



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Student Hearing/FY26 Non-renewal	DATE: April 21, 2026	TIME: 5:30 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 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"/> 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	<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
			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 5:36 p.m. Board President Belk read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Denson has an excused absence. Trustee Smith-Thomas has an excused absence from the student hearing and she arrived at 6:30 p.m.

2. Hearings

a. 04-2025-26

- President Belk called student hearing 04-2025-26 to order at 5:36 p.m.
- President Belk 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 parents and student introduced themselves.
- The parents stated that they received the letter from the district regarding the suspension and the violations to the Southfield Public School's Student Code of Conduct.
- The parents understood the right to have legal counsel and waived that right.
- The parents wished to hold the meeting in private.
- President Belk moved 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 04-2025-26 at the parent's request and it was supported by Trustee Johnson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Denson

5 yes; 0 no votes.

Motion carried.

- Closed session started at 5:39 p.m.

- Closed session ended at 6:24 p.m.
- No decision was made.

- President Belk asked the parents, 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 04-2025-26 permanently expelled from Southfield Public Schools and it was supported by Trustee Anderson.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Denson

5 yes: 0 no votes.

Motion carried.

3. Closed Session

a. FY26 NR 1

- Secretary Ware-DeVauil moved that the Board meet in closed session under the Michigan Compiled Law, Open Meetings Act, Section 15.268, subsection 8 (1) (a), the Board of Education can meet in closed session to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Denson

Motion carried.

- Closed Session started at 6:35 p.m.
- Closed Session ended at 7:06 p.m.
- No decisions were made.

b. FY26 NR 2

- NR 2 spoke to making the choice to go to McIntyre Elementary with knowing that the school would be closing in a couple of years because they still needed a principal.
- NR 2 spoke to their career path and being a strong leader.
- NR 2 states that they love working in the Southfield Public School District.
- The i-Ready scores have increased over the three years they have been there.

c. FY26 NR 3

- NR 3 spoke to the impact they have had on their building.
- They have 78 students testing for entry into UK12.
- They have brought in new students from outside the district.
- They are retaining students in the critical grade levels.
- They spoke to UK12 earning a double platinum rating with CollegeBoard.
- They are the only leader with a K-12 model.

4. Public Participation

- Participant #1: Their principal is a great leader.
- Participant #2: He has great leadership in the community and positive impact.
- Participant #3: Support of the principal at McIntyre Elementary.
- Participant #4: Support of the principal at McIntyre Elementary.
- Participant #5: Retention of staff members.
- Participant #6: Spoke to leadership, staffing for the next school year, morale and character; UK12 is the heart of the district.
- Participant #7: Scores/rankings; stability
- Participant #8: Support of UK12; the culture keeps changing; not consistent; they are an advocate for the district
- Participant #9: UK12 support
- Participant #10: weathered the storm of leadership changes; wants a better solution

5. Adjournment

- President Belk adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Student Hearing/FY26 Non-renewals at 8:40 p.m.

Approved on: May 12, 2026

Yvette Ware-DeVaul, Board Secretary