



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MINUTES

MEETING: Special Board Meeting/Study Session		DATE: April 28, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Denson, Treasurer	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Angela Smith, 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 President Belk at 5:50 p.m. Board President Belk read the opening statement and Trustee roll call was taken. Trustee Johnson has an excused absence. There are several members of the EDN Team present in the audience.

2. Action Items

a. FY26 NR 1

- The list is corresponding with the order they were presented on April 21, 2026.
- Treasurer Denson will not be voting because she was not present on April 21, 2026.
- Secretary Ware-DeVaul moved to open and approve FY26 NR 1 and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas for the purpose of opening the item up for vote.

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

Ayes: Nil

Nays: Trustee Belk, Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Anderson, Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Abstain: Trustee Denson

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion failed. 0 yes, 5 no votes.

Trustee Smith-Thomas: necessary position; excessive work for others

Trustee Belk: the workload; necessity of the role

Trustee Holloway: the workload; slow down the process

Trustee Anderson: overload of work to distribute

Trustee Ware-DeVaul: the workload; this role is necessary

b. FY26 NR 2

- Secretary Ware-DeVaul moved to open and approve FY26 NR 1 and it was supported by Vice President Smith-Thomas for the purpose of opening the item up for vote.

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

Ayes: Nil

Nays: Trustee Smith-Thomas, Trustee Belk, Trustee Holloway, Trustee Anderson, Trustee Ware-DeVaul

Abstain: Trustee Denson

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion failed. 0 yes, 5 no votes.

Trustee Smith-Thomas: potential work in the district; reassignment

Trustee Belk: reassignment of position

Trustee Holloway: reassign to another position

Trustee Anderson: reassign to another position

Trustee Ware-DeVaul: work in the district in a different capacity

c. FY26 NR 3

- Dr. Green indicated that we are withdrawing FY26 NR 3 from the agenda.

3. Information Items

a. Report 64-78 Firewall Replacement E-Rate: 2020 Building and Site Fund

- The district firewall has reached the end of its life and is scheduled for replacement. A firewall acts as a digital security guard, monitoring and filtering incoming and outgoing network traffic based on predefined security rules. It protects systems by blocking malicious traffic, preventing unauthorized access, and managing network resources. This is an essential piece of the district's network security.
- Oakland Schools issued a Request for Proposals for Firewall hardware, software, and installation services through the Federal government E-Rate program on behalf of the 15 supported districts and Oakland Schools. The Oakland Schools Security Team reviewed the existing solutions and researched the current market. The new specification took into account the district's current needs and growth capacity to accommodate the next five to seven years. As part of the IGA with Oakland Schools, the OS security team manages each district's firewall through a centralized management system.
- Utilizing the Federal E-Rate program, the district is eligible for partial reimbursement on the new hardware. The anticipated reimbursement is approximately \$23,000 based on eligible items.
- Under E-Rate program rules, some of the software is not eligible for reimbursement. Oakland Schools will purchase this software and invoice the district a one-time cost of \$11,436.07. This will cover the software and maintenance for 5 years.
- Attached is the Oakland Schools board meeting minutes and solicitation summary that was approved at the March 24, 2026, Board of Education meeting.
- \$67,593.00 with approximately \$23,000 reimbursement from E-Rate. This covers the next 5 years for firewall hardware.
- There was no discussion.
- Report 64-78 Firewall Replacement E-Rate was tabled.

b. Report 64-79 BP #48 University K12 Addition and Renovation: Bond Funds

- The Trustees moved down to Report 64-80 BP #63 Birney K-8 Playground.
- Formal bids were received for BP #48 UK12 Addition and Renovation. The project scope includes a new gymnasium, cafeteria, natatorium, classroom, and administrative spaces as well as rework of existing campus parking, drives, and athletic fields. Renovations to the existing auditorium and associated fine arts classrooms are included as well.

- The total contract award amount for BP #48 UK12 Additions and Renovations is \$87,343,168.54. BP #48's 10% contingency of the project's total value is \$8,734,316.85 bringing the total to \$96,077,485.39. This project is bond funded.
 - This project is coming under budget.
 - Report 64-79 BP #48 University K12 Addition and Renovation has been tabled.
- c. Report 64-80 BP #63 Birney K-8 Playground: 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: Sinclair Recreation, provided a complete bid per the specifications and basis of design and is the recommended bidder. The project scope includes the purchase and installation of the playground equipment at Birney K-8 School. The total contractor award amount for BP #63 Birney K-8 Playground is \$298,300.00. The contingency amount for Bid Package 63 Birney K-8 Playground is 10% of the project total value. The total contingency amount is \$29,830.00, bringing the construction total to \$328,130.00. This project will be funded by Bond Funds.
- d. Report 64-81 BP #64 Thompson K-8 Playground: 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: Sinclair Recreation, provided a complete bid per the specifications and basis of design and is the recommended bidder. The project scope includes the purchase and installation of the playground equipment at Thompson K-8 International Academy. The total contractor award amount for Bid Package 64 Thompson K-8 Playground is \$349,800.00. The contingency amount for Bid Package 64 Thompson K-8 Playground is 10% of the project total value. The total contingency amount is \$34,980.00, bringing the construction total to \$384,780.00. This project will be funded by Bond Funds.
 - Vice President Smith-Thomas introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-80 BP #63 Birney K-8 Playground and Report 64-81 BP #64 Thompson K-8 Playground and it was supported by Trustee Anderson.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion carried.

- The moved back up to Report 64-79 BP #48 University K12 Addition and Renovation.
- e. Report 64-82 Building Envelope Commissioning Award Recommendation: Bond Funds**
- In February 2026, PMR requested a proposal from Soil and Materials Engineers (SME) for independent Building Enclosure Design review and commissioning to satisfy the Envelope Performance Verification requirements in the newly adopted 2021 Michigan Commercial Energy Code (MCEC 2021) for the new University K-12 addition and renovation of the performing arts wing. A lump sum fee for the proposed services was negotiated. The project team recommends a total recommendation of \$117,810.00, which includes 10% contingency based on SME's lump sum fee of \$107,100.00, and will be funded out of the 2022 Bond proceeds. The reimbursables are included in the lump sum amount.
 - Report 64-82 Building Envelope Commissioning Award Recommendation was tabled.
- f. Report 64-83 Environmental Consultant Services – Arch Environmental Group, Inc. Amendment #4: Bond Funds**

- The amendment adds Asbestos Project Coordination and Air Monitoring Environmental Consulting Services at University K-12 Academy and Thompson K-8 Academy. The project team recommends a total recommendation of \$163,900, which includes 10% contingency based on Arch's fixed fee of \$149,000 and will be funded out of the 2022 Bond proceeds. A breakdown of total authorized compensation is previously authorized compensation \$365,300 + \$149,000 (asbestos project coordination and air monitoring at UK12 and Thompson K-8) = \$514,300.
- Report 64-83 Environmental Consultant Services – Arch Environmental Group, Inc. Amendment #4 was tabled.

g. Report 64-84 Palmer Moving Amendment #6 Recommendation: Bond Funds

- Upon completion, review, and analysis of the district relocation work, the project team recommends a total recommendation of seventeen thousand three hundred twenty four dollars and 25/100 (\$17,324.25) for Amendment #6 to the Physical Move Services contract with Palmer Moving & Storage Co. Breakdown of total recommendation is as follows:
 - Reconciliation for original contract through Amendment #4
 - (\$2,750.00) credit for Merrill Lynch work removed from original contract scope
 - (\$2,766.00) credit for unused balance of T&M, NTE work at Adler per Amendment #1
 - (\$16,500.00) credit for decreased Stevenson trailer storage scope per Amendment #2
 - \$1,000.00 Additional contingency per SPS internal adjustment to Amendment #4
 - Overview of 2025 Extras / Changes
 - (\$6,325.00) Credit for Vandenberg decommissioning after Sound Mind Sound Body per Amendment #4 (furniture kept by Birney K-5 team)
 - (\$9,217.50) Credit for unused balance of internal moves allowance per Amendment #4
 - \$4,633.75 Additional packing material and labor for Summer 2025 work
 - \$440.00 Crate collection at Eisenhower for Levey move (back charge to OMA crate provider)
 - \$11,850.00 Additional storage for Stevenson trailers and decommissioning after move in
 - \$12,600.00 Levey trailer storage September through December 2025
 - \$440.00 Crate collection at Vandenberg & SRAC for Birney move (back charge to OMA crate provider)
 - \$569.00 Additional packing material at Birney for Winter Break 2025
 - \$15,000.00 Additional labor and decommissioning at Birney
 - \$8,400.00 Additional day of post move support at Vandenberg and 3 days at SRAC (original scope per Amendment #4 was for all of Birney to be moved to Vandenberg)
 - This is an outline for the credit back for the moves that happened in the district.

4. Action Items

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

- Secretary Ware-DeVauld introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-69 Budget Resolution FY27 – OS General Fund Budget and it was supported by Trustee Denson.
- This resolution is for services received from Oakland Schools by the SPS district. We do not receive dollars from Oakland Schools.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion carried.

b. Report 64-85 Personnel Action Report

- Secretary Ware-DeVauil introduced a motion to open and approve Report 64-85 Personnel Action Report and it was supported by Trustee Anderson.
- #4 – There are supports for the building. There will be supports for the school during the move to the three different swing spaces.
- #3 – There is someone prepared to step into this position. This position will have grading support underway. Coaches have offered support in this classroom as well.
- #6 – This position will be restructured under the CSI plan.
- #7 – This position will look different as well.
- #4 – We are monitoring the current process for enrollment for this building as it relates to next school year.

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

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

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee Johnson

Motion carried.

5. Public Participation

- Participant #1: Thank you for all you have done and do for the district. City Council and Southfield Public Schools having joint meetings, collaborations, and community support.

6. For the Good of the Order

- Spring Showcase at UK12 on Thursday, April 30, 2026
- Metro Bureau Dinner Meeting is next Friday, May 8, 2026
- We sold \$100 million in bonds with 10 minute to go. Dr. Green thanks the board for their support.
- PTSA Founders Day – Thank you to all the participants.
- We need to publicize that Southfield Public Schools produces greatness. We need to promote SPS.

7. Future Meetings

- Tuesday, May 5, 2026, Superintendent’s Senior Scholars Showcase
 - Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- We will have a screen in the lobby for the overflow during the next regular board meeting as we celebrate more scholars.

8. Adjournment

- President Belk adjourned the Special Board Meeting/Study Session at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: May 12, 2026

Yvette Ware-DeVauil, Board Secretary