

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM  
 NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The Regular Board Meeting was held via Zoom and the meeting was called to order at 7:14 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, Board President.

**The Pledge of Allegiance** – Said by all

**Roll Call:** Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Twyla Harris, Cedric Lewis, Dr. Brigitte Garth-Young, April Brown, Carmen Canales, Dr. James Cunneen, Board Attorney, James Vasselli and Board Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski, Carolyn Franklin, Vedia Page, Laura Wolf, Akil Khalfani, Jamie Hayes, Karen Slate, Gabrielle Herndon, Dr. Nicole Robinson, Benita Parker, April Davis, Renata Patterson, Christal Washington, Gennice Turner, Jamar Everett, Alfred Thompkins, John Smida, Angela Martin, Dr. Angela Winters, Dr. Tiffany Graham, Felicia Nunley, Kelley Stewart, Shelia Colone, Yvette Shackelford, Cathleen Mancine and Jeannie Dryan.

Business Session began at 7:16 P.M.

**Board Member Comments and Questions** – No Board Member Comments or questions were made

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to go into closed session at 7:19 p.m. for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>CLOSED SESSION</p>
<p><b>Motion</b> by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to come out of closed session at 7:45 p.m. and resume regular session.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>RESUME REGULAR SESSION</p>

Meeting open to the public for comments – No comments were made

**Roll Call:** Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo.

**Meeting Open to the Public for Comments on the Board Agenda**–No public comments were made

Before the Board President Consent Agenda was read, Board President, Mrs. Gray Everett stated the minutes from the October 22, 2020 board meeting; censure of a Board member and take final action on the same needs to be corrected. All was in favor and no one opposed.

**Board President Consent Agenda**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to accept the President Consent Agenda G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7 and G8.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting held October 22, 2020.</li> <li>2. Approval of the payroll summaries for October 2, 2020 in the amount of \$951,298.25.</li> <li>3. Approval of the payroll summaries for October 16, 2020 in the amount of \$954,324.55.</li> <li>4. Approval of the payroll summaries for October 30, 2020 in the amount of \$952,973.14.</li> <li>5. Authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated November 12, 2020 consisting of 49 pages and chargeable to the following accounts: <table data-bbox="292 1018 1039 1281" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Education Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$805,577.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operations and Maintenance Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$118,658.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$6,255.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Projects</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$121,099.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tort Immunity Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$24,266.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,075,957.47</td> </tr> </table> </li> <li>6. Need a motion to approve remote/e-learning days after Thanksgiving Break November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 11<sup>th</sup> for all certified, administrative assistants and confidential employees and approve remote/ e-learning days after Winter Break December 18<sup>th</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup> for all certified, administrative assistants and confidential employees and to authorize the Superintendent the ability to extend the January 15<sup>th</sup> period further if data indicates.</li> <li>7. Need a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Illinois Action for Kids for Pre-K Programs for 2020-2021.</li> <li>8. Need a motion to approve Blue Streak Math student licenses for all 8 schools paid for out of Title I Funds.</li> </ol>	Education Fund	\$805,577.86	Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$118,658.51	Transportation Fund	\$6,255.65	Capital Projects	\$121,099.00	Tort Immunity Fund	\$24,266.45	Total	\$1,075,957.47	<p>ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7 AND G8</p>
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<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani and Mr. Tillman. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	
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### **Cabinet Reports –**

Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones – Remote/E-Learning Update

Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones thanked the School Board for the Remote/E-Learning and stated the District is an E-Learning District and we no longer have to have snow days and we can learn through the winter in inclement weather and it is all because of the Board pushing us to move to this direction. She stated this is our time and it gave us an opportunity to learn, especially with those packets, sweat, collaborate, strategize, we did the best that we could.

Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones saluted every teacher, every paraprofessional, every secretary, and every specialty teacher who gave a 100%! Dr. Shell Davis-Jones thanked all of them from the bottom of her heart and stated we know nothing is perfect and we know we are a working progress and this will continue to be a working progress.

Superintendent Davis-Jones wished the Board of Education a Happy School Board Recognition!! She shared presentations of the great work from the staff and students from Carol Mosley Braun, Caroline Sibley and Diekman School.

Dr. James Cunneen

- Plexiglass shields for student desk (Hybrid Learning)

Dr. Cunneen asked the Board for authorization to go out for bid for 1500 plexiglass shields.

Mr. Tillman asked how did you arrive at the 1500 plexiglass shields. Dr. Cunneen answered with Clarity.

- Bid for lawn and grounds maintenance and snow removal

Dr. Cunneen asked the Board for authorization to go out for bid for lawn and grounds maintenance and snow removal.

Mrs. Crisler-Liggons asked regarding the lawn and ground maintenance has the work been done at the Dorchester. Dr. Cunneen answered with clarity.

- Additional extension for snow removal through January 4, 2021 with C&T Landscaping

Dr. Cunneen stated to the Board they will need to extend their contract with the present vendor for one month until they make a decision on December 10, 2020 with who they want to contract with. The new contract will start on January 4, 2021.

- Levy

Dr. Cunneen asked the board to approve the attentive levy and the final levy in December and adopt the resolution concerning truth and taxation.

Dr. Cunneen stated the levy is the most pressuring issue. This is going to be our second year our property tax relief grant that made it a little bit more difficult to levy in this case because you levy the full amount knowing

that 1.4 million of that levy will be reduced to save the tax payers that additional money. We are proud to be one of the districts that have this amount, our levy of 1.14 million one. We are not increasing the levy so that we can decrease it. We are trying to understand our community is in financial hardship and we want to keep our property taxes as low as possible. So the levy amounts we had are going to be lower than what they were three and four years ago and we should see again that property relief to our citizens of our community. Mr. Vasselli has a number of resolutions just to make sure we are not levying over five percent. Because we are not levying over five percent we do not need to have a truth income taxation.

**Old Business - None**

**New Business**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the 2020 Tentative Levy and to accept the Resolution that a Truth and Taxation Hearing is not needed due to said Levy does not exceed 5% of last year’s extension prior to abatement.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ACCEPT THE 2020 TENTATIVE LEVY AND TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION THAT A TRUTH AND TAXATION HEARING IS NOT NEEDED DUE TO SAID LEVY DOES NOT EXCEED 5% OF LAST YEAR’S EXTENSION PRIOR TO ABATEMENT</p>
<p><b>Motion</b> by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to authorize the Architect Mario Planera to solicit bids for lawn and grounds maintenance and snow removal.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AUTHORIZE THE ARCHITECT MARIO PLANERA TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR LAWN AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND SNOW REMOVAL</p>
<p><b>Motion</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to authorize the Architect Mario Planera to solicit bids to purchase 1500 Plexiglass shields for student desks.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AUTHORIZE THE ARCHITECT MARIO PLANERA TO SOLICIT BIDS TO PURCHASE 1500 PLEXIGLASS SHIELDS FOR STUDENT DESKS</p>
<p><b>Motion</b> by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to extend agreement for snow removal and salt through December of 2020 with C&amp;T Landscaping.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>EXTEND AGREEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL AND SALT THROUGH DECEMBER OF 2020 WITH C&amp;T LANDSCAPING</p>

<p><b>Motion</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the letter of resignation for Latrece Erving November 16, 2020.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FOR LATRECE ERVING NOVEMBER 16, 2020</p>
<p><b>Motion</b> by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to waive the First Reading of PRESS Policy 103.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>WAIVE THE FIRST READING OF PRESS POLICY 103</p>
<p><b>Motion</b> by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Tillman to adopt PRESS Policy 103.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mr. Tillman, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ADOPT PRESS POLICY 103</p>

**Approval of Personnel - None**

**Correspondence - None**

**Bulletins and Reports - None**

**Public Comments - None**

**Final Action on Closed Session Items**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to follow through with employment as directed by the board for 149-2020-001.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Tillman.  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>FOLLOW THROUGH WITH EMPLOYMENT AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD FOR 149-2020-001</p>
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Board President Mrs. Gray Everett wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and told us all to take care of ourselves. She also informed the Tech team that the breakout session was outstanding!!!!

**Adjournment**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to Adjourn at 8:25 p.m.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>
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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary