Board of Education
School District No. 155
Calumet City, Illinois
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Calumet City School District No. 155 was called to order by President Coleman on October 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm. On the Roll, the following members were physically present and answered present; Coleman, Long, Oberman, Franklin and Miller: Absent: Ellis and Jamerson.

Also present were: Dr. Joseph Zotto, Adam Jordan, Tara Lawrence, LoDonna Fleming, Mandy Graziano, Dana Berton, Frances Flowers, Jenny Lowe, Judy Caban, Valarie Wilhoite, Gail Batinick, Lisa Kleczkowski, Olagoke Olubami, Terrance Wilson and Julie Stephen.

Public Comment

President Coleman opened the floor to the public for comments.

Julie Stephen stated that WJH will host their Math and Science Night on November 4, 2025.

President Coleman closed the floor to the public for comments.

Communications

Dr. Zotto stated to the Board that we received a thank you letter from Becky Taylor for the flowers and food in acknowledgment of the loss of her family members.

Administration Presentation

The Administration presentation was presented by Principal Jennifer Lowe Wentworth Intermediate. She dedicated her teachers, staff and students for their precision and care. She also stated that her students were curious, resilient and full of dreams. Four 5th graders presented a speech to the Board: Ta'moni Wilson, Daniel Olagoke, Carolina Esmerio and Avah Williams, some stated what they wanted to be when they become adults (Teacher, Artist, Mechanical Engineer).

Consent Agenda

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve the consent agenda items as listed in the Meeting Agenda. Ayes; Coleman, Long, Oberman, Franklin, and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Reports

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Coleman, a Motion to Approve the gross payroll figure for the month of September 2025 in the amount of $726,056.34. Ayes; Long, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents. Pre-list dated 09/15/2025 (Voucher #1065) in the amount of $2,482.36, Pre-list dated 09/24/2025 (Voucher #1076) in the amount of $308,347.66, Pre-list dated 10/07/2025 (Voucher #1081) in the amount of $17,254.55 and Pre-list dated 10/23/2025 (Voucher #1091) in the amount of $701,429.47. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Coleman and Long; Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Presentation of the 2025 Tax Levy

Adam Jordan presented the 2025 proposed tax levy to the Board. It was advised that the proposed levy is not greater than 5% over last year's tax extension and thus, a truth in taxation public hearing is not required. The final tax levy will be voted on at the December board meeting.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve the 2025 Tentative Tax Levy. Ayes; Franklin, Miller, Coleman, Long and Oberman; Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve the Agreement with Rise Up Youth Empowerment 2025. Ayes; Miller, Coleman, Long, Oberman and Franklin. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Buildings and Grounds

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve the Administration to apply for the 2025-2026 School Maintenance Project Grant. Ayes; Coleman, Long, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, second by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve the Agreement with Republic Services for Waste Removal. Ayes; Coleman, Long, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Oberman, seconded by Member Franklin, a Motion to Approve and Ratify Construction Change Orders as Listed. Ayes; Coleman, Long, Oberman, Franklin and Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Change Order	Vendor	Amount	Result
P001	Kreykes Electric	$4,013.00	The majority can be covered under an allowance that was built into the original bid. Balance of $1,016.00 will be added to the original amount after the full allowance is exhausted
P003	Kreykes Electric	$447.00	No change, paid out of allowance that was built into the original bid

Teachers and Education

Enrollment Total: **950**

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve Wilson Out-of-State Kindergarten Field Trip to the Scheeringa Farms in Highland, IN. Ayes; Long, Oberman, Franklin, Miller and Coleman. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to approve the retirement of the listed staff. Ayes; Oberman, Franklin, Miller, Coleman and Long. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Retirement			
Name	**Position**	**Assignment**	**Effective Date**
Thomas Hansen	Health Teacher	WJH	06/02/2026

Policy

None

SCOPE

Dr. Zottos stated that the next meeting will be held Monday, October 27, 2025.

FOIA

Date of Request	09/17/2025
Summary of Records Requested	1. We are requesting copies of your current property and casualty insurance policies, including premium information, or a summary document that outlines coverage, carrier, limits, deductibles, and premium
Status of Response	Responsive records sent via email on 09/24/2025

Date of Request	09/22/2025
Summary of Records Requested	1. Purchase order number. If purchase orders are not used a comparable substitute is acceptable, i.e., invoice, encumbrance, or check number 2. Purchase date 3. Line item details (Detailed description of the purchase) 4. Line item quantity 5. Line item price 6. Vendor ID number, name, address, contact person and their email address
Status of Response	Responsive records sent via email on 09/24/2025

Date of Request	10/01/2025
Summary of Records Requested	Public records for all current employees at Calumet City School District 155 ● Full legal name ● Job title or role ● Official work email address ● Assigned worksite or campus ● Current annual salary
Status of Response	Responsive records sent via email on 10/03/2025

Teachers and Paraprofessional Unions

Julie Stephen stated that the teacher of the month was Leslie Long from Wentworth Junior High, she said she fits like a glove and has clear expectations.

Valarie Wilhoite stated the paraprofessional of the month was Evangelina Perez a Bilingual Aide from Wilson Elementary.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Discussion for the Good of the School District

Dr. Zotto acknowledged and congratulated Juday Caban on her retirement from the district. He stated that she has worked for the district for over 19 years. Judy spoke and thanked the Board and the Administration, she stated that she has enjoyed her time in the district (7,063 days).

Dr. Zotto also acknowledged the Board for “School Board Members Day” and they were given hats.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Miller and seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion that the Board Adjourn. Ayes; All. Nays; none. Motion carried, 5-0.

Time: 6:34 pm

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Board President **Board Secretary**