

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
FEBRUARY 23, 2012

The Meeting was called to order at 7:39 P.M. by Mrs. Gray Everett, Board President, in the Board Room in the Administrative Center at 292 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Roll Call: Present: Members: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray Everett, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. Absent: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Eldridge, and Ms. Ghani. Also in attendance were Administrators: Mrs. Jones, Ms. Geddis, Mrs. Harris, Dr. Warner, Dr. Scott, Dr. Young, Dr. Alfred, Ms. Slate, Mr. Steele, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Scott, Donna Jones, Mrs. Hayes, Ms. Herndon, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Franklin, support personnel and staff.

ROLL CALL

Board President's Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the consent grouping and routine items including minutes & payroll summaries for February 3, 2012 in the amount of \$845,803.64 and February 17, 2012 in the amount of \$ 802,448.99 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated February 23, 2012, consisting of 16 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE MINUTES -
REGULAR MTG. 1/26/12

APPROVE INVOICE
LISTING - 2/23/12

PROVE PAYROLL
SUMMARIES 2/3/12, 2/17/12

Education Fund	\$680,863.28
Tort Liability Fund	231,706.69
Building and Maintenance Fun	129,629.44
Transportation Fund	199,544.08
Total	\$1,101,087.50

Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Gray Everett.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the Board amended central office administrative contracts effective January 26, 2012 and a resolution approving such contracts. Roll call vote: Aye: **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE AMENDED
CENTRAL OFFICE
ADMINISTRATIVE
CONTRACTS

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to reschedule the March 21, 2012 Board meeting to March 29, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

RESCHEDULE MARCH 21,
2012 BOARD MEETING TO
MARCH 29, 2012

Meeting open to the public.

Mrs. Crayton thanked the Board for a job well done. In addition, she asked the Board what time does the monthly School Board Meeting began 7:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Riley Rogers, Trustee from the Village of Dolton introduce himself to the Board and stated that he look forward in working with the district.

The Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

Dirksen

Dr. Young stated Dirksen Middle School student attendance totals are currently at 895 students. An expression of thanks is rendered to the Dirksen Rising Star (SoSS) School Leadership Team for their continuous development of the Comprehensive Improvement Plan. Everyone is committed to ensuring that the selected Smart Plan and Smart Start goals are implemented effectively; can continue our mission concerning increasing student learning, making AYP, and growing in the direction of exemplar middle-level education. This school year marks the debut of a robotics program at Dirksen Middle School. We're extremely honored and excited to introduce the Dirksen Middle School, Robo-genics Botball Team, under the sponsorship of Mr. Mark Gardner, 7 East Pre-Algebra Instructor. Dirksen Middle School has been awarded a Botball Grant in the amount of \$2300 via the generosity of the Northrop Grumman Foundation (A Partner of the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics). The award covers 2012 registration fees and is presented in the form of a fee waiver. Our Super Senators Robo-genics Botball Team is composed of 7th and 8th grade honors students. These students will have the opportunity to attend the Greater Chicago Botball Regional Workshops that will be held on February 25th & 26th at the Daley Elementary Academy in Chicago, IL. Kudos to Coach Gardner and our pioneering Robo-genics Botball Team! Failure IS NOT an Option!!

Caroline Sibley

Ms. Herndon stated February has been a productive month for the 797 students at Caroline Sibley School. The school improvement leadership team recently met with the School wide System of Support coaches from ISC-4 and members of The Rising Star Team. At this meeting, strategies and techniques to ensure improvement in all areas of the school were discussed. Timelines were put into place to better help put the plan into action. We also analyzed the data obtained from the reading Benchmark test. When comparing the fall data and the winter data we concluded that students are making notable progress and gains in all areas. We are excited to have this data available to analyze at the building level. Our students who participate in the Read 180 Program are also showing exciting gains. We would like to highlight our fourth grade students who participate in the program. They have made significant gains as measured by the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI). When the SRI was administered in September the Lexile scores of the 9 students who are participating were all below 600. Based on the specifications of the program the students should reach a Lexile score between 600 and 900 by the end of 4th grade. The second time the SRI was administered in January the Lexile scores of 5 of the 9 students increased to over 600. The program also expects the students overall Lexile score to show gains of 100 to 125 points. Of the 9 students that participate in the program, 6 of them have already attained that goal. We are anticipating equally as exciting news when they take their final assessment in May.

Diekman

Mrs. Davis stated the current enrollment for Diekman School is 340 students. Student achievement continues to be our quest. Teachers are attending professional development workshops to learn and implement "Best Practices". The Pre-K teachers are collaborating to create a more focused plan of implementing student portfolios. The Kindergarten team contributes the success of their student decoding skills to implementing the Micheal Haggerty Program. Keep up the good work Kdg. Teachers! The first and second grade teachers have created learning stations that students utilize weekly. Dibels assessment results have shown great gains in grade two. The team continues to utilize and implement increased visual aides, graphic organizers, higher order thinking strategies during instruction. The Intermediate team, 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades, have been diligently preparing students for the coming ISAT test. Students are learning test taking skills and strategies. Teachers are also administering ISAT sample test. We are looking forward to making great gains. This month brought celebrations of our rich cultural heritage. Daily trivia questions are made to primary and intermediate students. These questions have created rich conversations among the students and their teachers. Thank you to Mrs. Brown and Ms. Robinson for spear heading this activity for the past month! On February 9th students participated in a special Black History Celebration, courtesy of our partnership with the Black McDonalds Owners & Operators Association. We were welcomed by one of the 1st female Black owners, a motivational speaker, followed by a contest, great music and dancing. We all had a great time! Students left with words of encouragement and advice to follow their dreams.

New Beginnings Learning Academy

Mrs. Franklin stated the current enrollment at New Beginnings Learning Academy is 434 students. In further preparing our students for the math component of ISAT, our 4th – 6th grade teachers have been working with our students utilizing their overhead calculators as students work at their seats with their own calculators. This will help our students to work faster, have more accurate computation and the ability to focus on the concepts. Our classrooms are well prepared to provide our students with resources that will help them perform well on the ISAT tests. We are excited about the upcoming tests and are confident that our students will do well! In keeping a focus on our School Improvement Plan, we are trying to increase our parent involvement by keeping our parents abreast more frequently of school events. Therefore, each month, each grade level team produces a newsletter for parents that highlights curriculum and learning, as well as upcoming events. Our special area teachers also produce a newsletter that showcases their activities in class and student work. In recognition of African-American History month, our students have been participating in our "morning trivia" regarding famous African-Americans and their accomplishments. Furthermore, students have completed a variety of projects to promote awareness and increase knowledge about our history and heritage. A special thank you to Ms. Amber Hatchett for guiding her students in their participation in the African American History Program.

Carol Moseley Braun

Mrs. Hayes stated the current student count at CMB is 301. February has been a wonderful month for CMB. I am happy to announce that we wrote for and was awarded a grant for \$20,800 from ISC4, which is South Cook Intermediate Service Center. This grant will allow us to improve educational opportunities for our students. Some of the activities this grant will allow us to do will be to coordinate our data and student assessment with curriculum, instruction, and learning. This grant will also afford us the opportunity to train our teachers in effective ways of collecting and analyzing data to guide instruction. And lastly, we will examine how instructional strategies used in the classroom align with known best practices and research findings, explore the extent of alignment between what is being taught and what is required by state standards, and develop actionable goals to improve student performance based on the analysis of student achievement. To sum it all up, with the activities this grant affords us to do, we hope to get a deeper understanding of our school and the necessary steps to improve student learning. In closing, we would like to thank the district for investing in the "MyOn" Reader program, which is a new digital library with hundreds of digital books for our students to read. On February 16th we had an assembly to introduce the students to the reading program. The best part about this program is students and parents can access these digital books for individual reading, homework, research, or just plain fun! The students and parents are very excited about this new free digital reading program. Thank you!!!

Berger-Vandenberg

Mrs. Winters stated Berger's current enrollment is 351 students. Berger Vandenberg staff is working vigorously on preparing students for the ISAT. During grade level articulation meetings the focus has been on extended response and testing stamina, so that students will feel prepared on the day of the test. In addition, teachers have analyzed and interpreted the data from the Benchmark Assessment test that was given at the beginning, mid year. I am proud to announce that the data shows a noteworthy increase in the academic performance of Berger's students. Teachers are continuing their efforts in making a difference for the students of Berger Vandenberg School. B-V was happy to send 25 students to the Oberweis Dairy Factory in North Aurora on Monday, February 6th as a reward for their academic achievements during the 2nd quarter. On the field trip, the students watched a movie about the dairy process, learned how Oberweis makes their milk and ice cream and got to view the workers in the factory as they made the dairy products. Students also got the chance to visit the Oberweis store where they each were given a scoop of vanilla ice cream. The field trip was a great success, and our students are already working on their grades so that they might be able to go on the next Academic Reward Trip for 3rd quarter. On February 16th, we celebrated African Americans who made significant contributions to the music, education and the fight for civil rights. The teachers and students did a phenomenal job performing. Thanks to Ms. Washington and Ms. Jackson

Central Office

Twyla Harris, Associate Superintendent stated the district conducted an ISAT parent workshop on Thursday, February 9, 2012 to offer parents practical strategies to assist their students as they prepare for the upcoming ISAT exam. Two weeks ago we conducted a district-wide meeting for a district-wide reading program called MyOn. The reading program is an electronic reading program that gives students access to electronic books. The teachers will be able to assess the needs, monitor progress and remediate according to the needs of the students. On Monday, February 27th the Network room will conduct a workshop for the district on Bullying. The purpose is to equip our teachers with warning signs of bullying and practical strategies on addressing bullying situations. Our intentions are to equip parents and students with current and relevant information. We shall continually speak that "Failure is not an Option".

Dr. Warner, Assistant Superintendent stated a meeting was held on Wednesday February 1, 2012 with Rhonda Clark, Principal Early Childhood Consultant with the ISBE to discuss the status of our Early Childhood Gender Based Program. There had been some concerns expressed by the ISBE regarding the District's ability to meet the needs of pre-school students with homogeneous gender based grouping. As a result of the meeting it was decided that the District would provide for some integrated instruction and play based activities for these students and two integrated Pre-Kindergarten field trips this school year to ensure a smooth transition into the next year for these students. In addition, it was agreed that we would return to utilizing best practices and heterogeneous student grouping next year as mandated in the grant agreement. Our annual Health/Life Safety compliance visits were conducted yesterday and today by members of the ISC4 compliance team. This was a very comprehensive inspection of all school facilities. During our preliminary exit interview today, it was indicated that all of our school facilities were in good condition and were basically meeting code mandates and general building requirements. A formal report will be forwarded to the District which will be shared with the Board next month. I would like to thank all Building Principals, members of the District maintenance and custodial team for their support and all of their efforts in making this a successful compliance visit.

Dr. Scott, Director of Student Learning & Programs stated beginning February 8, 2012, the curriculum writing task force began creating the second quarter reading and math assessments with a completion date of April 1, 2012. Third and fourth quarter assessments will be completed by June 15, 2012. The goal of these quarterly assessments is to drive instruction and to evaluate the current curriculum. We will begin implementation of the assessments in the fall. Our next regular scheduled curriculum planning council meeting is Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 3:30 pm. We will be reviewing the second quarter curriculum feedback results, the assessment writing process and conduct long term planning. On February 15, 2012 the primary and upper elementary grade teachers participated in Reading Academy. The focus for all participating teachers grades was on comprehension; constructing meaning from text and as it relates to the common core standards.

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve a leave of Absence Request with compensation for Stephanie Wasserman, teacher effective April 16, 2012 with an anticipated return date of April 16, 2012 for maternity. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE LEAVE OF
ABSENCE FOR
STEPHANIE
WASSERMAN

Motion by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve a leave of absence Request with compensation for Rodeanna Scrugs, teacher effective March 12, 2012 with an anticipated return date of April 16, 2012 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE LEAVE OF
ABSENCE FOR
RODEANNA
SCRUGGS

Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve Pat Crean for the Supervisor of Buildings position effective February 21, 2012. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE PAT
CREAN FOR THE
SUPERVISOR OF
BUILDINGS POSITION

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the tentative amended budget for 2011-2012 school year and authorize Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent and CFO to post for 30 days. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE
TENTATIVE 2011-2012
AMENDED BUDGET

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent and CFO to set a budget hearing date for March 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE BUDGET
HEARING DATE FOR
MARCH 29, 2012

Motion by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent and CFO to apply for E-rate funding for FY13. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE APPLYING
FOR E-rate FUNDING
FOR FY13

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to authorize Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent and CFO to renew with Klein, Hall & Associates, LLC for auditing purposes. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE
RENEWAL WITH
KLEIN, HALL &
ASSOCIATES, LLC

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to authorize Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent and CFO to renew with Donlan & Associates, Inc. for the purpose of auditing post retirement medical valuation to remain GASB compliant. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE
RENEWAL WITH
DONLAN &
ASSOCIATES, INC

Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded Mr. Castillo to approve the Resolution of Honorable Dismissals of Non-Renewal of First, Second, Third, and Fourth Year Probationary Teachers. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE
RESOLUTION OF
HONORABLE
DISMISSALS OF NON-
RENEWAL
PROBATIONARY
TEACHERS YEARS 1-
4

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to authorize Dr. Ray Warner, Assistant Superintendent to apply for RFP Birth-3 program application for the 2012-2013 school year. Roll call vote: Aye:

AUTHORIZR DR.
WARNER TO APPLY
FOR RFP BIRTH-3
APPLICATION

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo that the Board of Education meet into executive session at 9:22 P.M. to consider student disciplinary matters, the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Gray Everett. **MOTION CARRIED**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo that the Board of Education return to regular session at 11:12 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Gray Everett. **MOTION CARRIED**

REGULAR SESSION

Correspondence. Mrs. Jamie Hayes, Principal of Carol Moseley Braun sent a thank you card thanking the board members for the lovely bouquet of flowers and roses.

Ms. Jan Billingsley, Administrative Assistant at Dirksen Middle School sent the Board a card of thanks and appreciation for the work they have done.

Bulletin Reports. None

New Business.

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, second by Mr. Castillo to extend 6th grade classrooms at Diekman and Carol Moseley Braun for the 2012-2013 school year. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

EXTEND 6TH GRADE
CLASSROOMS AT
DIEKMAN & CAROL
MOSELEY BRAUN FOR
THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL
YEAR

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, second by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee for alternative placement for student number 149-1112-020 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE
RECOMMENDATION FOR
ALTERNATIVE
PLACEMENT FOR
STUDENT #149-1112-020

Motion by Mr. Castillo, second by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee and allow the ten day suspension stand as time served for student number 149-1112-021 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE
RECOMMENDATION AS
TIME SERVED FOR
STUDENT #149-1112-021

Old Business.

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to deny the leave request for the 2011-2012 school year for employee number 149-1112-002. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

DENY THE LEAVE
REQUEST FOR THE 2011-
2012 SCHOOL YEAR FOR
EMPLOYEE #149-1112-002
FOR THE

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the salary adjustment for employee #149-1112-003. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE SALARY
ADJUSTMENT FOR
EMPLOYEE # 149-1112-003

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the salary adjustment for employee #149-1112-004. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE SALARY
ADJUSTMENT FOR
EMPLOYEE # 149-1112-004

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to adjourn at 11:16 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT

Darlene Gray Everett, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary