

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
OCTOBER 26, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 7:55 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, Board President, in the Board Room in the Administrative Center at 292 Torrence Avenue in Calumet City, Illinois.

Roll Call: Present: Members: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Tillman Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Jolly, and Ms. Ghani. Also in attendance were Administrators, Teachers and Support Staff.

The Pledge of Allegiance. Was said by all.

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to meet in executive session at 8:03 P.M. to consider student disciplinary matters, the appointment, employment compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, and litigation. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Board President's Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, Seconded by Mr. Castillo to resume regular session at 8:16 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Board President's Agenda

Motion by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the consent grouping of routine items including the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on October 26, 2011; payroll summaries for September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$802,435.25, and October 14, 2011 in the amount of \$802,723.44 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay the invoices dates October 26, 2011, consisting of 23 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

Education Fund	\$925,758.34
Tort Liability Fund	247,791.50
Building and Maintenance Fund	170,063.14
Transportation Fund	235,570.36
Total	\$1,579,183.34

Motion by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to appoint an administrative team to represent the school board for the purpose of bargaining with the Classroom Teachers Association. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting open to the public. Since no one wished to address the Board, regular session resumed.

Special Committee Reports. None

The Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

Dirksen

Dr. Young stated currently there are 872 students enrolled. Academia and College Readiness are of paramount importance at Dirksen because, **“Failure is NOT an Option”!** This month we completed our Terra Nova testing. We are excited about the testing because we have continued to make gains in our assessments. The Terra Nova Test gives us an indication on how to prepare for the ISAT test which begins March 6, 2012. In addition to ISAT preparations, the installation of Smart Boards to supplement the Research Technology course; the continuous implementation of Reading 180 (an RtI initiative); and, educational fieldtrips as well as College Tours are essential elements in helping us make AYP this school year. We are proud to announce that Dirksen Middle School has been the recipient of the **First Book Grant** from the Target Organization. First Book Marketplace granted us \$500 to purchase a variety high-quality books. The grant was able to furnish 131 literary works to use as a part of our PBIS rewards program. An expression of gratitude is extended to Mrs. Tiffanie Jeffrey, 6th grade Social Worker for serving as our liaison and her tremendous effort towards securing the grant. Finally, our after school sports programs and Project YESS are off to a great start! Project YESS and the reinstatement of our after school sports programs have been well received by the community. Parents have provided positive feedback in support of our after school efforts. Currently, there are approximately **175** students enrolled and actively participating in Project YESS. KUDOS to the Dirksen

staff, administration, security personnel and our Dolton Park District sponsors. It should also be mentioned that our **7th & 8th grade Girls' Basketball Teams are fierce! The 8th Grade "Lady Senators" are UNDEFEATED – 5 WINS/0 LOSES!** Congratulations to coaches Larry Russell and Rommel Garcia for their passion and dedication to the team/the game!

Caroline Sibley

Ms. Herndon stated they currently have 781 students enrolled at Caroline Sibley School. During this past month our teachers held their quarterly grade level articulation meetings. The Pre-Kindergarten team planned the 5 workshops they will be hosting for parents throughout the school year. The first one will be held on November 3rd and the topic is the home school connection. The kindergarten team decided on the concepts and skills they will be assessing during the first quarter and examined the correlation of their new report card with the Common Core Learning Standards. The first grade team analyzed the data they have obtained from the assessments that have been given in reading. The second grade team had an extensive conversation about teaching difficult math concepts and Ms. Coduti shared the information she obtained from the workshop she attended entitled, "Using Math Centers to Differentiate." The third grade team discussed their small guided reading groups, higher level enrichment activities in math and how to more effectively utilize Study Island. The fourth grade team met with Ms. Herndon and discussed the Illinois Interactive Report Card website for the purpose of disaggregating ISAT data on their students. We talked about how this information can be used to guide instruction, determine guided reading groups and target additional interventions on an individual basis. The fifth grade team aligned their reading stories and math concepts with the new curriculum. They also shared how their Free Enterprise Projects that were done by many of our fifth graders turned out. The sixth grade team discussed the organization of their small guided reading and math groups. The special area team learned about interventions that can be used to assist our students with special needs. Dr. Winters gave many strategies including applications on the *I Pad* that have worked well with many of our students. On Monday, October 24th, during our first Reading Strategies Workshop, Ms. King presented an extremely effective strategy for teaching students how to write a successful extended response in preparation for ISAT. After examining our current ISAT data relative to extended response, we decided that all teachers in the building will begin using this strategy. Lastly, our Smart Board located in our media center has been working overtime!! The teachers and students are excited about using this technology to further enhance the lessons they are teaching and learning in the classroom.

Diekman

Mrs. Davis stated Diekman School currently has 330 students enrolled. In an effort to close the achievement gap the staff and I have began the process of analyzing our ISAT data. We are continuing to implement practices learned from our professional development opportunities. Several Staff members will be participating in Professional Growth Workshops over the next 3 weeks. Some of the topics are Focused Portfolios, Bullying, Developmental Relational Treatment of Autism & Sensory Processing Disorders. I am currently observing classrooms in order to conduct our instructional walkthroughs. Next month we will host our first Pre-K Parent Workshop. Staff will conduct a work shop where parents will learn effective reading strategies, participate in a read aloud and enjoy a make & take activity with their children. Students are visiting the library on a weekly basis. On October , The Black Star Project/Real Men Read made very special visit to Diekman School. Three gentlemen came out to read to several classrooms. It was a Fantastic experience for all and the children enjoyed our special male guest. We have planned our Quarter Reading Incentive. Students will participate in "I Read to the Principal" Program starting the Quarter. All students will have their names placed on the Hallway display and acknowledged with bookmarks, pencils, erasers, buttons, and certificates. They are being recognized weekly, monthly, and quarterly for their efforts in academics and conduct.

Carol Moseley Braun

Mrs. Hayes stated October has been a very productive month at CMB. Our current student count is 307. I have attended all first quarter grade articulation meetings. I am happy to report the teachers are collaborating within their grade levels and also across grade levels to discuss teaching techniques and best practices that will ensure a more well-rounded education for all of our students. In the month of November our teachers will begin to observe their colleagues in the classroom using some of the teaching strategies they learned at the recent workshops they attended. We want our teachers to know what the teachers at the next grade levels need them to do to better prepare the students for the next grade. The goal we are trying to accomplish by doing these grade level observations is to close any gaps in the education of all our children at CMB from grades 1 through grades 5. We have also started our Book-to-Home reading incentive program. Teachers send students home with books to read, and once they can read the book by themselves they receive an incentive, a sticker and a new book. Finally, I would like to thank the CMB teachers and staff for striving to provide a positive, nurturing and academically strong program for all of our students and for planting the seed in our children and our parents that Failure is NOT an Option and College is a MUST!

Berger Vandenberg

Mrs. Winters stated Berger Vandenberg School has 352 students currently enrolled. Teachers have received Berger's ISAT data and dialogue has been set in motion. In our Grade Level Articulation meetings teachers have analyzed data and have identified trends in the areas of Reading and Math. Our vision is to use these trends in the development of intervention strategies. In keeping with the momentum of narrowing the achievement gap; October's instructional walk-throughs were based on implementation of RTI and Guided Reading. From these results, we have

developed instructional tips for teachers. Friday, October 28th is our fall parade. We are looking forward to a creative and interesting college and career themed costumes from Berger’s students.

Board of Education’s Agenda.

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to meet in executive session at 8:29 p.m. for the purpose to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and pending litigation, and collective bargaining agreement. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Gani, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH COOK INTERMEDIATE SERVICE CENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to return to regular session at 8:48 p.m. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

REGULAR SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve a Leave of Absence request for Brooke Jacobs, teacher With Compensation effective November 15, 2011 with an anticipated return date of February 3, 2012 for maternity. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT ABSENCE WITH COMPENSATION FOR BROOKE JACOBS

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the retirement letter for Phillip Lopez, Head Custodian effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT PHILLIP LOPEZ APPROVE CONTRACT

Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve the contractual agreement for Supplemental Education Services with the following schools and providers: Berger-Vandenberg & Carol Moseley Braun, Brain Hurricane; Dirksen Middle School & Caroline Sibley, Rocket Learning; and New Beginnings Learning Academy, The Academy Advantage for the 2011-2012 school year as mandated by the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Jolly, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

AGREEMENT FOR

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the contractual agreement for Title I Tutorial Services for the following schools and providers: Berger-Vandenberg & Carol Moseley Braun, Brain Hurricane; Dirksen Middle School & Caroline Sibley, Rocket Learning; and New Beginnings Learning Academy, The Academy Advantage for the 2011-2012 school year as mandated by the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Tillman, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve Rising Star Project for our respective schools & district office Improvement Plan and the submission of assurances & certification for the 2011-2012 school year as required by the federal mandates of *The No Child Left Behind Act*. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Tillman, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the contractual agreement with South Cook Intermediate Service Center for the 2011-2012 school year to provide professional development to certified staff as a component of our Reading Academy. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Jolly, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Correspondence.

Bulletin Reports. None

New Business. None

Old Business.

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee to refer student 149-1112-006 to an alternative school for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Tillman, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee and allow the five day suspension for student 149-1112-008 stand as time served. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee and allow the five day suspension for student 149-1112-009 stand as time served. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Tillman, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee to refer student 149-1112-010 to an alternative school for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Tillman, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to adjourn at 8:52 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Tillman, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

Darlene Gray Everett, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary