental Services LLC, submitted bid was inclusive and correct for Total Environmental Services for the contract award amount of \$871,200.00.

c. Report 64-71 BP #47 Bussey Boiler: Bond Funds

- The bid proposals were received and read publicly concerning Bussey Center for Early Childhood boiler room. The attached bid tabulation lists all of the bid proposals; post bid reviews were conducted to verify the proposals received. 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, Delta Temp, Inc has been awarded the project for \$339,108.00 which includes the contingency.

d. Report 64-72 Levey Middle Music Storage Furnishings: Bond Funds

- The Bond Team recommends awarding furniture procurement and installation to Dew-EI Corporation. The work scope encompasses the necessary services for this project. This recommendation will be funded out of the 2022 Bond proceeds. The total award recommendation is for \$19,554.61, including contingency based on the Dew-EI Corporation quote of \$17,776.92 that utilizes the CoPro+ consortium group pricing.

e. Report 64-73 Birney K-8 Media Center Furnishings: Bond Funds

- The Bond Team recommends awarding furniture procurement and installation to Dew-EI Corporation. The work scope encompasses the necessary services for this Project. This recommendation will be funded out of the 2022 Bond proceeds. The total award recommendation is for \$164,893.83, including contingency based on the Dew-EI Corporation quote of \$149,903.83 that utilizes the CoPro+ consortium group pricing.

f. Report 64-74 Thompson K-8 Building Wide Furnishings: Bond Funds

- The Bond Team recommends awarding furniture procurement and installation to Dew-EI Corporation. The work scope encompasses the necessary services for this Project. This recommendation will be funded out of the 2022 Bond proceeds. The total award recommendation is for \$1,029,786.47, including contingency based on the Dew-EI Corporation quote of \$936,169.52 that utilizes the CoPro+ consortium group pricing.
- Trustee Johnson introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-70 Asbestos Abatement Total Environment Services UK12, Report 64-71 BP #47 Bussey Boiler, Report 64-72 Levey Middle Music Storage Furnishings, Report 64-73 Birney K-8 Media Center Furnishings, and Report 64-74 Thompson K-8 Building Wide Furnishings and it was supported by Trustee Denson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

g. Report 64-75 E-Rate Network Electronics: 2026-2027 E-Rate Bond/General Funds

- As we continue to implement the plan for the bond, this project will cover refreshing network closet equipment. Network switches – Southfield A&T, Bussey, KLC, McIntyre, Thompson K-8, Vandenberg. UPS units – Stevenson, Birney K-8, Bussey, Eisenhower, KLC, Levey, McIntyre, SRAC, Thompson K-8, UK-12, and Vandenberg. We are utilizing the E-Rate program for this project, which will allow us to receive up to 80% back on this project. We released an RFP with a bid opening on 3/12/2026. We received 3 bids. Delta came in with the lowest price, favorable references and an impressive score on the bid evaluation worksheet in totaling \$349,170.76. The district would pay the full amount and be reimbursed 80%. We pay 20% (\$69,834.15) due to our free and reduced lunch count. The payment is due after 7/1/2026.

h. Report 64-76 E-Rate Structured Cabling: 2026-2027 E-Rate Bond/General Funds

- As we continue to implement the plan for 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) for the following schools-Birney K-8, Thompson K-8, and Southfield A&T (O-House). We are utilizing the E-Rate program for this project, which will allow us to receive up to 80% back on this project. We released an RFP with a bid opening on 3/12/2026. We received 4 bids for structured cabling. Amcomm came in with the lowest price, favorable references and an impressive score on the bid evaluation worksheet in totaling \$213,978.28. The district would pay the full amount and be reimbursed 80%. We pay 20% (\$42,795.66) due to our free and reduced lunch count. The payment is due after 7/1/2026.
- The investment into
- Vice President Smith-Thomas introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-75 E-Rate Network Electronics and Report 64-76 E-Rate Structured Cabling and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Motion carried unanimously.

i. Financial Report

j. Monthly Bill Disbursement

- Our current projections show our fund balance is dangerously close to the board's 10% threshold. We are looking to stay above the threshold by reviewing third party contracts for savings while protecting investments in our students. We will work to maximize our grant revenue. The good news is that the district remains liquid and our cash flow is stable. Last month, we received \$15.6 million in property tax revenue. These funds are being allocated to operations, debt obligations and our sinking fund.
- Thank you to President Belk, Vice President Smith-Thomas, Dr. Green and CFO, Marc Ingram who answered many of Treasurer Denson's questions.
- Thank you to the finance department for assisting Treasurer Denson in the role of Board Treasurer.

6. Public Participation

- Participant #1: Working to strengthening the school district; stressed support for UK12.
- Participant #2: The decline in the school district; Bussey concerns; district concerns.
- Participant #3: Spoke about marketing in support for the school district and UK12.
- Participant #4: Spoke about offering help and may return to SPS.
- Participant #5: Breakdown in communication with the parent, teacher and leadership.
- There will be transportation for the UK12 scholars to their swing space.
- There will be a survey sent out to parents regarding the need for transportation for the UK12 students to their swing spaces.
- President Belk reiterated that during public participation, do not tell anyone's personal business and do not call out anyone's name. This is very rude and disrespectful and we will not tolerate it.

7. For the Good of the Order

- Parents, please communicate with your children regarding their contacts on social media and who they spend their time with.
- We are here to support all students and be respectful of everyone.

- Summer Discovery is closing on Friday, May 1, 2026.
- The deadline is May 1, 2026, but it will close if we reach capacity first.
- Parents, please talk to your children about dressing appropriately for the warmer weather.

8. Future Meetings

- a. Wednesday, April 22, 2026, Professional Development – NO STUDENTS
- b. Tuesday, April 28, 2026, Special Board Meeting/Study Session @ 6:00 p.m.
- c. Tuesday, May 5, 2026, Superintendent’s Senior Scholars Showcase
- d. Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

- President Belk adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Approved on: May 12, 2026
Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Secretary

Proposed for Adoption