

**SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2023**

VISION STATEMENT

Cultivating, compassionate, and extraordinary learners.

MISSION STATEMENT

Springfield Public Schools will challenge every student through meaningful, engaging experiences – empowering all students to flourish and contribute in an evolving world.

Time: 7:24 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT- President Paula Saha

President’s Statement: Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, the Board Secretary caused notice of the meeting to be given to the public and the press on January 3, 2023 and revised on April 28, 2023, May 22, 2023, July 11, 2023, August 17, 2023, and October 16, 2023. The public comment format for this meeting is as follows – attendees wishing to comment during the public sessions will state their name and address. The President of the Board of Education will recognize the attendee at the appropriate time. All of the Board's Policies and Regulations related to public participation in board meetings shall remain in effect, including, but not limited to, the presiding officer's ability to limit each statement made by a participant to a 3-minute duration.

B. ROLL CALL

Vice President Meredith Murphy
Mr. Jerry Fernandez
Mrs. Laura Gamarekian- absent
Mr. Marc Miller
Mr. Hector Munoz

Mrs. Kristy Rubin
Mrs. Hilary Turnbull
Mrs. Yelena Zolotarsky
President Paula Saha

C. CLOSED SESSION

RESOLVED, That the Springfield Board of Education meeting hereby convenes to executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975 chapter 231 for discussion of the following subjects:

1. Personnel Matters- The Superintendent updated the Board on employee matters.
2. Negotiations- An update on SEA negotiations was provided.
3. Student Matters- The Superintendent updated the Board on student matters.

It is anticipated that the executive session will take approximately 45 minutes; the Board may take action during public session. The Board shall return to public session, following executive session, at approximately 7 p.m. The minutes of the executive session shall be released to the public when the reason for the executive session no longer exists.

Motion to go into executive session:

Moved: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Miller

Time: 6:45 PM

Voice Vote: AYE-8 NAY-0

Motion to return to public session:

Moved: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Miller

Time: 7:24 PM

Voice Vote: AYE-8 NAY-0

D. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

E. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Calas stated that you received articles on the following topics: delays with the High Impact tutoring program, data on COVID- era schools, helping students understand the news, State BOE affirms Chapter 7 amendments and administrative Law Judge decisions on teacher certification, eligibility of resident/ non-resident students and harassment, intimidation, or bullying and school ethics decisions.

There is an addenda for tonight's meeting.

F. **MINUTES**

The Superintendent recommends:

1. To approve the following minutes:

Executive Meeting – October 30, 2023

Regular Meeting – October 30, 2023

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to Approve: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Munoz

Voice Vote: AYE- 8 NAY-0

G. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Student/ Staff Recognitions
2. Community Updates
3. HIB Report (The Board will go into closed session at the end of the meeting if specific clarification is needed.)
4. Building Use Request
5. Fundraisers
6. Student teacher/Internship
7. Student Representative Report

- Dr. Goldberg reviewed the chain of communication information.
- Dr. Goldberg welcomed the new staff to the District.
- The cast of Clue were congratulated for a job well done.
- FMG musical, Matilda Jr., is coming up on December 1 and 2.
- Dr. Goldberg provided an overview of school happenings across the District.
- Athletic updates were provided.
- Save the Date: December 12, 2023 @ JDHS for Wreaths Across American Ceremony.
- Long term goals around building the Climate and Culture in Our School was discussed. FMG will conduct the New Jersey School Climate Platform and Survey in December 2023.
- HIB process was discussed.
- Dr. Goldberg discussed some of the challenges regarding recent events.
- Calendar updates were provided.

Approval of the Superintendent's Report, as presented

Motion to Approve: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Miller

Voice Vote: AYE-8 NAY-0

H. PUBLIC SESSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Erica Dubois, 49 Oakland Avenue, discussed the proposed Union County grant. She is happy to hear about the grant and its impact on the community.
- Lauren Weissberg, 107 Mapes Ave., discussed incident that occurred at FMG. She asked questions regarding behaviors in school.
- Sharon Weinstein, 170 Linden Ave., discussed an incident regarding her grandson.
- Jason Belton, 148 Briar Hills Circle, asked what sensitivity training is offered.
- Dr. Goldberg discussed the bathroom management system at FMG. She discussed the Code of Conduct. She discussed the training that has been afforded to staff and efforts with safety and security.
- Jennifer Weberman, 155 Pitt Road, discussed her gratitude for the grant. She noted that opinions about the grant should not be sought on social media. She explained the need for this club for students.

I. FINANCE COMMITTEE- Mrs. Turnbull

Items 1 through 3

The Superintendent recommends:

1. Bills List

To approve the check numbers 053928 through 054072 and wire transfers 800228, 888985 through 888991 for the grand total of \$2,258,860.98.

2. Board Secretary/ Treasurer Reports

To approve the board secretary/ treasurer reports for the period ending October 31, 2023.

3. Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for the 2023-2024 school year.

Account Number	Account Name	To	From
11-000-217-100-00-11	EXTRAORDINARY SALARIES		18,847.34
11-000-219-104-40-10	SUMMER CST	119.86	
11-000-219-890-70-11	MEMBERSHIP/DUES/SPEC.SERVICES		119.86
11-000-240-105-00-10	SAL PRINCIPAL OFF CLERKS	140.00	
11-000-240-600-82-06	OTHER EXP OFF SUPP FMG	200.00	
11-000-240-600-82-09	OTHER EXP OFFICE SUPL EVW		340.00
11-000-270-514-96-03	Vendors- Special Education	3,000.00	
11-000-270-515-96-03	PUPIL TRANS.SPEC.ED.JOINT AGRE	15,000.00	
11-000-270-518-96-03	CONTRACT.SERV.(SPEC)-ESC		18,000.00
11-214-100-320-00-11	Autism Purchased Ed. Services	30,000.00	
11-214-100-320-40-11	ESY RELATED SERVICES		11,152.66

Approval of Finance Items 1 through 3

Motion to Approve: Mrs. Turnbull

Seconded: Mr. Miller

Roll Call

Vice President Meredith Murphy	Yes	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	Absent	Yelena Zolotarsky	Yes
Marc Miller	Yes	President Paula Saha	Yes
Hector Munoz	Yes		

J. SCHOOL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE-Vice President Murphy

Items 4 through 17 and Addenda Items 21 and 22

The Superintendent recommends:

4. Staff Appointment

To approve the following staff appointments/ revisions:

a. Mary Jo Campos, Executive Secretary, Itinerant, on/about November 21, 2023 - June 30, 2024 at \$52,000.00.

Account: 11-000-223-105-00-10

b. Peter Soccodato*, Head Custodian, Itinerant, on/about December 18, 2023 - June 30, 2024 at \$53,733.00, Step 11-Custodian + \$2,771 (HC Stipend) + \$2,536 (BD Stipend).

Account: 11-000-262-100-95-10

**Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

5. District Substitutes 2023-2024

To approve additional substitutes. NJ Certified Teachers- \$135/day, Sub Certified- \$125/day, Paraprofessionals- \$20/hr., Secretary- \$20/hr., Custodian- \$20/hr., Nurse- \$190/day, Home Instruction- \$44.54/hr., Bus Driver- \$25/hr.

TEACHER

Heidi Matthews NJ Certified Teacher N-12

AIDE

Marc Pereira

Dave Distel

6. Medical Leave of Absence Request

To approve the following medical leave of absence request revision:

ID	Leave Request	Dates From	Dates To	Rate
0022	Medical	9/27/2023 – 11/10/2023	9/27/2023 – 12/15/2023	Fully Salary; accumulated sick days.
1638	Medical	10/11/2023 – 11/20/2023	10/11/2023 – 1/1/2024	Fully Salary; accumulated sick days.
0139	Medical	11/14/2023 – 1/1/2024	_____	Unpaid

7. Independent Study

To approve the following personnel staff for Independent Study:

Name	Course	Rate	Dates
Erica Moore	Independent Study/ Accounting 2	\$750.00	1/31/2024 – 6/30/2024
Mary Ellen Powers	Independent Study/ Computer Science Principles	\$1,500.00	9/1/2023 – 6/30/2024
Rachel Hough	Creative Writing	\$750.00	1/31/2024 – 6/30/2024

Account Number: 11-140-100-101-28-14

8. Change of Assignment/ Transfers

To approve the following change of assignments/ transfers:

Staff Name	From	To
Roxanne Silbert- Graham	Nurse Jonathan Dayton High School Salary: Step 19 MA+30, \$99,121	Nurse James Caldwell School Salary: Step 19 MA+30, \$99,121 Effective December 1, 2023

9. TPAC Appointment

To approve the following staff at \$33.30/period:

First Name	Last Name	Location	Account	Effective Date
Judith	Malino	JDHS	20-487-100-100-31-12	9/1/23-6/30/24

Account Number: 20-487-100-100-31-12 (ESSER III) Cost not to exceed \$3,330.00

10. Co-Curricular/ Club Advisors

To approve the following co-curricular/club advisors appointments:

a.

Name	Position	School	Rate	Dates
Tracey Saladino	Peer Leaders – Co-Advisor(Replaces E. Fitzpatrick)	JDHS	\$1,132	SY 2023-2024
David Steinman	Peer Leaders – Co-Advisors(Replaces E. Fitzpatrick)	JDHS	\$1,132	SY 2023-2024
Nathaniel Lazar	Medical Careers Club(Replaces J. Beal)	JDHS	\$733.00	SY 2023-2024

b.

Name	Position	Rate	Hours	Dates
Victoria Fortna	Musical Vocal Consultant(to be paid from FMG Student Activities Account)	\$2,000.00	Up to 20 hours	9/8/2023 – 12/2/2023

Account Number: 11-401-100-100-45-14 (JDHS)

11. Chaperone/Detention Staff

To approve the following additional staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Detention Rate: \$30.63; Chaperone: \$30.63:

Name	Position	Location
Devin Haggerty	Chaperone/Detention	FMG
Stephanie Hernandez	Chaperone/Detention	FMG
Tracey Glazner	Chaperone/Detention	FMG

12. Professional Services

To approve the following professional services contracts:

Vendor	Services	Cost not to Exceed	Term
Hampton Behavioral Health Center	Home Instruction	\$5,000.00	23-24SY
Indy Visual Speech LLS	Speech Therapy Services	\$20,500.00	23-24SY
Brightside Family Services	Counseling Services	\$20,000.00	23-24SY

13. Field Trip Destinations

To approve the following additional field trip destinations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Destination	City	State
Grand Marquis	Old Bridge	NJ
Livingston High School	Livingston	NJ
Buehler Challenger & Science Center	Paramus	NJ
Shoprite	Springfield	NJ
Cranford Movie Theater	Cranford	NJ
May Performing Arts Center	Morristown	NJ
Delaware Valley Regional High School	Frenchtown	NJ
Life Town	Livingston	NJ

14. District Contracts

To approve the following district contracts for the 2023-2024 school year:

- a. Public Consulting Group for EDPlan Suite for Student Success- IEP case management for up to \$13,500.

15. Special Education Related Services/Placements

To approve the following revised tuition contracts for educational and related service(s) for the 2023- 2024 school year.

School	Student(s)	SY Tuition/ Services	SY Aide
Crossroads School*	0719		\$41,200.00
ECLC^	1901		\$34,055.00

*Account Number: 11-000-100-562-98-11

^Account Number: 11-000-100-566-98-11

16. Grants

- a. To submit and accept the grant application and award for the Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs) from the Union County Board of Commissioners for school year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$1,000.
- b. To submit and accept the grant application and award of the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (NJCAP) program to facilitate sessions for students in grades K-6. There will be no cost to the board.

17. Curriculum Adoption

To adopt the following curriculum and course for the 2023-2024 school year:

- T.A.P. (Talented Art Program) Middle School

ADDENDA

J. School Government Committee

21. Co-Curricular/ Club Advisors 2023-2024

To approve the following co-curricular appointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Position	Rate
Victoria Fortna	Concert Director – Wreaths Across America	\$43.96

Account Number: 11-401-100-100-XX-XX

22. Special Education Related Services/ Placements

To approve the following tuition contracts for educational and related service(s) for the 2023-2024 school year.

School	Student(s)	SY Tuition	SY Aide
Shepard School High School Inc.	1902	\$6,410.22	
Cornerstone Day School	1902	\$64,716.18	

Account Number: 11-000-100-566-98-11

Approval of School Government Items 4 through 15, 16b and 17 and Addenda Items 21 and 22

Motion to Approve: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Miller

Roll Call

Vice President Meredith Murphy	Yes	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	absent	Yelena Zolotarsky	Yes
Marc Miller	Yes	President Paula Saha	Yes
Hector Munoz	Yes		

- Mr. Fernandez asked for clarification on the grant.
- Dr. Goldberg provided information.
- Mr. Fernandez asked what the requirements are of the grant and asked how the grant came about.
- Dr. Goldberg read the requirements and discussed how it came about and how what fits the needs of the students.
- Mr. Fernandez noted some of the feedback that was received from the community.
- Mr. Fernandez asked if operational funds can be used so not to meet with the grant’s requirements.
- Ms. Calas noted that there are operational funds available, if the District so chooses.
- Dr. Goldberg noted the expectations of club.
- Mrs. Zolotarsky does not agree with having this grant.
- Mrs. Rubin asked if the objective of the club could be read aloud.

- Ms. Calas read aloud the objective of the club provided by the school principal.
- Mr. Fernandez agrees about the diversity club but does not agree we should engage with the county to fund the club.
- President Saha asked exactly what he objects to within the grant.
- Mr. Fernandez explained.

Motion to Table School Government Items 16A

Motion to Table: Mr. Fernandez

Seconded: Mrs. Zolotarsky

Roll Call

Vice President Meredith Murphy	No	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	No
Laura Gamarekian	Absent	Yelena Zolotarsky	Yes
Marc Miller	No	President Paula Saha	No
Hector Munoz	Yes		

- Mr. Fernandez noted that he needed more time to review the grant.
- President Saha and Mr. Fernandez discussed.

Approval of School Government Items 16A

Motion to Approve: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Miller

Roll Call

Vice President Meredith Murphy	Yes	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	No	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	Absent	Yelena Zolotarsky	No
Marc Miller	Yes	President Paula Saha	Yes
Hector Munoz	Abstention		

K. BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE-Mr. Munoz

Items 18 through 20

The Superintendent recommends:

18. Caldwell Interior Renovations

To enter into contract with Academy Construction Inc, for general construction repairs as part of the Interior Basement Renovations at Caldwell School project at a cost of \$347,185. Contract# ED DATA 10402. This project is part of the approved referendum project list and shall be bond-funded.

19. Emergency Purchase

To acknowledge the award of emergency contract pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:18A-7 on November 13, 2023 to CJ Vanderbeck, Inc. for emergency plumbing services. Cost not to exceed \$25,000

20. Transportation

To approve the list of transportation companies to provide bus services for field trips and for use in emergencies, as needed. (Attachment A)

Approval of the Buildings and Grounds Items 18 through 20

Motion to Approve: Mr. Munoz

Seconded: Mr. Miller

- Ms. Calas and Dr. Goldberg provided updates on the Caldwell Interior Renovations referendum project.

Roll Call

Vice President Meredith Murphy	Yes	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	Absent	Yelena Zolotarsky	Yes
Marc Miller	Yes	President Paula Saha	Yes
Hector Munoz	Yes		

L. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

None

M. NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Fernandez asked about solar panels and shared services.
- Mrs. Calas commented on the current conditions of the roofs and warranty of same. Solar panels can be explored.
- Dr. Goldberg commented on shared services.

N. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

- Dana Wormuth, 6 Woodside Ave., asked about security at FMG and asked what can be done with the bathrooms.
- Dr. Goldberg responded.
- Ms. Boehm discussed some of the strategies in place at FMG.
- Dr. Goldberg discussed her frustrations and challenges with current incidents at FMG.
- Phone usage in schools was discussed.
- Mr. Fernandez asked if there are preventative measures operationally in the event of shortage of staff.
- Dr. Goldberg responded.
- Mrs. Rubin commented on the way parents communicate with their children.
- Mrs. Turnbull commented on children phone usage and social media usage.

O. OLD BUSINESS

- Mrs. Zolotarsky asked about meeting with teachers. She asked about Chapter 7 amendment timelines.
- Dr. Goldberg discussed that lunch and learns that have occurred at JDHS, Walton and FMG. She noted that if the board would like to do a walkthrough to please let her know.
- President Saha noted that she and Vice President Murphy, Mrs. Calas, and Dr. Goldberg will be meeting with Walton teachers this upcoming week.
- Dr. Goldberg commented on the implementation of Chapter 7 amendments.

P. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved: Mr. Miller

Seconded: Vice President Murphy

Time: 9:22 PM

Voice Vote: AYE-8 NAY-0

Upcoming Meeting

1. Regular Meeting– December 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the JDHS IMC

CHARTERED BUS SERVICE FOR EMERGENCIES AND FIELD TRIPS

2023-2024

		<u>Insurance Certificate Expiration Date</u>
Vanderhoof Trans. Co. Inc. 14-18 Wilfred St West Orange, NJ 07052	201-325-0700	10/01/2024
Villiani Bus Company 811 East Linden Ave Linden, NJ 07036	908-862-3333	07/01/2024
Station Cab 40 E. Milton Ave Rahway, NJ 07065	732-388-2222	03/07/2024
Route 22 Limousine 1356 N. Broad Street Hillside, NJ 07205	908-354-5400	06/19/2024
My Limousine Service 350 Clark Drive Suite 300 Mount Olive, NJ 07828	973-887-1122	07/10/2024