

**SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 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: 7:03 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
Mr. Marc Miller
Mr. Hector Munoz

Mrs. Kristy Rubin
Mrs. Hilary Turnbull- absent
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. Negotiations- the Superintendent updated the Board on negotiations
2. Personnel Matters- the Superintendent discussed personnel matters with the Board.

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. Munoz

Time: 6:25 PM

Voice Vote: AYE-8 NAY-0

Motion to return to public session:

Moved: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Miller

Time: 7:03 PM

Voice Vote: AYE-8 NAY-0

D. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

E. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Calas stated that you received articles on the following topics: school ethics decisions, NJ tutoring, NJ test scores rebounding from COVID, Science of Reading Bill and other bills awaiting legislative approval. NJ School Boards is offering virtual trainings and useful webinars from the 2023 workshops. Correction to number Agenda Item #3e. Should read as Physical Education teacher not leave replacement teacher and the contract is until June 30, 2024.

F. **MINUTES**

The Superintendent recommends:

1. To approve the following minutes:

Executive Meeting – November 20, 2023

Regular Meeting – November 20, 2023

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to Approve: Vice President Murphy

Seconded: Mrs. Gamarekian

Voice Vote: AYE- 8 NAY-0

G. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. District Holiday Greeting Card Winners Presentation
2. Governor's Educator of the Year Nominees
3. Safe Return to Schools Plan Update
4. NJQSAC, NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum results
5. Preschool Registration Update
6. JDHS – NJ School Climate Improvement
7. Community Updates
8. HIB Report (The Board will go into closed session at the end of the meeting if specific clarification is needed.)
9. Building Use Request
10. Fundraisers
11. Student Representative Report
 - Dr. Goldberg introduced Mr. Potitto who provided the students representative report. He commented on the concerns regarding access on the laptops. He commented on the winter sports. He discussed some other happenings at the high school.
 - Dr. Goldberg congratulated the Governor's Educators and Education Service Professionals of the Year.
 - Dr. Goldberg and school principals presented the holiday cards.
 - Retirements were acknowledged for their service.
 - Facilities updates were provided.
 - Dr. Goldberg discussed some of the happenings across the District.
 - Preschool registration information was provided by Ms. Seo- Alfaro.
 - Dr. Francis presented the JDHS- Climate Improvement Survey results.
 - Dr. Goldberg reviewed the NJ Quality Accountability Continuum results.
 - Wreaths Across America Ceremony will be held December 12, 2023.
 - Dr. Goldberg acknowledged Mr. Miller's years of service and shared her sentiments.

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

I. FINANCE COMMITTEE-Mrs. Turnbull

Items 1 through 2

The Superintendent recommends:

1. Bills List

To approve the check numbers 054073 through 054181 and wire transfers 888993 through 889000 for the grand total of \$3,383,802.54.

2. Budget Transfers

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

Account Number	Account Name	To	From
11-000-216-610-55-11	SUPPLIES SPEECH	600.00	
11-204-100-610-50-11	SUPPLIES N.I.		1,100.00
11-214-100-610-00-11	AUTISM SUPPLIES	500.00	

Approval of Finance Items 1 through 2

Motion to Approve: Mr. Munoz

Seconded: Murphy

Roll Call

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

J. SCHOOL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE-Vice President Murphy

Items 3 through 24

The Superintendent recommends:

3. Staff Appointment

To approve the following staff appointments/ revisions:

a. Tia Graham, 10.5 Month Secretary, JC, on/about December 12, 2023 - June 30, 2024 at \$34,893, Step 2-PS Sec 10.5.

Account: 11-000-240-105-00-08

b. Eileen Jimenez*, Instructional Aide - Autism Program, EVW, on/about January 15, 2024 - June 30, 2024 at \$20.62/hr + \$1,250 (annual stipend).

Account: 11-214-100-106-00-09

c. Alyssa Branch*, Lunch/ Recess Aide, Itinerant, on/about January 15, 2024 - June 30, 2024 at \$20.62/hr.

Account: 11-000-262-107-95-10

- d. Jay Faigenbaum*, Elementary Teacher - Interventionist, Itinerant, on/about February 12, 2024 - June 30, 2024 at \$82,592, Step 15-MA.
Account: 11-230-100-101-33-10
- e. Brian Martin, Physical Education Leave Teacher, FMG, September 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 at Step 1-BA, \$60,247.00.
Account: 11-130-100-101-00-10
- f. Michael Williams*, Custodian, Itinerant, on/about January 1, 2024, \$44,683, Step 1-Custodian +\$1,590 (stipend)
Account Number: 11-000-262-100-95-10
**Pending Criminal History Background Check Clearance*

4. Staff Resignation

To accept the following resignation:

- a. Michelle D’Amore, Physical Education Teacher, FMG, effective January 20, 2023.
- b. Theresa Scarabino, Instructional Aide - Non Title I, EVW, effective December 29, 2023.
- c. Mary-Louise Harpster, Instructional Aide, FMG, effective December 15, 2023.
- d. Veronica Belando, Instructional Aide Non-Title I, EVW, effective December 22, 2023.

5. Staff Appointment Rescission

To approve the following rescission of staff appointment:

- a. Jodi Bonacci, PIRTS/ CPIS, Itinerant

6. 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, Bus Driver- \$25/hr.

TEACHER

Evelyn Wetzel Sub Certified N-12

CUSTODIAN

Jesus Almonte Arias
Rodrigo Hernandez Ramirez
Marc Glickerman

AIDE

Alyssa Branch

7. Medical Leave of Absence Request

To approve the following medical leave of absence request:

ID	Leave Request	Dates	Rate
2493	Medical	11/13/2023 – 12/22/2023*	Full Salary; accumulated sick days.
2228	Medical	11/28/2023 – 1/26/2024*	Full Salary; accumulated sick days.

8. Leave of Absence Revision

To approve the following revised medical leave of absence request:

Name	Leave Request	Dates From	Dates To	Rate
Jennifer Beal	Pre-Disability Leave/FMLA	9/11/2023 – 10/2/2023*	9/11/2023 – 10/2/2023	Full Salary; accumulated sick days.

	Post Disability Leave/FMLA	10/3/2023 – 11/28/2023*	10/3/2023 – 11/28/2023	Full Salary; accumulated sick days.
	FMLA/NJFLA	11/29/2023 – 2/23/2024	11/29/2023 – 2/28/2024	Unpaid
Pamela De La Llave	Post Disability Leave/FMLA	9/5/2023 – 9/11/2023*	9/1/2023 – 10/9/2023	Full Salary; accumulated sick days.
	FMLA/NJFLA	9/12/2023 – 12/4/2023	10/10/2023 – 1/8/2024	Unpaid
	Maternity Leave	12/21/2023 – 3/3/2024	1/9/2024 – 3/3/2024	Unpaid
Erin Baker	Pre-Disability Leave/FMLA	1/29/2024 – 2/22/2024*	11/28/2023 – 2/22/2024*	Full Salary; accumulated sick days.
	Post Disability Leave/NJFLA	2/23/2024 – 3/22/2024*	2/23/2024 – 3/22/2024*	Full Salary; accumulated sick days/ Unpaid.
	NJFLA/ Maternity	3/23/2024 – 6/14/2024	3/23/2024 – 6/30/2024	Unpaid

9. Athletic Event 2023-2024

To approve the following athletic event staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Event Staff: \$30.63:

Staff Name
Alison Gillen

Account Number: 11-401-100-100-45-14

10. Before/ After School Program

To approve the following Before and After School Program appointments:

Name	Position	Rate
Jenny Majano	Substitute Group Leader	\$25.01/hr.

11. Co-Curricular/ Club Advisors

To approve the following FMG Staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Position	Rate	Dates
Jill Friedman	Diversity Club Advisor	\$733.00	12/1/2023 – 6/30/2023

*Contingent on the approval of Sidebar Agreement Resolution No. 29

12. 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
Tracey Saladino	Chaperone	FMG
Erin Fitzpatrick	Chaperone	FMG

13. Home Instructors

To approve the following home instructor for the 2023-2024 school year as needed, rate of \$44.54:

- Melissa Lagemann

Account number: 11-150-100-101-63-11 Cost not to exceed: \$15,000

14. Independent Study

To approve the following personnel staff for Independent Study:

Name	Course	Rate	Dates
Robert Martin	Independent Study/Health 2	\$375.00	4/12/2024 – 6/19/2024

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

15. Staff Training

To approve the following staff to participate in ReThink training for up to 40 hours at the following rate:

Name	Rate
Katie Knierim	\$20.62/hr.

