

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
APRIL 26, 2012

The Meeting was called to order at 7:31 P.M. by Mrs. 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, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Tillman and Mrs. Gray Everett. Also in attendance were Administrators: Superintendent Jones, Ms. Geddis, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Winters, Mrs. Hayes, Ms. Herndon, Dr. Scott, Mrs. Davis, Dr. Warner, Dr. Garth-Young, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Franklin and support personnel.

ROLL CALL

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**Board President's Agenda.**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, second by Ms. Ghani to approve the consent grouping of routine items including minutes from Regular Board Meeting held on March 29, 2012; payroll summaries for March 30, 2012 in the amount of \$821,990.08 and April 13, 2012 in the amount of \$858,771.47 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay the invoice dated April 26, 2012, consisting of 11 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE MINUTES  
REGULAR MTG. &  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
OF 3-29-12

Education Fund	\$655,576.78
Tort Liability Fund	184,897.29
Building and Maintenance Fund	143,549.96
Transportation Fund	257,268.45
Total	\$1,251,292.48

APPROVE INVOICE  
LISTING 4-26-12

APPROVE PAYROLL  
SUMMARY OF 3-30-12  
& 4-13-12

Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Gray Everett. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Open to the Public.

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

The Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

**Dirksen**

Dr. Young stated the School Leadership Team is in the "home stretch" concerning the completion of writing and assessing the indicators of our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. We would like to extend an expression of thanks to Superintendent Davis-Jones and our School Board for supporting our engineering pioneers team, The Robo-Genics! As we end this year's Project Y.E.S.S. program we want to report that it has been another successful year! All of our clubs and tutorial programs were well attended throughout the year. The dance troupe, STOMP Team and other Senators were featured in the District's and school-wide African American History assemblies. Project Y.E.S.S. culminated with an ice-cream social, park district activities, the distribution of certificates of participation, and raffles for outstanding student attendance. We are extremely proud of the academic growth that are students have achieved through their participation in this program.

**Caroline Sibley**

Ms. Herndon stated on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> we had a very informative assembly from NED. NED taught our students to Never Give Up, Encourage Others, and Do Your Best!! The show combines this very positive message with humor, storytelling, audience participation, and memorable yo-yo tricks. The students were then able to purchase yo-yo's throughout the week to practice those neat tricks at home. The assembly was enjoyed by all of our students and teachers. We are excited to report that Caroline Sibley School's extracurricular activities are up and running. On April 24<sup>th</sup> Mr. Chad Watson was awarded "Teacher of the Year" by the Calumet City Lions Club. We are very proud of all he does to contribute to the well being of all students and staff at Caroline Sibley. Over 250 students stay after school, twice a week, to participate in Dance Club, Intramurals, Computer Club, Reading Club, Fine Arts Club, Drama Club or Girl's Club. Our sponsors are doing an exceptional job working with our students. Thank you so much to the

New Beginnings School Board and Superintendent Davis-Jones for providing the opportunity for our children to be engaged in these meaningful activities. In the area of curriculum and instruction, our teachers have been meeting after school on Mondays and Wednesdays to dialogue about the implementation of the new district curriculum and the Common Core Standards. They are also researching and discussing effective instructional practices to ensure mastery of the standards and objectives. These meetings are funded through our Special Projects Grant awarded from ISC-4. The School Improvement Leadership Team continues to meet to further assess the required indicators utilizing the Rising Star tool. The team is already planning for next school year.

### **Diekman**

Mrs. Davis stated that ISAT testing went well. Our students worked very hard to stay focus and prepared throughout this testing period. The Diekman PTA would like ensure that all students are acknowledged for their positive behavior by hosting a Spring Gym Jam Session!! Students earned their way to this fun filled event. The My On Reading Program is up and running at Diekman school. The students are very excited about using this program. Many students are using this program in their homes. Mrs. Ransom's Pre-K classroom has mastered using their Smart Board as a learning tool and they absolutely love the My On Reading Program. The teachers are utilizing the computer lab. Dr. Patterson is facilitating this process. We are working to provide all students with head phones to enhance this program. In an effort to continue "Best Practices" the first and second grade teachers attended a professional development workshop; The Kindergarten – Second Grade Conference. The goal is to help teachers provide effective learning centers integrating reading, math, and science. The Fine Arts teacher attended an Art Integration Conference where she was exposed to new and innovative ideas. She is back and super excited about encouraging students to strive for excellence while creating authentic works of art.

### **New Beginnings Learning Academy**

Mrs. Franklin stated during the remainder of this school year, the teachers at New Beginnings Learning Academy will begin to pilot the teacher information portal of the IIRC website. We are extremely excited to have this opportunity to be able to examine individual student data by class and to assist with the process of making suggestions that will benefit future users. Additionally, this inside glimpse will allow the school improvement leadership team to create a plan for how we will best use this website next school year! We are looking forward to working with Dr. Scott and Dr. Harvey Smith in this endeavor. Teachers are continuing to incorporate alignment between the district curriculum and lesson planning. As I have observed in my instructional classroom walk-throughs, concepts are being taught in similar timelines across grade levels. Next year, we work with the curriculum in teams more consistently in an effort to create even stronger alignments. Throughout our building, our students have or will be attending educational field trips to places such as the Shedd Aquarium, the Bronzeville Children's Museum and various theatres. As a staff, we feel that educational field trips allow us to extend the walls of our school by providing our students with exposure to outside resources that tie into the learning that is occurring in school. Our students and parents truly appreciate these opportunities. As we near the end of the school year, several P.B.I.S. incentives have been planned as a means to continue to support positive student behavior. We are looking forward to having a positive, productive end of the year!

### **Carol Moseley Braun**

Mrs. Hayes stated that there were over 85 students on our third quarter honor roll. The assembly was well attended by parents and was a huge success. On Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> we had our last parent Coffee Club. Our topic was "School Safety and Summer Reading Tips for your Child." As a culmination activity after our discussion meeting, I took the parents that attended to breakfast and we had a wonderful time. As a result, they promised to each bring another parent with them when we start our Coffee Club meetings in the 2012-2013 school year. As we continue to move forward with our Rising Star school improvement plan objectives, on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, our entire teaching staff and I attended an in-house workshop on "Assessment and Data Collection". During this workshop that was presented by a representative from the American Institutes for Research our teachers learned how to define assessment literacy, the difference between Formative and Summative Assessment, and we discussed factors that have the most impact on student achievement. The workshop was very informative and an eye-opener in many ways for the teachers. We have one more scheduled training day in the month of May that the teachers are looking forward to attending. Finally, I would like to thank the CMB teachers for striving to provide a positive, nurturing and academically strong program for all of our students. As our vision statement states, we are a T.E.A.M.—Together Educating All Minds.

**Berger-Vandenberg**

Mrs. Winters stated on April 25<sup>th</sup>, we met with our Statewide System of Support Coaches regarding Rising Star. We spent most of the day analyzing Conditions for Learning Indicators...these indicators encouraged the SLT to examine Berger's (physical, social, emotional, and behavioral) environment. We are currently putting together our evidence binder that supports the number of indicators that are completed and implemented. This weekend Berger's teacher will attend a Professional Development workshop on Writing presented by Kellie Doubek. The goal is to explore Common Core Writing standards and develop a writing expectation framework at each grade level. We are looking forward to creating some form of cohesion as it relates to Writing at Berger. The extra-curricular clubs are off to a great start. On behalf of the students of Berger, we say thanks to the New Beginnings School Board and Superintendent Davis-Jones for the after school clubs.

**Central Office**

Superintendent Shelly Jones stated we are honored to announce that our School Board President, Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett has received the National School Board Recognition award from the National School Board Association for outstanding commitment to public education through her proven school board leadership and the many hours of dedicated service she has given to the families and communities of Dolton School District 149. She is truly deserving of this honor and it was given with great pride and respect! We commend you for the great works that you do for Dolton School District 149! Keep up the great work!

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ray Warner stated that he is currently in the process of planning for the 2012 "Title I Donna Gandy Summer School Institute" which will run from Monday June 4, 2012 through Friday June 29, 2012. This summer instructional program for students will take place Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, for twenty consecutive days. Job vacancies have been posted; we have planned for professional development activities for the staff, and will be identifying students for participation within the next week. Our focus will be on reading and math instruction. This activity is supported by our NCLB Title I Grant. Special kudos to our District Custodial Team for their outstanding efforts during Spring Break. Under the direction of Mr. Pat Crean, Supervisor of Buildings, they were able to accomplish quite a bit of work within the four days that they worked. I received many complementary emails from the staff regarding their exemplary work and would like them to know that The District is appreciative of their efforts.

Director of Student Learning & Programs Dr. Denita Scott stated we are pleased to announce that teachers will now have their own login information for access to the Illinois Interactive Report card (IIRC) data system. This system currently houses student achievement information from Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Terra Nova. During the month of May, staff at New Beginnings Learning Academy will conduct a pilot with the system in efforts to provide feedback. In the fall, all teachers will have access. Some great features about this tool: Teachers can view up to three years of student performance data, ability to create custom groups for comparisons, provides a performance report that displays results as scale scores, stanines, normal curve equivalents and correlation to the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) 10, and colorful graphs and charts. We look forward to implementation for continuous improvement of student achievement. Kudos to Dr. Harvey Smith, from Northern Illinois University for his assistance with this project.

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the rejoining of the Illinois Elementary School Association for sports program at Dirksen Middle School effective 2012-2013 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE REJOINING  
ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
FOR SPORTS PROGRAM

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the existing hazardous bus routes for the 2012-2013 since these routes remain unchanged, and to authorize submission to The Illinois Department of Transportation for reconsideration of potentially hazardous routes. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE EXISTING  
HAZARDOUS BUS  
ROUTES FOR THE 2012-  
2013 SCHOOL YEAR

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mr. Castillo to appoint Darlene Gray Everett, Board President, to act as the district's representative on the Governing Board of the Illinois Association of School Boards. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Eldridge. MOTION CARRIED

APPOINT DISTRICT  
REPRESENTATIVE ON  
THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE ILLIONIS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BOARDS

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve representatives to attend the Labor Relation Press National Institute Conference held in San Antonio, TX. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE  
REPRESENTATIVES TO  
ATTEND A CONFERENCE  
IN SAN ANTONIO

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the retirement letter of Marvin Bailey, custodian effective June 28, 2012 and pay the retirement incentive as outline in The Support Personnel Cooperative Contract. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED

ACCEPT THE  
RETIREMENT LETTER  
FOR MARVIN BAILEY

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the Resolution of support for legislation on funding State authorized Charter Schools. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE THE  
RESOLUTION ON STATE  
AUTHORIZED CHARTER  
SCHOOLS

Correspondence. We are honored to announce that our School Board President, Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett has received the National School Board Recognition award from the National School Board Association for outstanding commitment to public education through her proven school board leadership and the many hours of dedicated service she has given to the families and communities of Dolton School District 149.

Bulletin Reports. None

New Business. None

Old Business. None

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to adjourn at 7:53 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary