

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM
MARCH 23, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting was held via Zoom and the meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, Board President.

Board Member Comments and Questions – None

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. Absent: None.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Dr. Twyla Harris, Cedric Lewis, Dr. Brigitte Garth-Young, April Brown, Carmen Canales, Dr. James Cunneen, Board Attorney, James Vasselli, Board Attorney, Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski, Board Attorney, Jill Kolinski, David Ormsby, Carolyn Franklin, Dr. Vedia Page, Laura Wolf, Dellnora Winters, Jamie Hayes, Dr. Nicole Robinson, BeNita Parker, Karen Slate, ZaRita Beal, Renata Patterson, April Davis, Christal Washington, John Johnson, Gabrielle Herndon, Latricia Lewis, Jamar Everett, John Shields, John Smida, Alfred Thompkins, Shelia Colone, Kim, Jeannie Dryan, Tonya Thomas, Mae Brown, Suzanne Seifert, Yvette Shackelford, Kimberly Khan, William Watson, Maria Liggons, Sharonne Dinnwiddie, Jennifer Walsh, Ernesta Ransom, Sarah Winbush, Angela Grimes, Felecia Nunley, Nafiseh Vossoughi-Parks, Secrett Stone, Ja-Mese McGee, Jessica Skores, Cherita Smith, Elaine Landrum, Jennifer Portwood, Ashlee Stanley, Fares Nimri, Ms. Tabor, Mr. Thomas, Nora Lyons, Stacey Burgess-Brundige, Dona Gentles, Aliyah Perkins, Danette Quinn, Tanya Teague, Scott, Pelumi Atomori, Darren Anderson, Autumn Crover, Robbiann, Bob Bigus, Kayla Thomas, Harmony Davis, Morgan Ragsdale, Ciana Anderson and Dorothy Omokowajo.

Recognition of District 149 Women School Board Members

The School Board was honored by the outstanding pledge leaders from DKM, BV, CMB, CCA SOFA and STEM in recognition of National Women’s History Month Honoring Women School Board Leaders.

Board Member Comments and Questions

Board President, Mrs. Gray Everett asked the Board Members to take a look at M-Approval of Personnel and if anyone had any questions. No questions or comments were made.

Business Session began at 7:44 P.M.

Roll Call: Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. Absent: None.

Meeting Open to the Public for Comments for Board Agenda – No Public comments were made.

Board President, Mrs. Gray Everett asked the board members to amend the agenda by amending H-Board President Consent Agenda 1-5 and M-Approval of Personnel 1-8 all in favor said I.

Board President Consent Agenda

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the President Consent Agenda H1, H2, H3, H4, H5 and Approval of Personnel M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M6, M7 and M8.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting held February 25, 2021.2. Approval of the payroll summaries for February 5, 2021 in the amount of \$941,719.00.3. Approval of the payroll summaries for February 19, 2021 in the amount of \$942,496.31.4. Authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated March 23, 2021 consisting of 72 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:<table data-bbox="357 829 1055 1060"><tr><td>Education Fund</td><td>\$1,110,222.20</td></tr><tr><td>Operations and Maintenance Fund</td><td>\$172,041.97</td></tr><tr><td>Transportation Fund</td><td>\$10,656.29</td></tr><tr><td>Tort Immunity Fund</td><td>\$5,745.51</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$1,298,665.97</td></tr></table>5. Need a motion to approve Spring Break hours of operation. We will resume regular business hours on Monday, April 12, 2021 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. <p>Approval of Personnel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Need a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal and Non-Renewal of First, Second and Third Year Probationary Teachers.2. Need a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Renewal of First, Second, and Third Year Probationary Teachers.3. Need a motion to approve Administrative Evaluations.4. Need a motion to grant contractual continued service to the following teachers who will successfully complete their fourth year of probationary status.5. Accept the letter of intent to retire for Teacher Michelle Panton effective June 2025.	Education Fund	\$1,110,222.20	Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$172,041.97	Transportation Fund	\$10,656.29	Tort Immunity Fund	\$5,745.51	Total	\$1,298,665.97	<p>ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT CONSENT AGENDA H1, H2, H3, H4, H5 AND APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M6, M7 AND M8</p>
Education Fund	\$1,110,222.20										
Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$172,041.97										
Transportation Fund	\$10,656.29										
Tort Immunity Fund	\$5,745.51										
Total	\$1,298,665.97										

<p>6. Need a motion to approve FMLA for two weeks for teacher effective March 15, 2021 through March 29, 2021.</p> <p>7. Need a motion to approve intermittent FMLA for a para professional effective March 26, 2021 the end of the school year due to health reasons.</p> <p>8. Need a motion to recommend for hire Justine Dunham for permanent guest teacher.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	
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Cabinet Reports –

Dr. Shelly Davis Jones – Update about Hybrid Testing
 Superintendent reported; First, I would like to share some good news!

Congratulations to Darlene Gray Everett and her vision for the Pre-K Expansion Program back in 2014. I remember feeling uneasy about becoming the sub grantee for other day cares. A Special Thank you

April Davis the Director of the Early Childhood Center at Diekman Elementary School and her entire Pre-K staff for completing their first virtual compliance visit. We were told it would be easy but it was so hard on the staff trying to pull everything together electronically and virtually. Diekman’s Early Childhood Program made the Gold Circle of Quality two years in a row. We are so proud of everyone for their hard work and efforts. Keep up the great work.

We are pleased to share with the Board that the Hybrid IAR/ISA Testing Schedule is going well. We were quite surprised at the daily attendance during our first week. During the week of March 15th-19 the percentage of students who reported to school during testing in third through sixth grade indicated the following:

BV -58%, CMB-26%, CS-76%, DKM-62%, NBLA-66%, CCA-92%, SOFA-66%, STEM-69%.

Principals and teachers worked diligently to ensure we got off to a great start. The buses have been rolling throughout the communities at every designated stop. Unfortunately, we do not have many students riding the bus. Parents are bringing children to school for testing and picking them up.

I want to congratulate all of the 8th graders and their parents for bringing them to school and waiting for them in the parking lot on picture day. Your patience and support during this past school year has been amazing.

Mr. Balfour of Chicago Balfour Company made sure our children could take a cap and gown picture with Life Touch on picture day wearing their own caps and gowns. Thank you Mr. Balfour for pulling this off in short period of time. I must thank the 8th grade Principals and Assistant principals for a job well done. Two hundred and fifty-five 8th graders and parents showed up for cap and gown picture day with Life Touch.

As we continue to monitor the next few sessions of testing we hope parents will support us as we begin preparing for possible summer school program. It our goal to provide a summer school program to support the loss in learning in the areas of reading and math with small groups of students.

A summer school survey will post next week on our website to gather parental input. We are looking forward to sharing the survey data at our April Board meeting and look forward to the Boards approval to have a summer school program.

We will continue to monitor the science and data in order to schedule a few more Town Hall meetings and discuss plans for the Hybrid Model in August of 2021.

We are excited about our District Institute Day which will be held virtually on Friday March 25th from 8:00 am – Noon with Math PD Plus. Math PD Plus is our new Illinois Empower Partner. During the District math launch/kick off we will introduce the urgency of addressing math and changing how we teach math. We are excited about developing a balanced numeracy program with math coaches' instructional coaches and teaching our children how to solve real world problems.

The second half of our District Institute Day will be spent reviewing and revising our District and School Improvement Plans.

Dr. James Cunneen – General Matters of the District

Dr. Cunneen thanked and congratulated the Superintendent, all the women administrators and Board Members for their leadership.

He echoed what the Superintendent said about our testing program. The attendance was wonderful and it was a wonderful feeling to have our children return to the buildings. So much pre-work was done by Dr. Twyla Harris, Carolyn Franklin, Dellnora Winters and Dr. Kathleen Hickey for the testing program.

With the COVID relief plan the district is slated to receive five million five hundred ninety-one thousand dollars. This grant money can be used for chromes books, air ventilation, replace windows, pipes, upgrading bathrooms, and replacing doors in the older buildings. It is federal money and it is going to the health and safety for the children and the staff.

The Property Tax Grant Relief Abatement was able to provide relief of over a million four hundred thousand dollars for the past two years for our community. What the motion you are considering is extending that for an additional year. There is no state regulation that said you have to extend it. We have worked very diligently to construct a preliminary budget for another million for next year and also to grant an additional sixty-two thousand dollars for this year which will be in amount we will be able to recoup. It is a two-fold, one to give sixty-two thousand dollars in additional abatement and two, to abate taxes for next year in the amount of a million four thousand dollars to provide needed property tax relief for our community.

With the teacher's collective bargaining agreement, we are close to present to you a preliminary agreement. It does two things, helps the taxpayers and helps the teachers.

Old Business - None

Closed Session

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to go into closed session at 8:09 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).</p> <p>Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(g)(2).</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	CLOSED SESSION
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to come out of closed session at 8:34 p.m. and resume regular session. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Board President Mrs. Gray Everett thanks everyone for the wonderful and kind comments.

Roll Call: Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. Absent: None

New Business

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to accept the architect, M. Planera recommendation to solicit bids for E-rate category equipment. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	ACCEPT THE ARCHITECT, M. PLANERA RECOMMENDATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR E-RATE CATEGORY EQUIPMENT
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to extend the Property Tax Grant Relief Abatement until 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	EXTEND THE PROPERTY TAX GRANT RELIEF ABATEMENT UNTIL 2022

Approval of Agreements – None

Correspondence – Mr. & Mrs. Howell is the proud parents of our very own former student Darryl Howell from Diekman School. Darryl was nominated in February and won a Grammy at the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, March 14, 2021. Mrs. LaTanzya Howell is currently a Paraprofessional at the School of Fine Arts.

Bulletin and Reports – None

Public Comments – No Public Comments were made.

Final Action on Closed Session Items, (if needed)

Ms. Ghani asked what ever happen to the situation with the Tillman letter, Board Attorney Vasselli replied, Attorney Jill Kolinski is working on it and will get back to us within 24 hours.

MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to post for the Superintendent’s position and adopt the resolution with personnel matters they discussed in closed session. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED	POST FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT’S POSITION AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION WITH PERSONNEL MATTERS THEY DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION
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Adjournment

MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to Adjourn at 8:49 P.M. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED	ADJOURNMENT
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Darlene Gray Everett, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary