

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
DECEMBER 19, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 8:02 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett Board President, in the Board Room of the Administrative Center at 292 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois.

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

ROLL CALL

**The Pledge of Allegiance.** Was said by all.

**Board President's Agenda**

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve the consent grouping of routine items including the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on November 21, 2013; payroll summaries for November 22, 2013 in the amount of \$773,804.37, and December 6, 2013 in the amount of \$785,459.49 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dates December 19, 2013, consisting of 22 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE INVOICE  
LISTING 12/19/13

APPROVE PAYROLL  
SUMMARIES 11/22/13 &  
12/6/13

Education Fund	\$1,085,048.59
Tort Liability Fund	17,073.56
Building and Maintenance Fund	99,544.23
Transportation Fund	211,989.41
Total	\$1,413,655.79

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

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the Title I District and School Improvement Plan Assurances and Certifications for the 2013-2014 school year as required by federal mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

**Special Committee Reports.** None

The Board of Education requested the Principals to give their reports.

**STEM**

Mr. Johnson stated we were very blessed to host a visit from Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly. Congresswoman Kelly donated a large number of books to the middle school. The S.T.E.M. academy students had the opportunity to volunteer for Breakfast with Santa. This event went well and we are looking forward to the next opportunity to serve the district. STEM teachers are preparing for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter assessments. We are anxiously anticipating a marked gain in student achievement. We will compare and analyze the data in an effort to continue to improve academically. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school girls basketball team had a phenomenal year. They ended the year with a record of 17 and 6. They were the: 2013 Lady Sting Classic Champions, 2013 IESA Region I Champions, 2013 IESA Sectional Champions, and the 2013 IESA State Finalist.

**CCA**

Mr. Scott stated our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students attended a field trip with our partnership group at Columbia College and Jeff Spitz in early December. Students learned how to conduct an interview, cartoon design, movie making and film editing, all of which we are trying to bring to CCA to enhance the engagement in our classrooms. We are gearing up for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter assessments, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter has been distributed and data analyzed we are hoping

to see more growth in the areas of math and reading as we compare it to our Terra Nova fall data. Our student council group has been collecting food and non-perishable for the South Cook area and we were able to pack over 8 boxes of food. I am proud to say that the CCA teachers won the “team building door decorating contest” sponsored by our counselor and social workers. We are also looking forward to the coming year by starting off with powerful behavioral assemblies to set the tone for the remainder of the year and setting our sights on graduation in the 2014 year.

### **Caroline Sibley**

Mrs. Franklin stated December has been a busy month at Caroline Sibley School. Our School Improvement Team has met and has reviewed and revised the SmartPlan, and SmartStart Indicators that address school improvement within our school. Our next step will be review the action plans and continue to implement strategies that will improve teaching and learning. Our holiday program was a huge success! Both parents and students alike had the opportunity to view this awesome display of talent. Special thanks to our students and their teachers for a job well done!

### **Central Office**

Ms. Herndon stated that the Dolton School District 149 SMART Board Training Team has been established. This team is well prepared to provide meaningful professional development that will enable all teachers to develop creative ways to use their SMART Boards to enhance learning for our students. On Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> all 13 members of this newly created team attended “SMART Board Training for Trainers” presented by Mike McGowan, an Education Solution Specialist for SMART Technologies. The members of this distinguished team are: Ms. Annette Nickerson, Ms. Micheline Simmons, Ms. Shavon Collier-Pittman, Ms. Pam Evans Smith, Ms. Nafiseh Vossoughi-Parks, Ms. Angela Blair, Ms. Melissa Gronendyke, Ms. Doreen Jones, Ms. Cynthia James, Ms. Donna Jackson, Ms. Barbara Booker, Ms. Stacy O’Daniel and Ms. Dona Gentles. Ms. Parks and Ms. O’Daniel have already conducted their first professional development opportunity which took place at Carol Moseley Braun School on December 4<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to working with this team of professional educators as we encourage all educators to harness the emerging technology and its capabilities to build better classrooms. The other exciting news in the world of technology here in our district is the implementation of Stride Academy. Stride Academy was developed by the creators of Kid’s College and is a brand new, tablet and desktop compatible program accessible to all students in the district. Stride Academy is an adaptive learning solution that quickly accelerates learning with engaging curriculum engineered to address critical learning standards. As we shift to the Common Core State Standards and assessments, we must prepare our students for more rigorous coursework and assessments. Stride Academy supports this transition with math and reading curriculum that are appropriately complex at each grade level, in alignment with Common Core State Standards. The adaptive nature of Stride Academy helps students gradually build foundational skills across grade levels, ultimately priming them for College and Career Readiness. Over the past few months, all teachers in the elementary buildings have been offered multiple trainings regarding the implementation of the program and its benefits for their students. The teachers are able to monitor their class data with a real-time, interactive dashboard which was developed by the company after receiving feedback from District 149 teachers last school year. The teachers are also able to create quizzes in the program, as well as, set specific skills for their class to work on. The customization the program allows can be used for one student or the whole class. The data we have gathered so far on the program shows that over 900,000 questions have been answered by our students and they have worked on the program for a total of 462,514 minutes with 136,431 of those minutes being outside of school. We will continue to monitor the data on a weekly basis and use it as an assessment tool to inform classroom instruction.

Dr. Garth-Young stated after a thorough review of district wide standardized testing data in the areas of mathematics and science, it was found that a paradigm shift is necessary that will infuse the math/science communities towards bridging the gap between S.T.E.M. education and student achievement. This forum may resemble math and science instructors, administration, and university professors inquiring and investigating problem solving strategies for instructional delivery and students’ absorption of subject matter. There are three fundamental components that will drive this infusion: *Continued Professional Development* in advanced-level

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mathematics and science for teachers; *Initiate-Instructional Rounds Performed by the Numeracy Coordinator*, which are non-evaluative, to serve as an analysis of classroom practices, as it relates to math and science; and, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Resources* made available to all members of the math/science communities. The aforementioned plan is designed with the purpose and goal of moving the district forward as leaders connecting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and S.T.E.M. education.

**Superintendent's Agenda.**

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to meet in executive session at 8:11 p.m. for the purpose to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED** EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to return to regular session at 9:01 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED** REGULAR SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo approval to extend the Family Medical Leave of Absence for Monica Fredrick, teacher with an anticipated return date of January 21, 2014 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED** APPROVAL TO EXTEND FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE FOR MONICA FREDRICK

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence request for Carmine Bilotto, teacher effective December 2, 2013 with an anticipated return date of January 6, 2014 for family health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED** APPROVE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE FOR CARMINE BILOTTO

**Motion** by Mrs. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the submission of the final Tax Levy for 2013 as presented by Dr. Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent & Chief Financial Officer. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED** APPROVE SUBMISSION FOR THE FINAL TAX LEVY FOR 2013

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mr. Crisler-Liggons to accept the settlement of 2004-2005 Tax Rate Objections in the amount of \$4,512.00 plus statutory interest. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED** ACCEPT THE 2004-2005 TAX RATE OJECTIONS

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the District Truant Safety Officer employment contract for Dominique Winston-Fatoke for the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED** ACCEPT DIST. TRUANT SAFETY OFFICER CONTRACT

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to authorize Dr. Alicia Geddis Deputy Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the LUV Institute for our Title I Afterschool Program for 2013-2014. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED** AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT WITH LUV INSTITUTE FOR 2013-2014

**Correspondence** The Rotary Club of Lansing was pleased distribute a free dictionary to each of the third grade students in Caroline Sibley and Carol Moseley Braun Schools. These two schools participated in the program last year and we feel it was a success.

**Bulletin Reports.** None

**New Business.**

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to authorize the approval and submission of the FY13 Annual Financial Report as clarified by Dr. James Cunneen out Educational Consultant. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE  
THE FY13 ANNUAL  
FINANCIAL REPORT

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the engagement letter with Hutchinson Shockey Erley & Company for consideration of future financial options. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT LETTER WITH  
HUTCHINSON SHOCKEY  
ERLEY & COMPANY

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the resignation letter from Sheryl Tillman, School Board Member. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT RESIGNATION  
LETTER FOR SHERYL  
TILLMAN

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee for student number 149-1314-005. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
STUDENT 149-1314-005

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee for student number 149-1314-006. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
STUDENT 149-1314-006

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee for student number 149-1314-007. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
STUDENT 149-1314-007

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee for student number 149-1314-008. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
STUDENT 149-1314-008

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee for student number 149-1314-009. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
STUDENT 149-1314-009

**Old Business: none**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to adjourn at 9:10 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT

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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary