

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE
MARCH 23, 2017

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 7:48 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, Board President, in the Board Room at the Central Office located 292 Torrence in Calumet City, Illinois.

The Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also in attendance were: Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Dr. Denita Scott, Twyla Harris, Cedric Lewis, Vedia Page, Dr. Brigitte Garth-Young, Dellnora Winters, Karen Slate, April Davis, Carolyn Franklin, Dr. Renata Patterson, Dr. Christal Walker, John Johnson, Michael Steele, Dr. Hester Alfred, Gabrielle Herndon, Jamie Hayes, April Brown, Carmen Canales, Sheria Robinson, Sue Dykas, Kathy Fejes, Jamar Everett, Dion Wiley, Board Attorney Mr. James Vasselli, Dr. James Cunneen, Bolden Jones and Stacy Miles.

Meeting was opened up to the public – No public comments were made.

Before the next motion was read Board Member Mr. Tillman asked Board President Mrs. Gray Everett if items 1 and 4 on the Board President Consent Agenda could be called separately.

Board President Consent Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to accept the President's Consent Agenda items 2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 and 12. The following Board Members voted Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight-Anderson and Mr. Tillman.

As part of the Consent Agenda, the following items were approved on the call of the roll:

- 2. Payroll summaries for February 24, 2017 in the amount of \$801,279.30.**
- 3. Payroll summaries for March 10, 2017 in the amount of \$801,097.03.**
- 5. Ratify the Staffing Projections for the 2017-2018 school year.**
- 6. Approve Spring Break hours of operation for the District's 12-month employees.**
- 7. Approve the Back to School Carnival for Saturday, August 26, 2017.**
- 8. Approve the request for FMLA for Angela Martin.**
- 9. Postpone the FMLA request for April Davis.**
- 10. Approve the posting of Extra Curricular Activities for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.**
- 11. Accept the resignation of Michael Steele, Principal of STEM Academy effective June 30, 2017**
- 12. Post for Middle School Principal for the STEM Academy for 2017-2018 school year.**

<p>1. MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held February 23, 2017. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly. Board Member voted Nay: Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARBOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23, 2017</p>										
<p>4. MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated March 23, 2017 consisting of 18 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read.</p> <table data-bbox="380 562 1023 743"> <tr> <td>Education Fund</td> <td>\$877,806.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building and Maintenance Fund</td> <td>106,225.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation Fund</td> <td>283,095.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tort Liability Fund</td> <td>57,320.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$1,324,447.29</td> </tr> </table> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight-Anderson and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. Board Member voted Nay: Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	Education Fund	\$877,806.16	Building and Maintenance Fund	106,225.54	Transportation Fund	283,095.40	Tort Liability Fund	57,320.19	Total	\$1,324,447.29	<p>AUTHORIZE TOWNSHIP TREASURER TO PAY INVOICES</p>
Education Fund	\$877,806.16										
Building and Maintenance Fund	106,225.54										
Transportation Fund	283,095.40										
Tort Liability Fund	57,320.19										
Total	\$1,324,447.29										

Closed Session

<p>1. MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to go into closed session at 7:55 pm for: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, 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; and For student disciplinary cases.</p>	<p>CLOSED SESSION</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to come out of executive closed and resume the regular school board meeting at 8:05 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight-Anderson Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Tillman. Absent: Ms. Ghani MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>REGULAR SESSION</p>

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

Special Committee Report

Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones turned it over to Dr. Cunneen from the Ad Hoc Committee.

1. Ad Hoc Committee Dr. James Cunneen, John Kasperek and James Vasselli

Paraphrasing Dr. Cunneen stated the following:

“There were three people who the Board of Education mentioned to be on this committee. Let me take a second to explain the wisdom of you selecting those three people, of course for me there is no question at all about that wisdom that should be put on but, for the other two members.... Essentially what happens with the three of us is that we report directly to you. Mr. Vasselli reports directly to the Board of Education in your organizational chart, Mr. Kasperek reports directly to the Board of Education in his role and I report directly to you in my role so we are not in the normal chain of command and that gives us a different perspective. Our job was to look in to bills payables and we did an extensive look in the past two years of all the bills submitted to you. Now the first thing that we did is looked at the process and the process is that the employee not the Board of Education that’s a clear distinction Boards of Education do not submit bills payables they review bills payables. So when an employee has to submit a purchase request, that purchase request has to be approved either by the Business Manager or the Superintendent. Once that purchase request has been approved it turns into a purchase order. The purchase order is then put out when the supplies or materials comes in it get puts into bills payables and that is what you see. Now, that bill payables is either reviewed by the Business Manager or by the Superintendent and their signature is affixed to that bills payables. This District has a very opened and transparent system when they handle the bills. I’m looking back at the ladies who on bills payables dates have to go through one draft, two drafts, and three drafts to make sure that the bills payables are correct. Lots of people see these bills payables and lots of people review them but ultimately either the Superintendent or the Business Manager affixes their signature to them and that’s saying to you as a Board of Education that these bills are appropriate to be paid. Now that says are these two people giving you honest and good advice on these bills. I can say to you theses two people are very honorable people they care about kids they care deeply about the integrity of a District and integrity of a District is crucial. Our superintendent sometimes will get upset over an I not being there or a T not being crossed to make sure that those bills are looked at but we still didn’t rely on the process we went through two years of bills payables reading them looking for any clarification. We saw sometimes where the computer can generate a description that wasn’t completely the full description of what the bills were and so we then pulled the actual bill and looked at it to make sure that those bills was appropriate. We then held a meeting to ask if anybody in this District anybody had a problem with any of the bills no one FOIA the bills so we had kind of idea without the information on the bills you will not be able to ask many questions but we were still there. Nobody responded we still went over and we asked Mr. Kasperek do you audit the bills payable and he replied to us yes I do, not every bill we random pick certain bills and we look. Of course, if there is a problem we may look for more bills and they ask for all the backup and verification of those bills and we looked at process and he verified out of the ten District’s that he audited in this area there are only two that gets an unqualified opinion from him and we are one of the two. Mr. Vasselli

looked at it from the legal side; Mr. Vasselli comes from a very large legal firm he is not going to tell you there's not a legal problem if there was a legal problem and he said there wasn't and I am going to tell you that in our review we found no irregularities or improprieties on the bills payables and so we are going to submit to you a signed report stating that.

In my years here in District 149 I published "The Grapevine" a news letter that went out every month telling the actuality of what was happening because rumors hurt. They hurt you as Board Members you are Fellows you spent your time here studying, looking and trying to be the best Board Members you can. I apologize for what's happen to you I know some of you had problems at work and some of you had problems in the community and you know what, sometimes the bad rumors are so hard to dispense then telling the truth. The truth is that you have people of high integrity you have a good process and there are no irregularities that we have found and for those things you should be proud because you have a good system that works. You are not here to look at every purchase that occurs that's not your job that's why you hire good competent people and when you do that you let them do their jobs. That is our report and I will answer any questions if there are any".

Dr. Cunneen asked Mr. Vasselli do you concur with the statements I made, Mr. Vasselli replied that he concurred with the statements that were made by Dr. Cunneen and will reiterate that A. there were attendees at the public hearing that was held duly noted and all statements and review found full compliance within the State of Illinois, again I will reiterate the statement of the good Dr. are there any questions or comments based upon item 1 on the Special Committee Report Ad Hoc Committee Report?

Paraphrasing Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones stated the following:

"I would never ever operate and I am going to say it again like I said before there's no textbook to tell you how to do this job so when you come into this seat you are really blindsided you depend on your Board of Education Members, you depend on the Board's Attorney, you depend on your mentors that's of there, you depend on other colleagues, you depend on the networking service and that which I don't know I will never cover when I don't know I don't know that's why you talk to the powers that be, you talk to the attorneys' you talk to other superintendent's. My name is all that I have and I am proud to be who I am my parents raised a good young lady someone who was the first to graduate with a Doctorate's Degree and the first to graduate with a Degree. I pride myself and my name with all the values that my parents taught me and there's no way that I would serve in the leadership seat I don't care who I proceeded or who was there before I was. I operate with integrity and honesty I care about the community especially the kids I give everything that I have to everybody including the adults. I just want the Board to know that I would never ever put you in a position that would cause you to feel that I would hurt your careers, your families or your names that is not what I was placed here to do and I just want the record to reflect that. I work hard here I work 12 to 13 hours a day and I work on the weekends when you all are sleep I am going blind because I cannot see have the time right now because I spend so much time doing for everybody else that is sitting in this room so, with that being said I want the record to reflect who I am ask somebody. I am not a bad person I am not a crook or thief and I would never do anything I respect these people they gave me an opportunity you gave me a chance. I served as an Assistant in this District and that's what an Assistant can do just

serve as an Assistant and since I've been in the seat I've done nothing but tried my best with this team to try and unpack the problems in this District change is tough it's difficult it happens with or without people and I am one of those people that is going to walk through the change with people that's my goal and it is going to impact these kids in a positive way. I am going down fighting for the kids in this community and yes our scores are low but we are working hard everybody in here is working hard but nobody knows the factors that the children come with. I just have to have real talk you don't know the factors that the kids come with work a miracle let me see that happen we have been trying to work a miracle for a long time. Our children are transit people are in and out, life is happening to people, folks are suffering, the community kids are not eating right, kids are being abused, adults are being abused it's a lot going on here. We have to be the opening door and the listening ear and we beat up a lot up in here, we get beat up a lot last week, yesterday and this morning but we still maintain ourselves as professionals. So I would never do anything my team would never do anything to hurt the Board of Education. I respect all of you with my highest admiration and I would never make a decision without going to the attorney and the Board of Education. The Board President talks to the attorney and they guide me. I would never do anything you see the bills if you are looking at them I talk to the attorney almost every day pretty much because there is always something happening that I want to be clear on and I never want an error in my judgment. I'm not perfect but a crook or thief I've never been and I will never be and I am going to leave this District and this earth I am going to leave a legacy. I'm telling you all that right now because that's what I am going to do I'm going to leave a legacy. I just need to clear the record of who I am and how much I respect you at this table for the work that you do all the courses and studying and all of times that you worked hard to do all of the assessments in the past to get you where you are today. Come to find out at the meeting two weeks ago so many other people have become Fellows because of this board so that speaks volumes to what you guys are doing so keep up the good work and know that you can trust me I put my life on that I will never do anything willfully to harm the finances of this District, any member of this District or any child in this District. I just wanted to have this on record thank you".

Superintendent's Report

1. Stride Academy Literacy and Math
2. Blue Streak Math Fluency
3. Communication from a parent
4. FOIA SEIU- Food Service RFP

Paraphrasing Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones stated the following:

1. Stride Academy Literacy and Math – District Leadership Team met with Karen Duncan from Stride Academy it's an instructional program that we currently have.
2. Blue Streak Math Fluency - The Teachers fell in love with the program. We received a bad news letter from Terra Nova and the test results are still not in so the good news to combat with that is we met with NWEA the Math Assessment company and the District Leadership Team voted right then and there that we are changing our assessment for the upcoming school year and our kids will have four opportunities to be assessed in reading and math four times a year next year.

We will train all certified staff and administrators at District Institute Day. Kudos to the District Leadership Team we had a celebration on Tuesday because we have come so far from unpacking this District, analyzing the data, reviewing and analyzing the culture of our schools and then putting together a District Improvement Plan that we are committed to be continuous in this School District. I want to thank all the administrators who are here today that served on that committee. I want to thank all the parents that came out who served on the Curriculum Committee and who serve on the Leadership Team with us their input is so valuable to us in moving the District forward.

3. Communication from a parent - “Dear Superintendent it is such a pleasure to work with Dellnora Winters and the teachers in the School of Fine Arts. Because the teachers in the School of Fine Arts have taken a personal touch to my son and he has made great strides.” The parent wanted to make sure that the Board of Education Dr. Scott, Dellnora and I know that somebody is watching and we are making a difference although the job is tough sometimes. She just wanted to say kudos to the principal and the SOFA staff for taking care of her son.

4. FOIA SEIU- Food Service RFP – I have responded via the attorney we counted up the pages of the RFP and they owe the district \$15.00 and as soon as we receive the check then we will release the RFP FOIA request for Food Service.

Old Business – NONE

New Business

<p>1. MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the Resolution for Non-Renewal of Certain First, Seconded and Third Year Probationary Teachers. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Knight-Anderson and Mrs. Jolly. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR NON-RENEWAL OF CERTAIN FIRST, SECONDED AND THIRD YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHERS</p>
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Before the next motion was read Board Member Mr. Tillman asked Board President Gray Everett if item I number 2 under New Business be tabled until the next Board Meeting. For clarity, Board Attorney Mr. Vasselli read the requested motion “Need a motion to approve Mr. Will Tillman to attend the National School Board Conference in Denver, Colorado from Saturday, March 25, 2017 through Monday, March 27, 2017” be tabled he asked Board Member Mr. Tillman was that correct. Board Member Mr. Tillman is asking for the matter to be tabled indefinitely. Board President Gray Everett asked Board Member Mr. Tillman you do realize that you can attend this conference he replied very clear. Board President responded ok.

<p>2. MOTION by Mr. Tillman, seconded by no one to table indefinitely Will Tillman’s request to attend the National School Board Conference in Denver, Colorado from Saturday, March 25, 2017 through Monday, March 27, 2017. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: MOTION DIED FOR A LACK OF MOTION</p>	<p>MOTION DIED FOR A LACK OF MOTION</p>
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<p>3. MOTION by Mr. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the discipline recommendation for student #149-1617-004. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight-Anderson and Mrs. Jolly. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDENT #149-1617-004</p>
<p>4. MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to approve the discipline recommendation for student #149-1617-005. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Jolly. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDENT #149-1617-005</p>
<p>5. MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve the discipline recommendation for student #149-1617-006. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDENT #149-1617-006</p>
<p>6. MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to approve the discipline recommendation for student #149-1617-007. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Jolly. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDENT #149-1617-007</p>
<p>7. MOTION by Mrs. Knight-Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the discipline recommendation for student #149-1617-008. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDENT #149-1617-008</p>
<p>8. MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the discipline recommendation for student #149-1617-009. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDENT #149-1617-009</p>
<p>9. MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to approve the discipline recommendation for student #149-1617-010. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE THE DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDENT #149-1617-010</p>
<p>10. MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to approve Danny Collins, a Part-Time Custodian, to a Full-Time Custodian Position effective Monday, March 27, 2017. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE DANNY COLLINS, A PART-TIME CUSTODIAN, TO A FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN</p>
<p>11. MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Knight-Anderson to accept the written retirement request of Michelle Watson effective June 30, 2021. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>ACCEPT THE WRITTEN RETIREMENT REQUEST OF MICHELLE WATSON EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2021</p>

Correspondence- None

Bulletins and Report - None

Public Comment– None

Additional Action Items - None

Adjournment

MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight-Anderson, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	ADJOURNMENT
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Darlene Gray Everett, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary