

**SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2025**

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: 7:27 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT- President Laura Gamarekian

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 6, 2025. 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 Kristy Rubin

Mrs. Adriana Silva

Mr. Jerry Fernandez- *Absent*

Mrs. Hilary Turnbull

Mrs. Dana Kelly

Mrs. Jennifer Wishna

Mrs. Meredith Murphy- *Absent*

President Laura Gamarekian

Mrs. Tracey Rinaldi

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. Student Matters- The Superintendent updated the Board on a student matter and provided information regarding a HIB.
2. Personnel Matter- The Superintendent updated the Board on personnel matters.

It is anticipated that the executive session will take approximately 30 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: Mrs. Turnbull

Seconded: Mrs. Rinaldi

Time: 6:45 PM

Voice Vote: AYE- 7 NAY-0

Motion to return to public session:

Moved: Mrs. Turnbull

Seconded: Vice President Rubin

Time: 7:27 PM

Voice Vote: AYE- 7 NAY-0

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

E. COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received articles on the following topics: highlights of the education bills in the state of the state address, election petition bill and temporary relief for posting public notices and school ethics decisions. NJ school board has new programs and upcoming webinars of interest. Mrs. Calas reminded all new board members that Governance I training must be completed within the first 90 days. Mrs. Calas read in the addenda for tonight's meeting.

F. MINUTES

The Superintendent recommends:

1. To approve the following minutes:

Reorganization/Regular Meeting – January 6, 2025

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to Approve: Vice President Rubin

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Voice Vote: AYE- 7 NAY- 0

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Student Representative Report
2. 2023-2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report – Robert A. Hulsart and Company
3. NJGPA Fall 2024 Administration Data Reporting
4. JDHS Program of Studies
5. Student/ Staff Recognitions
6. Community Updates
7. HIB Report (The Board will go into closed session at the end of the meeting if specific clarification is needed.)
8. Building Use Request
9. Student Teacher Internships
10. Fundraiser Requests
 - Miss Tiger presented the student representative report and school wide happenings at JDHS.
 - Athletic updates were provided by Miss Tiger.
 - Mr. Hulsart, from Robert A. Hulsart and Company, presented the 2023-2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the overall financial position of the district.
 - President Gamarekian noted that Mrs. Calas reviewed the audit with board committees.
 - Dr. Francis presented the JDHS Program of Studies.
 - Dr. Francis presented the NJGPA Fall 2024 Administration. Dr. Goldberg provided some information regarding graduation requirements.
 - President Gamarekian asked about the webinar for high school program requests on January 28, 2024.
 - Dr. Goldberg provided an update on the referendum projects and facilities updates: camera system, HVAC upgrades, and courtyard improvements.
 - School highlights were provided
 - Staff retirements were acknowledged: Roxanne Graham, Linda Sayki, Jessica Ging, Josephine Cioffi, Karen Driscoll
 - Dr. Goldberg thanks the Daughters of the American Revolution for their generous donation.
 - Calendar updates were provided.
 - Highlights of staff appointments were noted.
 - Superintendent office hours were noted. The general format of the office hours were discussed.

Approval of the Superintendent's Report, as presented

Motion to Approve: Vice President Rubin

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Voice Vote: AYE- 7 NAY- 0

H. PUBLIC SESSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

I. BOARD GOVERNANCE, POLICY, AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE- *Vice President Rubin*

Items 1 through 9 & Addenda items 18 through 21

The Superintendent recommends:

1. Staff Resignation

To approve the following staff resignation:

- a. Kevin Schultz, Middle School Boys Baseball Coach

2. Staff Retirement

To accept the following retirement:

- a. Jessica Ging, Elementary Teacher, effective July 1, 2025.
- b. Josephine Cioffi, World Language Teacher, effective July 1, 2025.
- c. Karen Driscoll, Instructional Aide, effective July 1, 2025.
- d. Roxanne Silberto-Graham, School Nurse, effective July 1, 2025.

3. District Substitutes

To approve additional substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year. 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

Frank Dasti	Sub Certified	N-12
Evelyn Wetzel	Sub Certified	N-12

4. Leave of Absence Request

To approve the following leave of absence and revised leave of absence requests:

Name	Leave Request	Date From	Dates To	Rate
Danielle Feller	Post Disability Leave/FMLA	12/21/2024 – 1/17/2025	12/21/2024 – 2/14/2025	Full salary; accumulated sick days
	FMLA/NJFLA	1/20/2025 – 4/14/2025	2/17/2025 – 5/9/2025	Unpaid
Lauren Gigante	Maternity Leave	11/27/2024 – 5/5/2025	11/27/2024 – 5/31/2025	Unpaid
Maria Sista	FMLA – Intermittent		1/13/2025 – 3/8/2025	Full salary; accumulated sick days
Dori Torino	Maternity Leave		3/28/2025 – 6/30/2025	Unpaid

5. Before/ After School/ Child Care Staff

To approve the following staff appointment for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Position	Pay Rate
Roberta Gersh	Group Aide BCAC	\$16.75/hr.
Amir Mayfield	Group Aide BCAC	\$16.75/hr.

6. Athletic Coaches

To approve the following athletic coaches for the 2024-2025 school year:

Position	Name	Rate
MS Baseball Coach	Christopher Moore, <i>replacing Kevin Schultz</i>	\$5,068.00
MS Softball Coach	Brianne Willis, <i>replacing Christopher Moore</i>	\$5,068.00

Account: 11-402-100-100-46-06

7. Portfolio Review Teacher

To approve the following JDHS Staff for the 2024-2025 school year. Rate: \$54.36/hr.

Name	Position	Hrs./ Days
Mary Ellen Powers	Portfolio Review Teacher	Up to 20 hours

Account: 11-140-100-101-00-14 cost not to exceed \$1,087.20

8. Professional Development

To approve the following personnel to participate in professional development:

Attendee	Training Course	Location	Dates	Cost	Account
Calmar Walker	NJSBGA Expo 2025	Harrah's Resort Atlantic City	March 23-26, 2025	\$350.00 \$300.00	11-000-262-800-95-05 11-000-223-580-80-04
Jonathan Firetto	Empowering Non-Tenured Leaders	MUJC	March 5, March 26, & April 2, 2025	\$360.00	11-000-223-580-80-04
Ronald Slate	LinkIt! MTSS Summit	Kean University, Union, NJ	January 27, 2025	\$250.00	20-270-200-300-41-12

9. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Incidents

To approve the following harassment/intimidation/bullying incidents:

- 010-2425-02
- 060-2425-09

ADDENDA

I. BOARD GOVERNANCE, POLICY, AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

18. Staff Appointments

To approve the following staff appointments:

- a. Maria Rebelo, Bus Driver, Itinerant, on/about January 28, 2025 - June 30, 2025 at \$30.00/hr.

Account: 11-000-270-161-96-10

- b. Meredith Gerckens, Supervisor of School Counseling Services, Itinerant, on/about March 28, 2025 - June 30, 2025 at \$125,000.

Account: 11-000-218-104-00-10

- c. Maria Marinaccio*, Instructional Aide - Autism Program, Itinerant, on/about February 4, 2025 - June 30, 2025 at \$22.62/hr + \$1,250 annual stipend.

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

**Pending Criminal History Background Check*

19. Staff Retirement

To accept the following retirement:

- a. Linda Sayki, Media Aide, effective July 1, 2025.

20. Staff Resignation

To accept the following resignation:

- a. Leidy Caceres Brito, Bus/Lunch Aide, effective January 24, 2025.

21. Job Description

To approve the following job description revision:

- a. Network Manager (Attachment)

Approval of Board Governance, Policy, and Communications Items 1 through 9 & Addenda items 18 through 21

Motion to Approve: Vice President Rubin

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

- Mrs. Silva asked about the role of the portfolio review teacher.
- Dr. Francis responded and explained the role and the tasks given.

Roll Call

Vice President Kristy Rubin	Yes	Adriana Silva	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Absent	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Meredith Murphy	Absent	President Laura Gamarekian	Yes
Tracey Rinaldi	Yes		

J. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE-*Mrs. Turnbull****Items 10 through 11***

The Superintendent recommends:

10. Education Programs

To approve the following education program for 2024-2025 school year:

Student	Vendor	Service	Dates	Cost not to Exceed
12-06	Silvergate Preparatory	Bedside Instruction	1/8/2025 – Approx. 6 wks.	\$3,300.00
14-03	Actual Solutions	Bedside Instruction	1/16/2025 – Approx. 8 wks.	\$3,000.00

Account: 11-150-100-320-63-11

11. Donation

To accept the donation of books from The Church and Cannon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to be used in the school libraries district wide. The Board of Education would like to thank The Church and Cannon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their generous gifts.

- Dr. Goldberg extended her gratitude to Ms. Heather Sanford.

Approval of the School Administration, Academic Programs, and Athletics Items 10 through 11

Motion to Approve: Mrs. Turnbull

Seconded: Vice President Rubin

Roll Call

Vice President Kristy Rubin	Yes	Adriana Silva	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Absent	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Meredith Murphy	Absent	President Laura Gamarekian	Yes
Tracey Rinaldi	Yes		

K. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND SECURITY COMMITTEE- *Mrs. Silva****Items 12 through 17 and Addenda Item 22***

The Superintendent recommends:

12. Bills List

To approve the check numbers 056417 through 056637 and wire transfer 800241 through 800242, 889138 through 889156, 999976 in the amount of \$9,291,563.67 minus voided check 056303 for the grand total of \$9,289,049.67.

13. Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for the 2024-2025 school year.

Account Number	Account Name	To	From
11-000-222-177-00-10	COORDINATOR OF TECHNOLOGY		400.00
11-000-222-300-00-15	Purchased Prof and Tech Serv	400.00	
11-000-262-420-93-15	REPAIR/MAINT CONTRACTS TECH *		7,780.00
11-000-291-270-97-03	HEALTH INSURANCE *		125,000.00

11-120-100-101-01-09	SUBSTITUTES EVW		5,000.00
11-190-100-320-00-09	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	5,000.00	
11-214-100-610-00-06	AUTISM SUPPLIES FMG		830.00
11-214-100-610-00-09	AUTISM SUPPLIES EVW	830.00	
12-000-252-730-93-03	EQUIPMENT *	125,000.00	
12-140-100-730-82-14	EQUIPMENT JDHS *	7,780.00	

**pending county approval*

14. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

To accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Auditor's Management Report completed by Robert A. Hulsart and Company for the fiscal year end June 30, 2024.

15. Certificate of Payment

To approve the Certificate of Payment for:

- Manor II Electric, Inc., Holmdel, NJ payment#4 in the amount of \$55,178.85 for project number 23.047. (Electrical Upgrades at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School)
- H & S Construction & Mechanical, Elizabeth, NJ Payment #2 in the amount of \$1,103,480.00 for project #24.016 (District HVAC Upgrades)

16. Professional Services – ROD Grant

To approve the revised terms & conditions in the architectural service contract with LAN Associates, Inc. for the following:

- Florence Gaudineer Middle School HVAC upgrade project at a cost not to exceed \$61,570. DOE Project# 5000-060-23-R501, SDA Project# 5000-060-23-G5SX, Capital reserve funds shall be used in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.13.
- Jonathan Dayton H.S. Partial Roof Replacement project at a cost not to exceed \$65,100. DOE Project #5000-010-23-R502, SDA Project# 5000-010-23-G5SW, Capital reserve funds shall be used in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.13.

17. Bid Rejections

To approve the following bid award to the lowest responsible bidder:

WHEREAS, a recommendation was made by the Superintendent of Schools to the Springfield Board of Education ("Board") to seek a contract for construction services for the Courtyard Improvements at – Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center-Bid No. 2024-02 (hereinafter "Project"); and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2024, following advertisement to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-4, the Board received one (1) bid from potential bidders; and

WHEREAS, the bid exceeded the Board's budget for the Project, and no bid was awarded within 60 days as required by N.J.S.A 18A:18A-36; and

WHEREAS, following re-bid and re-advertisement to prospective bidders, on January 23, 2025, the Board received the following bids from potential bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq;

Bidder	Base Bid
Berto Construction, Inc.	\$1,489,561
ZN Construction LLC.	\$1,165,000
Drill Construction Co., Inc.	\$876,000
Zenith Construction Services, Inc.	\$800,000
Your Way Construction, Inc.	\$1,170,000
Cypreco Industries, Inc.	\$1,812,963
PMY Construction Corp.	\$1,550,799

WHEREAS, all bids received exceed the Board's budget for the Project; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A permits the Board to negotiate with contractors following two rejected bids

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby rejects all bids as they exceed the Board's
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budget for the Project in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-22; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the board hereby authorizes negotiations with contractors pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:18A-5.

ADDENDA

K. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

22. 2024-2025 Joint Transportation Agreement

- a. To enter into contract with Hamilton Board of Education for a joint transportation agreement to and from school 9/23/2024-2/11/2025. Contract payable to Hamilton Board of Education for \$22,274.00.
- b. To enter into contract with Hamilton Board of Education for a joint transportation agreement to and from school 2/12/2025-6/18/2025. Contract payable to Hamilton Board of Education for \$25,338.00.

Approval of Finance, Facilities, and Security Items 12 through 17 and Addenda Item 22

Motion to Approve: Mrs. Silva

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Roll Call

Vice President Kristy Rubin	Yes	Adriana Silva	Yes
Jerry Fernandez	Absent	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Meredith Murphy	Absent	President Laura Gamarekian	Yes
Tracey Rinaldi	Yes		

L. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

None

M. NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Turnbull provided an update on wrestling and highlighted 2 wrestlers with accomplishments. She noted that there is a SEPAG meeting tomorrow.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Vice President Rubin

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Time: 8:27 PM

Voice Vote: AYE- 7 NAY-0

Upcoming Meeting

1. Regular Meeting– February 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the JDHS IMC