Account Number: 20-488-100-100-31-12 (ESSER III)

16. High School and Middle School Additional Teachers and Classes 23-24

To approve the following teachers to teach additional class periods for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Location	Department	Section/Period	Amount	Account	Effective Date
Jennifer Mortensen*	JDHS	Science	7 Periods	\$14,149.67	11-140-100-101-28-14	9/1/2023 – 2/28/2024
Nathaniel Lazar*	JDHS	Science	1 Periods	\$1,729.55	11-140-100-101-28-14	9/1/2023 – 2/28/2024
Alison Gillen*	FMG	Science	5 periods	\$9,553.22	11-130-100-101-28-06	9/1/2023 – 2/28/2024
Ning Chi*	JDHS	Science	7 Periods	\$15,854.49	11-140-100-101-28-14	9/1/2023 – 2/28/2024

* Revision-Original agenda resolution appeared on the September 18, 2023, Regular Public Meeting, resolution no. 15, August 28, 2023, Regular Public Meeting, resolution no. 17 and on October 30, 2023, Regular Public Meeting, resolution no.17

17. Tuition Reimbursement/ Credit

To approve the following personnel for credit and tuition reimbursement. The Maximum amount as set in the SEA CBA.

Staff Name	Course Title	Semester	Credit	Credit/Reimbursement
Marissa Dusheck	Leading Curriculum Change for Student Achievement	Spring 2024	3	Credit Only
Gillian Morrison	Clinical Practicum in Administration and Supervision I	Spring 2024	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Gillian Morrison	Clinical Practicum in Administration and Supervision II	Spring 2024	3	Credit Only
Amanda Livesey	Assessment Techniques: Assessing for Student Learning	Spring 2024	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Alexis Mojka	Theoretical Foundations of Literacy	Spring 2024	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Lillian Chou	Leadership and the Learning Organization	Spring 2024	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Sarah David	Historiography and Historical Methods	Spring 2024	3	Credit Only
Sarah David	LGBTQ + History of the US: 1800 to the present	Spring 2024	3	Credit & Reimbursement
James Cariello	School Business Management and Accounting	Fall 2023	3	Credit Only
James Cariello	Management of Educational Finance	Spring 2024	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Allison Zale	Supervision and Evaluation of Instruction	Spring 2024	3	Credit Only
Allison Zale	Public School Administration I	Spring 2024	3	Credit Only
Kendra Newman	Leading Curriculum Change for Student Achievement	Spring 2023	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Sandra Orejarena	Administrative Law	Fall 2023	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Sandra Orejarena	Human Resources	Fall 2023	3	Credit & Reimbursement
Ashley Bauers	Supervision of Instruction	Spring 2024	3	Credit & Reimbursement
David Steinman	Teaching Indoor Sports	Spring 2024	3	Credit Only

18. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Incidents

To affirm the following harassment/intimidation/bullying incidents:

- 060-2324-02
- 060-2324-03

19. Field Trip Destinations

To approve the following Out-of-state/Overnight field trip destinations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dated of Trip	Destination	School	Purpose of Trip
12/16/2023	NYC Armory, New York, NY	Winter Track 9-12	Track Meet
12/29/2023	NYC Armory, New York, NY	Winter Track 9-12	Track Meet
6/6/2024-6/7/2024	Washington DC	FMG	8th Grade Class Trip

20. Professional Services

To approve the following professional services contracts:

Vendor	Services	Cost not to Exceed	Term
Christopher Trigani, Ph. D.	Evaluations	\$5,000.00	23-24SY
Michael Loupis Counseling, LLC.	Counseling Services	\$2,000.00	23-24SY
Learning Tree Multicultural/ Multilingual Evaluations and Consulting	Multilingual Evaluations	\$10,000.00	23-24SY

21. Education Programs

To approve the following education programs for the 2023-2024 school year:

Student(s)	Vendor	Services	Dates	Cost not to exceed
1919	EI US, LLC. (Learnwell)	Bedside Instruction	11/20/2023-approx. 5/wks.	\$2,200.00

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
Summit School District	0720	\$19,108.00	\$49,790.00

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

23. Conference Attendance

To approve the following conference attendance request and travel related reimbursements:

Attendee	Conference	Dates
Calmar Walker	2024 NJ School Buildings & Grounds Association	March 18-20, 2023

Account Number: 11-000-262-800-95-05 cost not to exceed \$750.00

24. Grant

To approve the submission and acceptance of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation Peer Mediation Mini-Grant application and award for James Caldwell Elementary School & Thelma L Sandmeier Elementary School in the amount of \$500 for each school for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Mrs. Zolotarsky asked about how clubs get initiated and if they all have advisors.
- Dr. Goldberg responded.

Approval of School Government Items 3 through 24

Motion to Approve:

Seconded:

Roll Call

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

K. BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE-Mr. Munoz

Items 25 through 28

The Superintendent recommends:

25. Bus Evacuation Drills

To acknowledge bus evacuation drills for all non-transported students in accordance with NJAC 6A:27-11.2 on November 17 & 20, 2023:

Date	Time	School	Route	Location of Drill	Supervised By
11/17/2023	9:15 AM	JC	Grades 3-5	Main Entrance	Dave Rennie - Principal
11/17/2023	8:30 AM	TLS	Grades 3-5	Main Entrance	Chuhui Seo-Alfaro – Director of ECEE
11/17/2023	8:35AM	EVW	Grades Pre-K-2	Main Entrance	Pedro Garrido - Principal
11/17/2023	7:30 AM	JDHS	Grades 9-12	Main Entrance	Norman Francis- Principal
11/20/2023	7:25 AM	FMG	Grades 6-8	Main Entrance	Matthew Lynch - Vice-Principal

26. Transportation Vehicle Rental

To enter into contract with Belair Services LLC., for school bus rental at \$150/day for the 2023-2024 School year.

27. Interior Renovations

To enter into a contract with Academy Construction Inc. for structural openings for the HVAC Project at Edward V. Walton, James Caldwell, Florence M. Gaudineer, and Jonathan Dayton High School with a cost not to exceed \$17,250.00. Contract# ED DATA 10402. This project is part of the approved referendum project list and shall be bond-funded.

28. Gym Window Replacement Project

a. To enter into contract with BRG Corporation for Florence M. Gaudineer and Jonathan Dayton High School large gym window replacement project at a cost of \$494,096. Contract# ED DATA 11668 package#63. This project is part of the approved referendum project list and shall be bond-funded.

Approval of the Buildings and Grounds Items 25 through 28

Motion to Approve: Mr. Munoz

Seconded: Vice President Murphy

Roll Call

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

L. NEGOTIATIONS -Mr. Miller

Item 29

The Superintendent recommends:

29. Sidebar Agreement

To approve the Sidebar Agreement between the Springfield Board of Education and the Springfield Education Association for the extra-curricular activity addition of Diversity Club at FMG.

Approval of the Negotiations Item 29

Motion to Approve: Mr. Miller

Seconded: Mr. Munoz

Roll Call

VicePresident Meredith Murphy	Yes	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Absent
Laura Gamarekian	Yes	Yelena Zolotarsky	Yes

Marc Miller	Yes	President Paula Saha	Yes
Hector Munoz	Yes		

M. **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

None

N. **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Munoz expressed his sentiments for his hard work and service to the board.
- Mr. Fernandez expressed his gratitude for his service.
- Mrs. Gamarekian thanked Mr. Miller for all his years of service.
- Mrs. Rubin thanked him for his guidance throughout the years and will miss him on the board.
- Vice President Murphy shared her sentiments of gratitude.
- President Saha expressed her gratitude for his service and the positive impact he had on the board the students.
- Mr. Miller thanked everyone for their words.
- Mrs. Zolotarsky shared her positive visit to Caldwell. She shared some of their comments.
- Dr. Goldberg commented.
- Mrs. Rubin reiterated that these conversations were had during the Lunch and Learns.
- Mrs. Zolotarsky asked if there were any updates regarding the bullying comments from the last board meeting.
- Dr. Goldberg commented on the efforts made by school administration address some of the issues presented.

O. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved: Mr. Miller

Seconded: Vice President Murphy

Time: 8:56 PM

Voice Vote: AYE-8 NAY-0

Upcoming Meeting

1. Re-Organization Meeting– January 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the JDHS IMC
2. Regular Meeting – January 2, 2024 at 7:00PM in the JDHS IMC