

**SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION/ REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

January 5, 2026

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: 7:08 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER AND 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.

B. ROLL CALL

Mr. Jerry Fernandez- <i>Absent</i>	Mrs. Kristy Rubin
Mrs. Laura Gamarekian	Mrs. Adriana C. Silva
Mrs. Dana Kelly	Mrs. Hilary Turnbull
Mrs. Meredith Murphy	Mrs. Jennifer Wishna
Mrs. Tracey M. Rinaldi	

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. RESULTS OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

1. Meredith Murphy – 3,502 (Elected)
2. Hilary Turnbull – 3,340 (Elected)
3. Luis Henriques – 2,794 (Elected)
4. Iliana Garcia Rakler – 2,414
5. Write-In's - 82

Total Registered Voters – 13,905; Total Votes cast – 12,132

E. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Michelle Calas, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to administer the oath to Mrs. Meredith Murphy, Mrs. Hilary Turnbull and Mr. Luis Henriques for (3) three year terms.

Roll Call of Newly Elected Board

Mrs. Laura Gamarekian	Mrs. Kristy Rubin
Mr. Luis Henriques	Mrs. Adriana C. Silva
Mrs. Dana Kelly	Mrs. Hilary Turnbull
Mrs. Meredith Murphy	Mrs. Jennifer Wishna
Mrs. Tracey M. Rinaldi	

F. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Items 1 through 2

1. Election of the Board President – (Mrs. Calas presides)

To appoint Meredith Murphy for the office of President of the Springfield Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year.

Motion to approve: Mrs. Turnbull

Seconded: Mrs. Gamarekian

Roll Call

Laura Gamarekian	Yes	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Luis Henriques	Yes	Adriana C. Silva	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Meredith Murphy	Yes	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Tracey M. Rinaldi	Yes		

2. Election of the Board Vice President – (New President presides)

To appoint Tracey Rinaldi for the office of Vice President of the Springfield Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year.

Motion to approve: Mrs. Wishna

Seconded: Mrs. Gamarekian

Roll Call

Laura Gamarekian	Yes	Kristy Rubin	Yes
Luis Henriques	Yes	Adriana C. Silva	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Meredith Murphy	Yes	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Tracey M. Rinaldi	Abstention		

G. REORGANIZATION***Items 3 through 16*****3. Renewal of Bylaws and Policies**

To adopt existing policy, bylaws, and administrative guidelines.

4. Bank Signatures

To authorize changes in bank signature cards for the signatures of President, Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies.

5. Organization Chart

To approve the Organizational Chart of the Springfield Board of Education. (Copy on file in Board Office)

6. Annual Scheduling of Board Meetings

Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, scheduled meetings of the Board of Education will be held in the Jonathan Dayton High School IMC, First Floor at 6:30 P.M. for Executive Sessions and 7:00 P.M. for Public Sessions on the following dates:

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>	<u>SPECIAL MEETINGS</u>
<u>2026</u>			
	January	26	
	February	23	
	March	16	
	April	27	
	April	27- Public Hearing (2026-2027 Proposed Budget)	
	May	11	
	June	01,29	
	July	27	
	August	24	
	September	28	
	October	19	
	November	16	
	December	14	
<u>2027</u>			
	January	04- Re-Organization Meeting	
	January	04	

Any changes or additions to this calendar will be announced pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

7. Official Newspaper

To designate the Local Source as official newspaper of the Board for the 2026 calendar year.

8. Board Attorney

WHEREAS, there exists from time to time a need for Legal Services/ Labor Relations for the Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose, and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law (NJSA 18A:18A-5) provides for the award of contracts for this type of professional service without competitive bidding, and

WHEREAS, Dennis McKeever, Esq., of the firm Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon & Cappuzzo, P.C., Secaucus, NJ is well qualified and capable of providing these services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Springfield Board of Education, that Dennis McKeever, Esq., of the firm Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon & Cappuzzo, P.C., Secaucus, NJ is hereby appointed legal services/ labor relations attorney (1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026). All legal fees will be billed at \$175 per hour with a cost not to exceed \$65,000.00.

9. Board Attorney

WHEREAS, there exists from time to time a need for Special Education Legal Services for the Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose, and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law (NJSA 18A:18A-5) provides for the award of contracts for this type of professional service without competitive bidding, and

WHEREAS, Robin S. Ballard, Esq., of the firm Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP., Florham Park, NJ is well qualified and capable of providing these services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Springfield Board of Education, that Robin S. Ballard, Esq., of the firm Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP., Florham Park, NJ is hereby appointed legal services attorney (1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026). All legal fees will be billed at \$190 per hour with a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00

10. Architect of Record/ Engineer

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the services of an architect, and

WHEREAS, LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying, Inc., Midland Park, NJ is a licensed architectural firm that has previously performed architectural services for the school district, including, but not limited to, design work for the district's capital projects,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires that the services LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying, Inc., continue, and

WHEREAS, the Board, assisted by its attorney, and LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning,

Architecture, Surveying, Inc., have reached mutually agreeable contract terms for these services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Township of Springfield approves the appointment of LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying, Inc., Midland Park, NJ as district architect,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a professional service under the provisions of the Public School Contracts law (NJSA 18A: 18A- 5). All fees shall be awarded separately by project.

11. Engineer

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the services of an engineer, and

WHEREAS, Pennoni Associates, Edison, NJ is a licensed engineer firm that has previously performed architectural services for the school district, including, but not limited to, design work for the district's capital projects,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires that the services Pennoni Associates, continue, and

WHEREAS, the Board, assisted by its attorney, and Pennoni Associates, have reached mutually agreeable contract terms for these services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Township of Springfield approves the appointment of Pennoni Associates, Edison, NJ as district engineer,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a professional service under the provisions of the Public School Contracts law (NJSA 18A: 18A- 5). All fees shall be awarded separately by project.

12. Auditor

WHEREAS, there exists a need for an annual audit of school accounts, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company, LLC, Westfield, NJ is licensed as Public School Accountants and is fully capable of providing this service, and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5) provides for the award of contracts for this type of professional service without competitive bidding, and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of Springfield, NJ, that the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company, LLC, Westfield, NJ is hereby appointed auditors for the accounts of the Board of Education at a fee of \$35,000.00.

13. Board Committees

To approve the following committees

- a. Board Governance, Policy & Communications
- b. School Administration, Academic Programs & Athletics
- c. Finance, Facilities & Security

- d. Negotiations & TAB
Liaisons/Representatives
- a. Springfield Township
- b. Municipal Alliance
- c. UCESC
- d. MUJC
- e. NJSBA
- f. UCSBA
- g. Edward V. Walton PTA
- h. James Caldwell PTA
- i. Thelma L. Sandmeier PTA
- j. Florence M. Gaudineer PTA
- k. Jonathan Dayton PTA

14. Continuing Disclosure Agent

To approve the Phoenix Advisors, LLC., as the district continuing disclosure agent to the Springfield Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

15. Morris-Union Jointure Commission Representative

To appoint the Superintendent of Schools as the representative of the Springfield School District to serve on the Morris-Union Jointure Commission Board of Education.

16. Union County Educational Services Commission Representative

To appoint Tracey Rinaldi, (Dana Kelly, Alternate) as a representative of the Springfield School District to serve on the Union County Educational Services Representative Assembly.

Approval of Reorganization Items 3 through 16

Motion to approve: Mrs. Gamarekian

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Roll Call

Vice President Rinaldi	Yes	Adriana C. Silva	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Luis Henriques	Abstention	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	President Murphy	Yes
Kristy Rubin	Yes		

H. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION REORGANIZATION AGENDA – Items Only (#3 - #16)

None

I. COMMUNICATIONS

- Mrs. Calas read in articles on the following topics: cell phone ban bill, State of the State address scheduled for January 13, lame duck legislation. NJ school board has new programs and upcoming webinars and governance training. As required, the Board received a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board members. The School Board representative will be here to provide a full school ethics training at the next board meeting. In addition, January is School Board Recognition Month. Mrs. Calas read in the addenda for tonight's meeting.

J. MINUTES

The Superintendent recommends:

Springfield Board of Education Reorganization/Regular Meeting January 5, 2026

1. To approve the following minutes:
Regular Meeting– December 15, 2025

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to Approve: Vice President Rinaldi

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Voice Vote: AYE- 7 NAY- 0 (Abstention- 2 Kelly, Henriques)

K. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Dr. Goldberg welcomed Mr. Henriques and thanked all the board members.
- Miss Silva provided the student representative report which highlighted: athletic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, students of the months, fundraisers.

Approval of Superintendent’s Report

Motion to Approve: President Murphy

Seconded: Mrs. Wishna

L. PUBLIC SESSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

M. BOARD GOVERNANCE, POLICY, AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Items 17 through 22 and Addenda Items 28-30

The Superintendent recommends:

17. Staff Appointment

To approve the following staff appointments:

- a. Erika Groning*, Instructional Aide, EVW on/about January 6, 2026 - June 30, 2026 at \$23.62/hr.
Account Number: 11-216-100-106-00-09

**Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

18. Staff Resignation

To approve the following resignation:

- a. Christopher Moore, MS Baseball Coach, FMG effective December 12, 2025.
- b. Erin Fitzpatrick, Alternatives Club Advisor, JDHS, effective December 30, 2025.
- c. Erin Fitzpatrick, Assistant Band Director, JDHS, effective December 30, 2025.
- d. Erin Fitzpatrick, Mock Trial, JDHS, effective December 30, 2025.
- e. Gabriella Pires, Substitute Before/ Aftercare, effective December 23, 2025.

19. Leave of Absence Request

To approve the following leave of absence requests:

Name	Leave Request	Dates	Rate
Jennifer Wetzel	FMLA – Intermittent	12/3/2025 – 6/30/2026	Full salary; accumulated sick days/ Unpaid
Carolina Ramirez-Aragon	FMLA	12/22/2025 – 1/9/2026	Full salary; accumulated sick days

20. High School and Middle School Additional Teachers and Classes 25-26

To approve the following teachers to teach an additional class for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Location	Department	Section /Period	Amount*	Account	Effective Date
Nicholas Iannacone	JDHS	Special Education	5 Periods	\$7,877.64	11-140-100-101-28-14	1/1/2026 – 6/30/2026
Christine Lynskey	JDHS	Special Education	5 Periods	\$12,105.00	11-140-100-101-28-14	1/1/2026 – 6/30/2026
Michael O’Brien	JDHS	Special Education	5 Periods	\$9,655.44	11-140-100-101-28-14	1/1/2026 – 6/30/2026

Veronica Kurz	JDHS	Special Education	5 Periods	\$12,265.44	11-140-100-101-28-14	1/1/2026 – 6/30/2026
Cheryl Paolino	JDHS	Special Education	5 Periods	\$9,317.64	11-140-100-101-28-14	1/1/2026 – 6/30/2026
Mark Cugliari	JDHS	Physical Education-Adaptive	2 Periods	\$3,943.06	11-140-100-101-28-14	1/1/2026 – 6/30/2026

** shall be prorated based on actual assignment time*

21. District Policies – Second Reading & Adoption

To approve the following district policies and regulations for second reading and adoption:

- a. P 0174 Legal Services (M)
- b. P 0177 Professional Services (M)
- c. P 1570 Internal Controls (M)
- d. Reg 1570 Internal Controls (M)
- e. P 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts (M)

22. Harassment/Intimidating/ Bullying Incidents:

To affirm the following harassment/intimidation/bullying incidents:

- 050-2526-04
- 060-2526-02
- 060-2526-03
- 060-2526-04
- 010-2526-04

ADDENDA

M. BOARD GOVERNANCE, POLICY, AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

28. 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.

NURSE

Robin Blount*

**Pending Criminal History Background Clearance*

29. Leave of Absence Request

To approve the following leave of absence revisions:

Name	Leave Request	Date From	Dates To	Rate
#1325	Medical	11/26/2025 – 1/5/2026	11/26/2025 – 2/17/2026	Full Salary; accumulated sick days

30. Professional Development

To approve the following personnel to participate in Professional Development

Attendee	Training Course	Location	Dates	Cost	Account
Michelle Calas	NJASBO- AI Intermediate	NJASBO, Robbinsville, NJ	January 8, 2026	\$195.00	11-000-251-592-06-03

Approval of Board Governance, Policy, and Communications Items 18 through 22 & Addenda Items 28-30

Motion to Approve: Vice President Rinaldi

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Roll Call

Vice President Rinaldi	Yes	Adriana C. Silva	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Luis Henriques	Abstention	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	President Murphy	Yes
Kristy Rubin	Yes		

N. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Items 23 through 27 and Addenda Item 31

The Superintendent recommends:

23. 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 November 30, 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 November 30, 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.

24. Board Secretary/ Treasurer Report

To approve the board secretary/ treasurer reports for the period ending November 30, 2025.

25. Memorandum of Agreement

To approve the memorandum of agreement between the Springfield Police Department and the Springfield Public School District for the school year.

26. District Contracts

To approve the agreement between EverFi, LLC. and Springfield Public Schools for providing financial education, essential life skills education, and workplace compliance training districtwide at no cost to the district.

27. Professional Services

To approve the professional services contract with LAN Associates, Inc. to provide engineering services for Thelma L. Sandmeier boiler replacement at a revised cost not to exceed \$9,100.00. This project is part of the referendum project and shall be bond funded.

ADDENDA

N. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

31. District Contracts

- a. To enter into a contract with Gemba Security Solutions, to provide networking for the Interior Field House Renovation project for a cost not to exceed \$34,320.56. This project shall be capital reserve funded.

Approval of Finance, Facilities, and Security Item 23 through 27 and Addenda Item 31

Motion to Approve: Mrs. Wishna

Seconded: Vice President. Rinaldi

Roll Call

Vice President Rinaldi	Yes	Adriana C. Silva	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Luis Henriques	Abstention	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	President Murphy	Yes
Kristy Rubin	Yes		

ADDENDA

O. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Addenda Item 32

32. Special Education Related Services/ Placements

To approve the following tuition contracts for educational and related service(s) for the 2025- 2026 school year.

School	Student/s	ESY/Tuition Services	ESY Aide	SY Tuition	SY Aide	Total
Celebrate The Children School	0801	\$10,718.00	\$4,830.00	\$83,880.00	\$37,800.00	\$137,228.00

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

Approval of School Administration, Academic Programs, and Athletics Committee Addenda Item 32

Motion to Approve: Mrs. Gamarekian

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Roll Call

Vice President Rinaldi	Yes	Adriana C. Silva	Yes
Laura Gamarekian	Yes	Hilary Turnbull	Yes
Luis Henriques	Yes	Jennifer Wishna	Yes
Dana Kelly	Yes	President Murphy	Yes
Kristy Rubin	Yes		

P. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

- Glen Bingham ,16 Denham Road, asked about student screentime, student access, and data is being collected on each student.
- Dr. Goldberg responded. Ms. Spoerl responded.

Q. NEW BUSINESS

None

R. OLD BUSINESS

None

S. CLOSED SESSION

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

It is anticipated that the executive session will take approximately 30 minutes. The Board may take action when it reconvenes to public session; and 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 to discuss the following matters:

- a. The Board participated in a HIB Hearing.

Motion to go into executive session:

Moved: Mrs. Gamarekian

Seconded: Mrs. Turnbull

Time: 7:44 PM

Voice Vote: AYE- 9 NAY- 0

Motion to reconvene to Regular Meeting:

Moved: Mrs. Wishna

Seconded: Mrs. Gamarekian

Time: 9:10 PM

Voice Vote: AYE- NAY

T. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Mrs. Gamarekian

Seconded: Mrs. Wishna

Time: 9:10 PM

Voice Vote: AYE- NAY-

Upcoming Meeting

- a. Regular Meeting – January 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the JDHS IMC (Tentative)