

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA TELE CONFERENCE CALL  
APRIL 23, 2020

The Regular Board Meeting was held via tele conference and the meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, Board President.

**Roll Call:** Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. Absent: None

Also in attendance were: Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Dr. Brigitte Garth-Young, Cedric Lewis, April Brown, Carmen Canales, Dr. James Cunneen, Board Attorney, James Vasselli and Board Attorney, Tiffany Nelson.

**The Pledge of Allegiance** – Said by all

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

**Board Member Comments and Questions** - Board Member Tillman proposed adding items to the agenda. This proposal was deemed out of order as a violation of the Open Meetings Act which the Board is required to adhere to for public meetings and the application to the internal Board rules were discussed as well.

President Gray Everett asked if there were any questions on the Board President Consent Agenda.

There were none.

**Board President Consent Agenda**

All in favor to group the consent Board President Agenda 1-15: all said yes

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the Board President Consent Agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 13, 14 and 15.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting held March 26, 2020.</li><li>2. Approval of the payroll summaries for March 6, 2020 in the amount of \$1,029,409.78.</li><li>3. Approval of the payroll summaries for March 10, 2020 in the amount of \$1,271.01.</li><li>4. Approval of the payroll summaries for March 20, 2020 in the amount of \$1,006,846.53.</li><li>5. Special approval for Remote/E-Learning distribution, print and mailing by One Step in the amount of \$12,389.69.</li></ol>	<p><b>ACCEPT THE BOARD PRESIDENT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 AND 15</b></p>
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6. Special approval for Remote/E-Learning distribution, print and mailing for special education students by One Step in the amount of \$2,645.48.

7. Authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated April 23, 2020 consisting of 31 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:

Education Fund	\$684,055.24
Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 132,493.75
Transportation Fund	\$ 373,263.24
Capital Projects	\$ 96,756.46
Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 41,264.94

Total \$1,327,833.63

8. Need a motion to approve the official Public-School Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

9. Need a motion to approve 8<sup>th</sup> Grade activities for the 2020-2021 school year.

Dance May Friday, May 7, 2021  
Class Trip Friday, May 14, 2021  
Luncheon Tuesday, May 18, 2021  
Graduation Thursday, May 27, 2021

10. Need a motion to authorize Board participation and membership for the CUBE Conference from September 24-26, 2020.

11. Need a motion to authorize Board participation for Joint Annual Conference November 20-22, 2020.

12. Need a motion to consider the \$2500 deposit for Odyssey Country club 8<sup>th</sup> grade Luncheon.

13. Need a motion to contract translation services for English Language Learner students' parents to support Remote/E-Learning.

14. Need a motion to approve all network related approvals through E-2 Solution, the board selected network provider.

<p>15. Need a motion to formally renew one year with Organic Life for National School Lunch Program for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	
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Mrs. Gray Everett turned it over to the Superintendent and thanked her for all her work.

**Cabinet Reports –**

Dr. Shelly Davis Jones – Emergency Management Update

Paraphrasing Dr. Davis-Jones stated:

The week of April 6th all Academic Learning Packets were mailed priority USPS by One Step and posted up on each school’s website page with the support of our Tech team.

Teachers have made contact via phone and email with parents and students during our remote learning planning days April 1-7. Teachers have set up class Dojo as our communication tool for students and parents. Attendance is taken daily and phone calls and lessons began on April 8- 9. Spring break began on Friday April 10-17. Remote/E-Learning resumed on Monday April 20, 2020. All Principals and teachers have set up group me groups, teachers are using Dojo to communicate with students and parents.

Dr. Young and the Tech team have set up Microsoft IT conferences to stay in touch with our teachers and administrative team during this crisis. We are zooming, face timing, emailing and establishing teleconferences to keep the lines of communication open.

Mr. Ormsby has been working diligently with me to share parent Facebook concerns and submit responses timely. During our school closure we have found that some parents have moved and did not inform the schools but, I was able to email some of them the packets for their children. Right now, we have over 260 students who did not receive their packets, because parents who have moved did not notify the schools nor the post office, so I want to thank the teachers and principals who have worked to create another list in an effort to reach the students and families.

The next set of remote work will include core subject activity boards. One for ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, Technology, PE, WIN, Music and Business Education Mostly project based. This will carry the students through until the end of the school year.

District Institute Day which was scheduled for March 27 but due to the school shut down we will have to extend our last day of school to June 2<sup>nd</sup> and revise the public school calendar.

I have met with the middle school principals and they like the idea of using virtual graduation ceremonies. We believe we should acknowledge our students. The price to set up each school graduation is \$1,995 per school. It is our hope to keep the set date on the calendar but begin the steps to complete the process.

The purchase orders for Chrome books have been completed for Kdg, Special Education and students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> for FY 20 and Dr. Young and the tech team have completed the chrome book quotes for students in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade for the FY 21. If we can release the purchase orders now and receive the equipment after July 1<sup>st</sup> is the plan. Dr. Young will share the plan in her report.

The President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law on March 27, 2020. The purpose of the CARES Act is to provide states with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus threat.

**What this means for districts:**

The amount of funds Illinois LEAs will be eligible for is based on the percentage of Title I, Part A allocated to the LEA in FY 2020.

We can use these funds to address needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English Learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth. Funds can also be used for outreach and service delivery.

1. To provide
  - Meals to eligible students.
  - Technology for online learning between all students and classroom teachers (including hardware, software, and connectivity).
  - Guidance for meeting the requirements under the IDEA and other educational services (e.g., educators providing services through digital or online platforms, counseling services, and guidance services consistent with federal, state, and local requirements).
  - Mental health services and supports.
  - Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs, including classroom instruction or online learning.
2. Address needs of individual schools resulting from the coronavirus and resultant school closures.
3. Professional development to minimize the spread of infectious diseases (e.g., sanitation training).
4. Cleaning and sanitizing school and district buildings.
5. Other activities necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services.

We are working on our transition plan as Dr. Cunneen has stated in his report if and when, the stay at home order is lifted.

## Dr. Brigitte Garth Young- Technology Update

Paraphrasing Dr. Garth-Young stated:

In this time of great uncertainty, the Technology Department has been in collaboration with the administrative team to support and implement following projects in the face of the COVID-19 crisis:

- Provided training for the full administrative body on how to conduct Microsoft Teams virtual meetings.
- Continuous updates to the district's website as it relates to COVID-19, the current remote/e-learning plans of the school district, and making the academic learning packets available for the parents on each schools' page.
- Prepared a Parent Feedback Survey for Technology Assessment which is live on the district's website. This survey will provide us with informal results concerning the technology status of the school community.
- Served as the liaison between the district and Print One Step to facilitate the process of the printing/deployment of the district-wide mailing project regarding academic packets for all grade levels.
- Provided additional resources in the form of encouraging participation in a free training hosted by the National Board, and school wide guides to assist with the implementation of the Class Dojo e-learning platform.
- Setup the OneNote Class Notebook synchronization in the Microsoft for Education platform to expand e-learning opportunities in FY21.
- Activated student email accounts in an effort towards providing another means for teachers to foster communications between home and school.
- Begin the ordering process for K-8/SPED Rugged Chromebook devices (which includes Google for Education licensing), carts, and carrying cases to support the district's full 1:1 implementation for FY21. Content Filtering and device tracking services will also be a part of this arrangement.

## Dr. James Cunneen – General Matters of the District

Paraphrasing Dr. Cunneen stated:

I know you are concerned about the finances of the district and it would be wonderful if we could come in and say definitively what the revenues are. We do a really good job knowing what our expenditures are but, our revenues are a little bit more flexible, not in FY20. We are pretty confident about FY20, that's our current year and the very good news about FY20 is the Federal Legislation with our property tax grant money and the continuation of General State Aid. We are going to be really good in FY20, we're going to come up with a surplus. But, what I am

going to advise the board is all that surplus can be held over to FY21, because in FY21 that is really the question. As you know and heard the big question is going to be in our local property taxes, many counties already have put a three-month extension into the payment of the property taxes. There is also the question of the ability of some of our tax payers to even pay the property taxes. So, what we have done was come up with a quick estimate of what could be the impact of this. In property taxes it is divided into numerous categories. One of them being businesses, well as we know the small businesses are suffering greatly on this and they are going to have difficulties. Residential are separated into two categories and a lot of you pay your property taxes through escrow. If you do pay it through escrow that money is sitting in the bank right now and the bank is obligated to release it so we will get that money that is in escrow. But, the people that write a check for their property taxes when the bill comes that's a questionable amount so what we are going to do is keep advising you month to month on our projections. Right now the revenue projections are essentially down about 2.6 million for the local tax property however, we are hoping to recoup most of that money in our grant that comes from the federal government on the relief plan and being a little tighter with our dollars. We are saving some money because we are not expending it during this school year.

The second thing, we are definitely going to need your input on how do we equip our buildings for people to come back into the buildings; they will come back in two phases. One of them will be our support personnel, that are our custodians and clerical which will come in before students come in and the second wave will be teachers and students. The first process is we have a quote for you from an environmental firm that our architects advise us on. This is coming in with the space suite and the sprays you see on TV and spraying disinfect through all the buildings. They will come in and everywhere in our buildings they will spray this disinfect and it will go on all surfaces killing all germs that might have come in. Before anyone comes into the building that is a part of our staff we are going to be disinfected, that is the first step. After that step, we are going to start constructing safety shields like the ones you see in the grocery stores. We are going to construct safety shields around administrative and clerical desk so there is space between people but, also a barrier between people. Communication will be through the safety shields and everyone will be protected. We will not have clerical come in until those safety shields have been established. I am requesting the board for \$250,000.00 to complete this first stage that includes all the disinfecting and deep cleaning, \$20,000.00 to the buildings and approximately \$5,000.00 to the central office because there's a lot of work to be done prior to the spraying and building all those safety shields.

The next thing we are going to do the most thorough cleaning this district has ever had. It is to clean every spec of the washrooms, kitchen, air ducts, doors, windows, all those kinds of things by an outside firm. Our interior staff will do the floors, hallways, lockers, and the inside of the windows and change the vents so when you walk in it will be white glove clean. Because we have four months to do this we will have a combination of existing and external staff to complete this. We are also going to clean the vents, we are going to blow them out and clean the filters and we are going to make sure the air return is clean as possible. We are going to bring in professionals to do the carpeting, we are going to go room by room, office by office, hallway by hallway to make sure we pass your white glove test.

Contracts, we have already talked to you about Food Service and your consent to extend food service. Here's what I am very happy to propose to you, I have been meeting with the teacher's union about what we are going to do about negotiations. We have a proposal to you to roll over the contract for one year, what a roll over means is there no increase in the base salary for the teachers. The base salary will stay the same, they do get a step increase, and there is no raise that goes on the base salary. We are going to keep the insurance premiums the same and essentially the rest of our contract will stay the same. The only thing we did was add one more step to the contract for those people who would not normally get a step. This is a small amount of teachers and essentially everyone would get a little more money to move forward. If you approve this, we can start negotiating now, not for 2021 but starting 2021-2022, and then go into formal negotiations. If we don't roll it over, I don't know how the negotiations process would be, but the essence of this, is there would be no way if we don't have a roll over. I would not be able to convince them they shouldn't have a raise in the base salary. By freezing the base salary and the retirements, we are projecting that there will be a net zero increase in all teacher's line item.

The last thing is transportation with First Student, I feel very strongly about this; I think the board needs to look very carefully at whatever we are dealing with regarding First Student. Right now, we have only gotten one statement for reimbursement, this is a categorical, we have regular and special education transportation, and we got one payment. First Student, I think has harassed Dr. Scott wanting to know when will the board made a decision on what's going to happen. I think this board should appoint a committee to meet with First Student to deal with some basic facts that is our reimbursements, the lack of First Student providing services and dealing with next year. I think we should go in with a strong position emphasizing that our transportation fund account is low and we are not here to give our money. I recommend that the board appoint at least Mr. Vasselli as one of them, because he has thorough knowledge of the contract and if you agree Mr. Lewis and I will deal with the financial elements of that and come back to you with a package you would accept.

Now that schools are closed, the people are going to do the gym floor on Monday. Next month I will talk to you about the future projects for the doors and cameras, and bring you a better revenue projection.

The Board of Education gave Dr. Cunneen the directive to get started on the above mentioned projects.

Cedric Lewis – Business Matters

Paraphrasing Cedric Lewis stated:

Mr. Lewis was not on the line to give his report. However, Dr. Cunneen stated their report coincided with each other.

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to adjourn to Closed Session at 8:23 pm pursuant to Section 2 (c) (1)(2)(5) of the Open Meetings Act, matters, related for the purposes of consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of Dolton School District 149 and</p>	<p>CLOSED SESSION</p>
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<p>student discipline 5 ILCS 120/2 and (2). Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to come out of closed session at 9:13 pm and resume regular session.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	REGULAR SESSION

**Roll Call:** Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. Absent: None

### Old Business

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to consider renewal for administrator.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	CONSIDER RENEWAL FOR ADMINISTRATOR
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### New Business

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the New Business Consent Agenda items 1 and 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase the chrome books for students in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade.</li> <li>2. Consider the viability of conducting the 2020 graduation ceremony.</li> </ol> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	ACCEPT THE NEW BUSINESS CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 AND 2
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### Approval of Personnel

<p><b>1. MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to table the approval of personal items 1 and 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Enter into an agreement with Dr. Denita Scott to provide part time assistance to SD 149 post retirement as needed.</li><li>2. Enter into an agreement with Kenny Cross to provide part time assistance to SD 149 post retirement as needed.</li></ol> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo Mr. Tillman. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>TABLE THE APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS 1 AND 2</p>
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<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the negotiations for the teachers roll over contract for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo Mr. Tillman. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ACCEPT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE TEACHERS ROLL OVER CONTRACT FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR</p>
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**Correspondence - None**

**Bulletins and Reports - None**

**Public Comments - None**

**Final Action on Closed Session Items - None**

### Adjournment

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly, to adjourn at 9:21 p.m.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>
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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary