



# SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Student Hearings		DATE: March 17, 2026	TIME: 5:30 p.m.	LOCATION: John W. English Administrative Center			
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:							
<input type="checkbox"/> Talisha Belk, President	<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Love Smith-Thomas Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Ware- DeVaul, 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 type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Green, Ed.D. Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanissa Freeman, Deputy Superintendent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Jackson, Chief of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Devaughn Stephens, Chief of Talent Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Marc Ingram, Chief Financial Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Lightsey, Executive Director of Academic Advisement & SEL	<input type="checkbox"/> Sommer Caldwell- Carruthers, Executive Director of Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Corace, Chief Operations Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> April Rogers, Exe. Dir., State and Federal Programs	<input 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"/> Paris Whitman, SA&T <input type="checkbox"/> Chidi Nnaji, UK12	

## 1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board Secretary Ware-DeVaul at 5:40 p.m. Board Secretary Ware-DeVaul read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Smith-Thomas and Trustee Belk have excused absences.

## 2. Action Items

### a. 02-2025-26

- Secretary Ware-DeVaul called Student Hearing 02-2025-26 to order at 5:40 p.m.
- Secretary Ware-DeVaul called roll call and she and the Trustees that were present introduced themselves.
- Chief Jackson introduced himself and Ms. Foster.
- The administrators introduced themselves. The other attendee introduced herself.
- The parent and student introduced themselves.
- The parent states that she received the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct.
- The parent understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The parent wished to hold the meeting in private.
- Treasurer Denson move that the Board meet in closed session under section 8 (b) of the Open Meeting Act, to consider the dismissal, suspension or disciplining of Student Hearing 02-2025-26 at the parent's request and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

Secretary Ware-DeVaul called for the vote.

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Belk

5 yes; 0 no votes.

Motion carried.

- Closed session started at 5:42 p.m.
- Closed session ended at 6:07 p.m.
- No decision was made.
  
- Secretary Ware-DeVauil asked the parent, student and the administrators to step out for deliberations.
- The administrators, parent and student were asked back in.
- Secretary Ware-DeVauil introduced a motion to have student 02-2025-26 permanently expelled from Southfield Public Schools and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

Secretary Ware-DeVauil called for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauil, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Denson, Trustee Anderson

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Belk

5 yes: 0 no votes.

Motion carried.

**b. 03-2025-26**

- Secretary Ware-DeVauil called Student Hearing 02-2025-26 to order at 5:40 p.m.
- Secretary Ware-DeVauil called roll call and she and the Trustees that were present introduced themselves.
- Chief Jackson introduced himself and Ms. Foster.
- The administrators introduced themselves.
- The parent and student introduced themselves.
- The parent states that she received the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct.
- The parent understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The parent wished to hold the meeting in public.
- Student 03-2025-26 does not and has not receive special education services.
- The student plead guilty to the violation of the Southfield Public Schools' Student Code of Conduct.
- The parent, student and administrators were sworn in.
- The student, parent and administrators provided testimony.
- There was discussion regarding the incident.
- Chief Jackson spoke to his role and how it relates to the safety of the school district.
- Secretary Ware-DeVauil asked the administrators, parent and student to step out for deliberations.
- The administrator, parent and student were asked back in.
- Secretary Ware-DeVauil introduced a motion that student 03-2025-26 is suspended for 30 school days, will be on a behavior contract, and can return to Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology on Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Secretary Ware-DeVauil called for the vote.

Ayes: Trustee Ware-DeVauil, Trustee Anderson, Trustee Denson, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Belk

5 yes; 0 no votes.

Motion carried.

**3. Public Participation**

