

**SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2025**

VISION STATEMENT

Cultivating, compassionate, and extraordinary learner

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: 7:07 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 and revised on September 11, 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
Mr. Jerry Fernandez- *Absent*
Mrs. Dana Kelly- *Absent*
Mrs. Meredith Murphy
Mrs. Tracey Rinaldi

Mrs. Adriana Silva
Mrs. Hilary Turnbull
Mrs. Jennifer Wishna
President Laura Gamarekian

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. COMMUNICATIONS

- Mrs. Calas read in articles on the following topics: honoring unsung superheroes in education, screen time dangers, state test scores released, Senate and Assembly education committee bill considerations, and school finance reform bill. NJ school board also has new programs, conferences and upcoming webinars. Mrs. Calas read in the addenda for tonight's meeting.

E. MINUTES

The Superintendent recommends:

1. To approve the following minutes:

Executive Meeting – November 17, 2025

Regular Meeting – November 17, 2025

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to Approve: Vice President Rubin

Seconded: Mrs. Murphy

Voice Vote: AYE- 6 NAY-0 (Abstention-1 Mrs. Wishna)

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Student Representative Report
2. District Holiday Greeting Card Winners Presentation
3. Student Safety Data System Reporting Period 2 SY 2024-2025
4. Staff/ Student Recognitions

5. Community Updates
6. HIB Report (The Board will go into closed session at the end of the meeting if specific clarification is needed.)
7. Building Use Request
8. Fundraiser Requests
9. Student Teacher Internships
 - Miss Silva presented the student representative report which highlighted the following topics: holiday attire, clubs, coat and blood drives and other high school happenings.
 - Dr. Goldberg recognized the teachers of the year as well as the support professionals of the year for each school.
 - Dr. Goldberg congratulated the cast and crew of The SpongeBob Musical.
 - Districtwide happenings were highlighted.
 - District holiday greeting card winners were acknowledged.
 - Mrs. Suter presented the Student Safety Data for reporting period 2 in SY 2024-2025.
 - Dr. Goldberg recognized the following retirements: Mrs. Gillen and Mrs. Sandford.
 - Dr. Goldberg and Mrs. Calas highlighted some of the facilities projects that are the agenda as well as the funding sources of each project.
 - Calendar updates were provided.
 - President Gamerekian thanked Mr. Fernandez for his three- years of service.
 - Vice President Rubin thanked President Gamerekian for her time, leadership and service she has contributed as the board president.
 - Dr. Goldberg thanked President Gamerekian for her efforts as Board President.

Approval of the Superintendent's Report, as presented

Motion to Approve: Vice President Rubin

Seconded: Mrs. Murphy

Voice Vote: AYE-7 NAY-0

G. PUBLIC SESSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

H. BOARD GOVERNANCE, POLICY, AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE-

Vice President Rubin

Items 1 through 11 and Addenda Items 27 through 30

The Superintendent recommends:

1. Staff Appointment

To approve the following staff appointments:

- a. Helen Aguirre*, Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher, TLS, on/about January 20, 2026 - June 30, 2026 at \$62,147, Step 1-BA.
Account Number: 11-120-100-101-01-07
- b. Monique James*, Instructional Aide - Autism Program, EVW, on/about December 17, 2025 - June 30, 2026 at \$23.62/hr + \$1,250 annual stipend.
Account Number: 11-216-100-106-00-09
- c. Robin Blount*, School Nurse, TLS, on/about January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026 at \$76,647, Step BA-13.
Account Number: 11-000-213-100-00-07

**Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

2. Staff Resignation

To accept the following resignation:

- Majetta Logan, Instructional Aide, EVW effective November 18, 2025.
- Darus Stewart, Preschool Teacher, JC, effective January 16, 2026.
- Erin Fitzpatrick, Special Education Teacher, JDHS, effective January 30, 2026.
- Courtney Meli, Instructional Aide, EVW, effective December 23, 2025.

3. Staff Retirement

To accept the following retirement:

- Rosalba Sanford, Special Education Teacher, FMG, effective July 1, 2026.
- Alison Gillen, Science Teacher, FMG, effective July 1, 2026.

4. Leave of Absence Request

To approve the following leave of absence:

Name	Leave Request	Dates To	Rate
#1325	Medical	11/26/2025 – 1/5/2026	Full salary; accumulated sick days

5. District Substitutes

To approve additional substitutes for the 2025-2026 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/CDL Exempt Drivers- \$25/hr.

TEACHER

Alexis Rodriguez Sub Certified N-12

Jennifer Adiers* Sub Certified N-12

AIDE

Jennifer Adiers*

CUSTODIAN

Christiano Henriques*

**Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

6. Before/ After School Program/ Child Care

To approve the following appointments and revisions:

Name	Position	Pay Rate
Justin Stewart	Substitute Group Aide	\$17.04/hr.*
Catherine Nattermann	Substitute Associate Child Care Provider	\$25.01/hr.
Mackenzie Schoch**	Substitute Group Leader	\$25.01/hr.
Jenna Campos	Substitute Child Care Provider	\$17.04/hr.

**Original Agenda resolution appeared on the November 17, 2025, Regular Public Meeting, resolution no. 7*

***Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

7. Technology Sound & Lighting

To approve the following staff appointments for sound & lighting support:

Name	Rate	Hrs/Days
Christopher Ortiz	\$45.00/hr	As needed

**To be paid by facilities use fees.*

8. Professional Development

To approve the following personnel to participate in professional development:

Attendee	Training Course	Location	Dates	Cost	Account
Diana Costa	2026 Spring Conference- NJTESOL	New Brunswick, NJ	May 19, 20 & 21, 2026	\$675.00	20-241-200-500-XX-XX
Jillian Rose	2026 Spring Conference- NJTESOL	New Brunswick, NJ	May 19, 20 & 21, 2025	\$675.00	20-241-200-500-XX-XX
Deana Zweidinger	2026 Spring Conference- NJAGC	Somerset, NJ	April 17, 2026	\$235.00	20-270-200-500-XX-XX

9. Athletic Coaches

To approve the following athletic coaches for the 2025-2026 school year:

Position	Name	Rate
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach	Sean Brown	N/A
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach	Frank Dasti	N/A
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach	James Monaghan	N/A
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach	Dominic Dasti	N/A

10. District Policies

- a. To approve the following district policies and regulations for first reading:
 1. P 0174 Legal Services (M)
 2. P 0177 Professional Services (M)
 3. P 1570 Internal Controls (M)
 4. Reg 1570 Internal Controls (M)
 5. P 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts (M)
- b. To approve the following district policies and regulations for second reading and adoption:
 1. P 0173 – Duties of Public School Accountant
 2. P 2422 – Statutory Curricular Requirements (M)
 3. P 9180 School Volunteers

11. Harassment/Intimidating/Bullying Incidents

To affirm the following harassment/intimidation/bullying incidents:

- 050-2526-02
- 050-2526-03

ADDENDA

H. BOARD GOVERNANCE, POLICY, AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

27. Staff Appointment

To approve the following staff appointments:

- a. Ricardo Bryan, Maintenance Worker, Itinerant, on/about January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026 at \$52,935, Step 4 –Main + \$1,654.24 Stipend.
Account Number: 11-000-261-100-94-10

28. Staff Resignation

To accept the following resignation:

- Christopher Moore, Science Teacher, JDHS, effective February 9, 2026.

29. District Substitutes

To approve substitutes for the 2025-2026 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/CDL Exempt Drivers- \$25/hr.

AIDE

Alyssa Santangelo*

Grace Cardinale*

**Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

30. Before/ After School Program

To approve the following appointments:

Name	Position	Pay Rate
Grace Cardinale*	Group Aide	\$17.04/hr
Alyssa Santangelo*	Group Aide	\$17.04/hr

**Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

Approval of Board Governance, Policy, and Communications Items 1 - 11 and Addenda Items 27-30

Motion to Approve: Rubin

Seconded: Murphy

Roll Call

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

I. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE-*Mrs. Turnbull***Items 12 through 16**

The Superintendent recommends:

12. Professional Services

To approve the following professional services contracts for the 2025-2026 school year:

Vendor	Services	Original	Change	Cost not to exceed
Homecare Therapies ^	Nursing Services	\$23,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$39,000.00

Account Number: ^11-000-213-300-00-11

13. Education Programs

To approve the following education program for the 2025-2026 school year:

Student	Vendor	Service	Dates	Cost Not to Exceed
2001	Learnwell (EI US, LLC)	Bedside Instruction	12/4/2025 – approx.. 3 weeks	\$1,038.75

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

14. Field Trip/ Class Trip

To approve the following out of state field trip destination for the 2025-2026 school year.

Date of Trip	Destination	School	Purpose of Trip
February 6-8, 2026	Boston Marriott Copley Place 110 Huntington Ave. Boston, MA	JDHS	Model UN Conference

15. Curriculum Adoption

To approve the following new and revised curriculum:

1. Middle School Level
 - a. Financial Literacy
2. High School
 - a. AP Calculus BC
 - b. AP Statistics - *New*
 - c. Mathematics Strategies - *New*
 - d. English and Language Arts Strategies

16. New Clubs for the 2025-2026 school year

To approve the creation of two new Type C clubs at JDHS:

- a. Christian Student Association
- b. Theatre Club

Approval of the School Administration, Academic Programs, and Athletics Items 12 through 16

Motion to Approve: Mrs. Turnbull

Seconded: Mrs. Murphy

Roll Call

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

J. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND SECURITY COMMITTEE- Mrs. Silva

Items 17 through 26 and Addenda Item 31

The Superintendent recommends:

17. Monthly Certification

a. Board Secretary's Monthly Certification, Budgetary Line Item Status

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (d), I certify that as of October 31, 2025 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18:22-8.1

Board Secretary

Date

b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification, Budgetary Major Account/Fund Status

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (e), we certify that as of October 31, 2025 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20- 2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. This certification is solely based on the information provided by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and is assumed by the board to be correct.

18. Board Secretary/ Treasurer Report

To approve the board secretary/ treasurer reports for the period ending October 31, 2025.

19. Bills List

To approve the check numbers 058560 through 058743 and wire transfer 800252, 889305 through 889320 in the amount of \$7,257,157.53 minus voided checks 058293, 058436 and 058478 for the grand total of \$7,235,703.68

20. Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Account Code	Account Name	To	From
11-000-230-331-01-01	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LEGAL	\$6,203.25	
11-000-230-334-01-01	CONSTRUCTION PROF FEES		\$6,203.25

21. Bid Award

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 Exterior Door Replacements & Security Upgrades at Four Schools (hereinafter "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project was properly advertised to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18-4; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, December 5, 2025 the Board received the following bids from potential bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq; and

Bidder	Base Bid
D & E Window and Door, LLC	\$347,500.00
A Plus Glass & Metal, LLC.	\$451,000.00
In-Line Architectural Glass & Metal Inc.	\$397,000.00

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by D & E Window and Door, LLC. has been reviewed and has been deemed compliant with the bid specifications and New Jersey Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A.18A:18A-

1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, this project is part of the approved referendum project list and shall be bond-funded.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the Project to D & E Window and Door, LLC. as the lowest responsible bidder at a total contract amount of \$347,500.00 (Base bid)

22. Certificate of Payment

To approve the Certificate of Payment for:

- a. H & S Construction & Mechanical, Elizabeth, NJ Payment #12 in the amount of \$1,250,391.80 for project #24.016 (District HVAC Upgrades)
- b. Drill Construction Co., Inc. West Orange, NJ Payment #6 (Final) in the amount of \$43,882.97 for project #25-014 (Walton Courtyard Improvements)
- c. Drill Construction Co., Inc. West Orange, NJ Payment #4 & 5 (Final) in the amount of \$44,572.27 for project #25-021 (FMG Music Room)
- d. GPC, Inc., Millburn, NJ, NJ Payment #5 & 6 in the amount of \$212,716.41 for project #2425-01 (Field House Interior)
- e. Academy Construction, Inc., Pompton Plains, NJ Payment #2 & 3 in the amount of \$276,056.23 for project number 2425-02. (Copy Room conversion to Biology Lab at Jonathan Dayton High School).

23. Bid Award

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 Partial Roof Replacement at Jonathan Dayton High School (hereinafter "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project was properly advertised to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18-4; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2025 the Board received bids that exceeded the Board's budget for the Project in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-22; and

WHEREAS, the Board rejected all bids that exceeded the Board's budget for the Project in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-22; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, December 5, 2025 the Board received the following bids from potential bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq; and

Bidder	Base Bid
Duga Construction, LLC.	\$1,739,000.00
USA General Contractors Corp.	\$1,906,252.00
Jottan, Inc.	\$2,055,208.00
Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc.	\$1,419,000.00
Safeway Contracting	\$1,692,000.00
VMG Group	\$1,555,000.00
Laumar Roofing Co., Inc.	\$1,535,000.00
Galia Construction, Inc.	\$1,465,000.00

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc. has been reviewed and has been deemed compliant with the bid specifications and New Jersey Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A.18A:18A-1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, this project shall be capital reserve & Rod grant funded

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the Project to Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder at a total contract amount of \$1,419,000.00 (Base bid)

24. Life Skills Room at JDHS

To authorize LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying, Inc. to prepare submission of Schematic Application to the State of New Jersey, Department of Education for the following project:

Renovation of Life Skills Room at Johnathan Dayton High School

DOE Project Number is not yet assigned.

The project was included in a previously approved major LRFP Amendment which shall satisfy the New Jersey Department of Education's major amendment requirements for the Long-Range Facility Plan. The Board will not be seeking a State Funding for this project, and it is being submitted as Other Capital Project.

25. District Contracts

- a. To enter into a contract with Frontline Education for EDPlan IEP and Section 504 program management for a cost not to exceed \$12,314.72.
- b. To enter into a contract with Swing Education for special education aides & registered behavior technicians (RBT) for the 2025-2026 school year. Contract# ESCNJ 25/26-32

26. Cooperative Pricing System

To enter into the Morris-Union Jointure Commission cooperative pricing system. (Attachment A)

ADDENDA

J. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

31. School District Funds SY 2025-2026

To designate the following banks as depositories for the school district funds for the 2025 - 2026 school year:

Bank	Account Name	# of Signatures	Signatory Title
Citizens Bank	Student Activity Accounts	2	Principal, Vice Principal or School Secretary

Approval of Finance, Facilities, and Security Items 17 through 26 and Addenda Item 31

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	Absent	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Meredith Murphy	Yes	President Laura Gamarekian	Yes
Tracey Rinaldi	Yes		

K. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

None

L. NEW BUSINESS

- Dr. Goldberg welcomed the new school nurse at TLS.
- President Gamarekian commented on her time as the Board President and her inspiration to serve as a board member. She expressed her rewarding experience.
- There is a sneaker drive.

M. OLD BUSINESS

- Dr. Goldberg indicated that there are numerous holiday events happening throughout the district.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Mrs. Turnbull

Seconded: Mrs. Murphy

Time: 8:23 PM

Voice Vote: AYE-7 NAY-0

Upcoming Meeting

1. Re-Organization Meeting – January 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the JDHS IMC
2. Regular Meeting– January 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the JDHS IMC