

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
JANUARY 31, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 7:43 P.M. by Mrs. Gray Everett, Board President, in the Board Room of the Administrative Center at 292 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

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

**Board President's Agenda**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the consent grouping of routine items including the minutes from the Regular Meeting and executive session held on December 20, 2012; payroll summaries for December 21, 2012 in the amount of \$864,773.69, January 4, 2013 in the amount of \$863,318.49, and January 18, 2013 in the amount of \$831,099.19 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay the invoices dated January 24, 2013, consisting of 17 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

Education Fund	\$917,756.13
Tort Liability Fund	117,174.51
Building and Maintenance Fund	174,361.12
Transportation Fund	198,612.29
Health & Dental	34,648.56
Total	\$1,442,552.61

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to ratify authorization to post and fill the position for the Director of Grants for the 2013-2013 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Mrs. Jolly to approve the proposal for hiring Dr. Michael Klonsky as a consultant on school restructuring for Caroline Sibley effective January 29, 2013 through January 29, 2014. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, second by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to appoint delegates of its School Board to attend the Illinois Association of School Boards Legislative Update Breakfast on Saturday, February 2, 2013. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Meeting Open to the Public.**

Rodney Jackson, Vincent Washington, and Matthew Waits amazing artist and students' of the School of Fine arts presented the board of education with a proposal to paint their school logo in the entry way of their building which included estimates and price quotes from two different sources.

**Special Committee Reports.** None

**Superintendent's Agenda.**

The Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

**School of Fine Arts**

Ms. Slate stated as we moved into the New Year, Safety first was definitely a factor! Our parents and students were pleased to know that the Board of Education and the Superintendent made every effort possible for our students and staff to have a safe environment with the Metal Detectors located at the entrances of the Middle School building. Thanks to the officers that are placed at the front entrance of the building (Officer Mintz, Officer Kellum, Officer Al, Officer Thompson, Corporal Burrows, and Lieutenant Smith) for their diligence and persistence in receiving our children daily! This quarter, the School of Fine Arts theme is "Dance Explosion!" The students will learn the history, choreography and styles of dance. In the end, the students will choreograph different styles of dance and present the Explosion of Dance! ISAT is vastly approaching, therefore I am consulting with the principal coach,

Dr. Cavey to ensure that our teachers are preparing our students for the academic growth. ISAT Instructional Preparation packets have been distributed to all of our teachers to use as a supplement in the classroom. We are working hard to achieve student growth in a safe school community. The School Of Fine Arts students are working towards improving academic skills on the ISAT exams. The goal is to have 100% of our students work on Study Island and Kid's College to enhance these skills. A step towards Academic Success! January 18<sup>th</sup> was Parent-Teacher-Conferences. We had over 50% of our parents to come out during daytime schedule to pick-up report cards. The turnout at School Of Fine was nice. Thanks for the continued support! Our students are getting geared up for eighth grade graduation! Today, the students took their graduation pictures where they were dressed appropriately with the mindset of success! We are continuing to empower our students in a positive direction by "Encouraging them to Move Forward!" We Believe... that our school will provide students with the experiences and skills to help them reach their full potential academically and socially while instilling Excellence, Humanization, and Pride!

### **Creative Communications Academy**

Mr. Scott stated Our Theme for this month is etiquette. Students will focus on how a young man and woman conduct themselves in public; how to write and respond to R.S.V.P.'s; How to fill out applications and dress for interviews; Public service announcement and advertisements. January 18<sup>th</sup> was Parent Teacher Conference. We had a great turnout for the event. Many parents voiced their approval of the metal detectors at the entrance of CCA. Many were impressed with quickness of the procedure and the courteousness and precision of our officers at the door. Officers Powell, Marshall, and Brown received plenty of praise for their duties. January 23<sup>rd</sup> was Picture Day for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates. All of the students were dressed very well and professional. It was a blessing to see so many students excited about graduation. Today I attended VAL Ed Principal Training at GSU and was given valuable information for my own growth as a Principal. I was exposed to valuable data to share with my staff and had a great opportunity to network with other Principal for advice and support. The Algebra Placement test will be taking place next week. We are sending a parent letter home at the beginning of next week to encourage the use of Study Island and Kids College as we begin to intensify our efforts for ISAT.

### **Science Technology Engineering Math Academy**

Mr. Johnson stated we are pleased to announce that our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Parent Teacher Conferences were well received by the community. We had an excellent turnout. Our parents continue to express how pleased they are with the changes at the middle school. The parents and students really appreciate the student blazers and the new metal detectors at the entrance. Again I would like to take this time to thank Dr. Scott, Jamar Everett and, the school district 149 technical team; for helping our teacher's complete the Social Studies I-pad training. For the first time ever at the middle school we plan to issue the Constitution Test electronically. We believe that this initiative will save our school over 5,000 sheets of paper. Tomorrow January 25, 2013 is Picture Day for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Please come by and visit and see how lovely and professional our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students can look. Our middle school boy's basketball team now has a record of 12-6. Today we were blessed to have Mr. Omar Yamini who spoke to the middle school about "The Proper Perception". The assembly was well received by the students and staff. Mr. Yamini was very dynamic and articulate in his presentation. We're looking forward to a very positive and productive school year!

### **New Beginnings Learning Academy**

Mrs. Franklin stated New Beginnings Learning Academy students began their new year with a review of school rules and PBIS building wide expectations at our quarterly Discipline Assembly that was held on January 7<sup>th</sup>. According to our SWIS data, student behavior has been improving overall. During January, the majority of our staff will have completed two workshops with Jill Liapis from ISC-4 on how to provide differentiated instruction and promote engaged student learning through the use of literacy centers. Ms. Liapis's guidance has been beneficial in guiding our staff towards a clear and common focus on improving reading throughout our building. Teachers are greatly enjoying working collaboratively and gaining new resources that will be valuable in this effort. Our staff will also provide awards and medals to all of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Academy Achievers at tomorrow's student recognition assemblies. Over 215 students will be recognized for academic excellence and/or perfect attendance! We are proud of our students for their strong efforts in making academic progress and taking school seriously by attending daily. We look forward to recognizing even more students next quarter. On Friday, our entire student body will have the opportunity to attend an in house field trip with the Dome Theater. This adventure will allow students the chance to participate by grade level in educational experiences such as "Secrets of the Cardboard Rocket", "Dinosaur Prophecy", "Passport to the Universe" and "Microcasm". Our students are excited and looking forward to this awesome activity! We wish to extend an invitation to all to attend and view it for yourself!

### **Carol Moseley Braun**

Mrs. Hayes stated that her **first grade** classrooms had a great week! Our science theme for the week of January 7<sup>th</sup> was “matter”. The children began the lessons by exploring and sorting various objects that were considered solids, liquids, or gases. They observed an interactive program on the Smart Board that directed them to move a thermometer up or down as they watched a pot of water either boil or freeze. They continued during the week with several activities that encouraged them to expand their thinking. The children truly enjoyed all of the activities especially the final culminating activity in which they were put into teams and worked together to make vanilla ice cream. Each team mixed ingredients, which exposed them to “measurement”. Words can’t express the level of excitement the students demonstrated when they experienced seeing a liquid transform to a solid which ultimately they were able to eat. The CMB first grade teachers would like to thank the School Board, Superintendent, Davis-Jones and Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Geddis for the Smart Boards which were instrumental in teaching the children this science lesson on “matter”. I am also pleased to report that with the funding from one of our grants, and the approval from Dr. Geddis, to purchase a site-license, we have now implemented a wonderful math program in our school. The program is called IXL Learning. It is a computer based program that tackles the challenge of math instruction ranging from word problems to interactive graphing questions. It really cultivates our students’ enthusiasm for learning math. It’s a program that allows students to master each math topic at their own pace. It also provides interventions and is aligned with the Common Core Standards. We are very excited about this innovative math program and our students are really embracing the fact that math can be fun.

### **Berger-Vandenberg**

Mrs. Winter’s stated keeping in line with continuous school improvement; Rising Star has been instrumental in imploding change. Berger’s School Leadership Team met to discuss how we plan to bridge the gaps of our Curriculum Guides. We are looking to develop tasks that will throttle us in providing our teachers with an organizational structure for lesson planning to guide differentiated instruction for all students. This week during Grade level Articulation Meetings the intermediate teachers and I spent a significant amount of time discussing data (Assessment Framework data) as it relates to Item Analysis Trends. We were able to plan and streamline academic strands for the upcoming ISAT test. Teachers are developing a six week plan to address student’s weaknesses. Over the last month or so Berger teachers created a writing plan for their grade level. Second grade students received a Persuasive writing prompt in which they were instructed to write a letter to their principal explaining why they think their favorite sport should be played in gym class. I received several well written letters requesting for soccer, cheerleading, football and basketball. So needless to say, I am going to work on how I can incorporate those sports into physical education.

### **District Office**

Dr. Scott stated for grades seven and eight, the use of IPADS to teach Social Studies is fully operational. Students are actively engaged in using the various functions of this tool to achieve academic standards. This is definitely a tool that serves students well. It decreases frustrations such as computer problems and lost assignments. In addition, students can access the textbook at home using a computer. This year Reading Academy is focused on Interdisciplinary Teaching. Dr. Kathleen Doyle from ISC4 is providing the training to all literacy and social studies teachers during the school day. The last session will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>. We are in the first year of quarterly assessment implementation for grades K-8 in reading and math. The first administration of the assessment occurred during the week of October 22nd and the second administration the week of January 8th. So far, results show that we still have work to do. I would like to give a special thanks to the Curriculum Writing Task Force for creating the assessments and continuously refining them for improvement.

Ms. Herndon, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Director, stated that our students and teachers have been utilizing our 3 web based instructional programs on a consistent basis. In *Kid’s College* our students have answered a total of 1,143,313 questions. They have worked a total of 541,824 minutes in school and 138,032 minutes after school hours. According to the latest Kid’s College report, our students are performing well in math in the following areas: Number Concepts and Relationships, Operations with Whole Numbers, Patterns and Measurement. In reading our students are performing well on Word Skills, Language Mechanics, Spelling, and Grammar. In *myON Reader* the students have read a total of 4,884 books this school year. The students have spent approximately 1000 hours on *Study Island* as well.

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve a Leave of Absence Request with compensation for Cheryl Potts, teacher effective January 10, 2013 with an anticipated return date of February 1, 2013 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR CHERYL POTTS

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the intent to retire for the following teachers: Patti Dexter – 2016-2017 and LaTanya Lewis – 2016-2017. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE INTENT TO RETIRE FOR PATTI DEXTER & LATANYS LEWIS 2016-2017

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve extra-curricular programs for all schools effective March – June, 2013. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMS FOR ALL SCHOOLS

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve approving Dr. Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent & Chief Financial Officer to establish the travel reimbursement rates for FY 13 based upon the recommendations of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services. Roll call vote: Aye Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR FY 13

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the district's 2013-2014 early registration drive effective Wednesday, May 1, 2013 through Friday, May 31, 2013. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE 2013-2014 EARLY REGISTRATION DRIVE

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons that the Board of Education meet in executive session for the purpose to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to resume regular session at 9:18 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

REGULAR SESSION

**Correspondence.** None

**Bulletin Reports.** None

**New Business.**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded Mrs. Jolly to recommend the School of Fine Arts proposal to paint the school logo for the 2012-2013 school year and to direct Dr. Geddis, Deputy superintendent & CFO to work with Vincent Washington to see the proposal through. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

RECOMMEND THE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS PROPOSAL

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the bio diversity grant for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade student scheduled March 30, 2013 in Springfield for New Beginnings Learning Academy. Roll call vote: Aye: Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE BIO DIVERSITY GRANT

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to recommend Dr. Geddis, Deputy Superintendent & CFO to pay the invoice to Sherwin-Williams in the amount of \$8,174.52 and \$6,294.79. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

RECOMMEND PAYMENT  
OF INVOICES FOR  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to appoint delegates under the Stevens Amendment Act for the board to go to San Diego for professional development. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPOINT DELEGATES  
OF THE BOARD TO SAN  
DEIGO FOR  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to recommend Dr. Alicia Geddis to pay membership for the Junior High School for the athletic and non-athletic conferences for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$1,300.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

RECOMMEND PAYMENT  
OF MEMBERSHIP FOR  
THE JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to appoint the board's professional development scheduled for the month of February, 2013. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPOINT THE BOARD'S  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
SCHEDULE FEBRUARY,  
2013

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee and allow the ten day suspension stand as timed served for student number 149-1213-016 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR STUDENT 149-1112-  
016

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee and allow the ten day suspension stand as timed served for student number 149-1112-015 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR STUDENT 149-1213-  
015

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the recommendations of the Student Disciplinary Committee and allow the ten day suspension stand as timed served for student number 149-1214-005B with further criteria requirements as discussed in executive session. In addition, student 149-1213-005B has loss all the 8<sup>th</sup> grade privileges with the exception of graduation. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR STUDENT 149-1213-  
005B

Old Business.

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to ratify the professional development under the Stevens Amendment Act for professional development to Springfield for Davis-Jones, Superintendent, Darlene Gray Everett, Board President, Deputy Superintendent & CFO, Dr. Alicia Geddis, and Associate Superintendent Twyla Harris January 9-11, 2013 in Springfield IL. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

RATIFY PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT TO  
SPRINGFIELD FOR  
DAVIS-JONES, GRAY  
EVERETT, GEDDIS, AND  
HARRIS

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to ratify changing the name of the bank from Bank Financial to MB Financial for 2012-2013 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

RATIFY CHANGING OF  
THE NAME OF THE  
BANK

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to ratify Dr. Alicia Geddis Deputy Superintendent & CFO to pay The Proper Perception Presentation held at the Middle School on January 31, 2013. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

RATIFY TO PAY THE  
PROPER PERCEPTION  
PRESENTATION

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to ratify the approval of professional development under the Stevens Amendment Act for professional development for certified staff to Florida, Texas, and San Diego. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

RATIFY PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FOR  
CERTIFIED STAFF

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to adjourn at 9:13 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT

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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary