

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM
DECEMBER 10, 2020

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all.

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

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, Diana Pruski, Carolyn Franklin, Laura Wolf, Akil Khalfani, Jamie Hayes, Karen Slate, Gabrielle Herndon, Dr. Nicole Robinson, BeNita Parker, ZaRita Beal, April Davis, Renata Patterson, Christal Washington, John Johnson, Latricia Lewis, Jamar Everett, John Smida, Sheila Colone, Dr. Winters, Melissa Nawracaj, William Watson and Denise Kyles.

Public Comment on the Agenda – No public comments were made.

Diana Pruski, Manager of John Kasperek Company, Inc. gave an update on the AFR and the Single Audit. Diana Pruski reported she is the manager of the district’s audit this year. Mrs. Pruski went over the annual financial report and stated it was approved by the audit. Also discussed why the audit was on delay which was due to the COVID-19 language in the OMB Circular provided by the Federal Government. With new grants they are considered high risk and required to be tested as a major program. Once the guidance came out they were able to take the new language and make a judgement call based on activity with the grant and the amount expended on June 30, 2020 and determined, it will not be major on June 30, 2020 and they can then release the financials with the single audit.

Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones and Dr. Cunneen are to review the AFR and final statements and Mr. Lewis will approve the AFR so the Superintendent can sign it on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 and send it electronically. Dr. Cunneen asked if there were any questions and there were no questions.

Board Member Comments and Questions – Mrs. Crisler-Liggons asked the difference in Press Issue 104 and 105. Superintendent answered with clarity.

Business Session began at 7:27 P.M.

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

Board President Consent Agenda

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the President Consent Agenda G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8, G9 and G10.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Hearing for Remote/E-Learning held November 12, 2020.2. Approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting held November 12, 2020.	<p>ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8, G9 AND G10</p>
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3. Approval of the payroll summaries for November 13, 2020 in the amount of \$949,253.46.
4. Approval of the payroll summaries for November 25, 2020 in the amount of \$946,684.90.
5. Authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated December 10, 2020 consisting of 53 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:

Education Fund	\$1,635,826.04
Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 134,819.32
Transportation Fund	\$ 74,125.69
Capital Projects	\$ 130,424.20
Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 71,002.07
Total	\$2,046,197.32

6. Need a motion to approve FMLA for Nora Lyons effective January 4, 2021-February 22, 2020.
7. Need a motion to approve FMLA for Sheryl Lewis effective November 9, 2020 through January 4, 2021.
8. Need a motion to approve Intermittent FMLA for Torri Simpson Fenderson for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.
9. Need a motion to approve the Holiday Schedule for 12-Month Central Office, Confidential Administrative Assistants and Custodians.

ENCLOSURE

10. Need a motion to approve the Family First Coronavirus Family Leave Act for Melissa Mingo from November 16, 2020 through November 24, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Gray Everett.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Castillo joined the meeting at 7:28 P.M. due to technical difficulties.

Cabinet Reports –

Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones – Remote/E-Learning Update

- Extend Remote Learning and Revisit Plans for Hybrid Blended Model at the January 28, 2021 Board of Education Meeting.

Superintendent Davis-Jones reported, On December 8th through the 17th all students in grades K-8 began the Mid- Term Stride Academy Gap Assessment for reading and mathematics.

The Mid-Term Stride Academy Gap Assessment will assess students on grade-level and provide a measure of student growth in Mathematics and Reading achievement and skill-by-skill improvement.

Students will complete these assessments remotely using their chromebooks (or other electronic devices) in their Stride Academy program. Teachers will be able to monitor student participation as they are completing the assessment and will be available during testing to provide additional support, if needed.

The district staff will participate in a half-day Mental Health Professional Development workshop by Growing Boundlessly LLC, from our very own, former student Amari Jackson on Thursday, December 17th from 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm. Winter Break begins on Friday December 18, 2020 through January 1, 2021. All teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries and administrators will remain working remotely from home on January 4, 2021.

All Administrative Assistants are working to clean up the Census data in Skyward. Mr. Khalfani purchased Tracfores and phone cards along with Dr. Cunneen and I. Administrative Assistants will call every student's parent and make sure they have the correct address, phone number, bus number, and survey them again about remote learning or Hybrid Model. This project is expected to be completed by December 16th.

As you all know we are in a super surge of COVID-19. We have doubled the number of cases and deaths on a daily basis. Based on the scientific data and the percentage of positive cases and Winter break around the corner, it is my recommendation that we continue with remote learning, monitor the data, and discuss plans at the next board meeting scheduled for January 28, 2021. I will also have Dr. Young update the website, so parents can see in writing that we will remain in remote learning until further notice.

The social workers have done a nice job providing virtual mental health videos and rooms for staff, families and students. Topics covered address Personal Strength, Self-Care and Gratitude Traditions, Peer Relations, Grief and Loss and Self Awareness.

The teachers have been super creative and some of them will host virtual Breakfast with Santa on Thursday December 17th and teachers and students will participate in virtual holiday programs.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank everyone who is working so hard to ensure our students are learning and addressing their mental health and well-being. Before I close, I want to encourage everyone to wear your mask, practice social distancing and wash your hands often. Please stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Dr. Cunneen talked about the bids for C & T lawn service and snow removal
Plexi Glass - Interstate Plastic**

Dr. Cunneen stated there was only one company that bid for the lawn service and snow removal and that was C&T our current existing company. Our architects reviewed their numbers and feel the bid they gave us was within reason. They are asking for a three percent increase. The only question we had was on the Dorchester and we are recommending the Board postpone this alternate to do some additional consideration. We are asking the Board to approve the bids for snow removal and lawn care.

The second bid is for the plexi glass dividers. We had proposed to bring in 1,500 plexi glass dividers to help in our protection. We had numerous vendors but mainly Interstate Plastic and I had lengthy discussions

with our architects. The Interstate Plastic does these plastic dividers, these shields for students throughout the nation and documented to the architect that they are safe as far as any fire component is concerned. We are waiting for the State Fire Marshall to formerly approve the plexi glass dividers. So what I am going to be asking is to accept the bid provided we get approval from the State Fire Marshall and we will be working on that very quickly.

Bills payables

Dr. Cunneen stated, we are asking permission to do supplementary bills payable on some of the residual bills, cell phone purchases and installation of our thermal cameras. We have an engineer that has done that and we are waiting on the thermal cameras at the central office to finally be installed.

We are not looking to transport any students the first semester. You heard the Superintendent say we are considering the hybrid model later in the year, probably the earliest is in the start of the second semester. We have the same situation we had in March dealing with the transportation and not transporting students. I am asking permission to say to First Student we will pay you exactly the same percentage we negotiated for March, April and May for transportation for this current year. If you agree we would be able to pay you for the months of August, September, October, November and December; if you don't agree we will continue to negotiate. So the question is do you want your money now for the same percentage that you gave us in March or do you want to wait for further discussion? Because I don't think we are going to get anything less than what we negotiated and the Board was pleased with our negotiation, I am going to say that we want to hold firm with fiscal year 2021 with negotiations. I am going to pause here, I gave you a lot here and I thought I would answer questions and ask the Superintendent is there anything else.

Liggons asked about the Echo bills for 2020. Dr Cunneen and Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones answered with clarity.

Liggons asked about the Dorchester property. Dr. Cunneen answered with clarity.

Levy

Dr. Cunneen stated, here is a small bid editorial comment you procured the property tax relief grant, a two year relief period for tax payers which decreased our taxes 1.4 million dollars and we will do the same this year. The levy was a little bit difficult because the process says we have to fully levy the money and we will get back to you in February for an abatement of that levy. So we are going to be saying to the tax payers again this year we are going to be reducing their tax bill by 1.4 million dollars. So, the first process is you levy and then we come back in February and say you reduced it by 1.4 million dollars. We receive that money in EBF State Aid Funding, so this is a win win for everybody but somehow the message hasn't gotten through. We need to talk to our publicity people, we will make sure they get that message out. So tonight, you will be approving those resolutions for the levy.

CTA Negotiations

Dr. Cunneen stated, yes, again we extended the CTA contract for one year. We will be talking in executive session and getting direction from you dealing with negotiation sessions so that we can get through negotiations in a positive manner. We know you have some strong feelings on the negotiations and our committee will reflect those strong feelings.

Dr. Cunneen wished the Board President and all Board Members a Merry Christmas!

President Darlene Gray Everett stated when we approve something and we did approve it, I did know that we were going to do it upon approval, so of course, know that if it's not right we don't do it.

Old Business – None

New Business

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to accept the Final Tax Levy for Calendar year 2020 payable in Calendar Year 2021 and Filing of the Certificate of Levy with the Cook County Clerk.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani and Mr. Castillo.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>ACCEPT THE FINAL TAX LEVY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020 PAYABLE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2021 AND FILING OF THE CERTIFICATE OF LEVY WITH THE COOK COUNTY CLERK</p>
<p>Motion by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mr. Castillo to authorize the Resolution regarding Truth in Taxation Law.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AUTHORIZE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING TRUTH IN TAXATION LAW</p>
<p>Motion by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to authorize the Resolution abating the Levy for debt service on the general obligation bond as circulated.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani and Mrs. Jolly.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AUTHORIZE THE RESOLUTION ABATING THE LEVY FOR DEBT SERVICE ON THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AS CIRCULATED</p>
<p>Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to authorize the Resolution Levy for Special Education purposes on 2020 Levy.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, and Mr. Castillo.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AUTHORIZE THE RESOLUTION LEVY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PURPOSES ON 2020 LEVY</p>
<p>Motion by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to waive the First Reading of PRESS Policy 104.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Ms. Ghani.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>WAIVE THE FIRST READING OF PRESS POLICY 104</p>

<p>Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to waive the First Reading of PRESS Policy 105. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>WAIVE THE FIRST READING OF PRESS POLICY 105</p>
<p>Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to adopt PRESS Policy 104 and 105. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>ADOPT PRESS POLICY 104 AND 105</p>
<p>Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani for the Board of Education to set a date and meet as a Committee of the Whole in Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SET A DATE AND MEET AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS.</p>
<p>Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the School District Architects recommendation for the following Bids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Lawn and Snow Removal B. Plexi Glass Safety Dividers <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>ACCEPT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ARCHITECTS RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING BIDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. LAWN AND SNOW REMOVAL B. PLEXI GLASS SAFETY DIVIDERS
<p>Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the School District Architects recommendation for the following Bid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Lawn and Snow Removal <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>ACCEPT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ARCHITECTS RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING BID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. LAWN AND SNOW REMOVAL
<p>Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to accept the School District Architects recommendation for the following Bid pending the Illinois State Fire Code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Plexi Glass Safety Dividers <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons Ms. Ghani and Mr. Castillo.</p>	<p>ACCEPT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ARCHITECTS RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING BID PENDING THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE CODE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. PLEXI GLASS SAFETY

MOTION CARRIED	DIVIDERS
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Approval of Personnel - None

Correspondence - We received a letter from Ms. Hill, Board President Mrs. Gray Everett will respond.

Bulletins and Reports - None

Public Comments – None

Closed Session

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to go into closed session at 7:59 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). ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani all in favor said I, no one opposed. MOTION CARRIED</p>	CLOSED SESSION
<p>Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to come out of closed session at 8:40 p.m. and resume regular session. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	RESUME REGULAR SESSION

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

Final Action on Closed Session Items, if needed

In Executive Session, a Committee of the Whole meeting was scheduled for January 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm to discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations.

Mrs. Gray Everett wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to please stay safe! She also acknowledged one of our very own Mrs. Harris received her Doctorates Degree!!!!

Adjournment

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to Adjourn at 8:43 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: All in favor said I, no one opposed. MOTION CARRIED</p>	ADJOURNMENT
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Darlene Gray Everett, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary