

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
 NOVEMBER 13, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 7:49 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**

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by

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

ROLL CALL

**Board President’s Agenda**

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the consent grouping and routine items including the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held October 23, 2014, payroll summaries for October 24, 2014 in the amount of \$830,519.85, and November 7, 2014 in the amount of \$826,358.45, and authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoice dated November 13, 2014 consisting of 20 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE INVOICE LISTING – 11/13/14

Education Fund	\$908,549.01
Tort Liability Fund	350.00
Building and Maintenance Fund	527,901.70
Transportation Fund	278,206.35
Total	\$1,715,007.06

APPROVE PAYROLL SUMMARY – 10/24/14 & 11/7/14

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

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF HEALTHY SNACKS

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to authorize Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Superintendent to purchase healthy snacks for the girls and boys basketball team for the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH LIFE LOCK FOR 2014-2015

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to authorize Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Superintendent enter into an agreement with Life Lock for the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE RESIDENT TRUANT SAFETY OFFICER CONTRACT

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve the Resident Truant Safety Officer contract for Mr. Rodney Cager for the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE TENTATIVE TAX LEVY FOR FY 2014

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to authorize the approval of the Tentative Tax Levy for FY 2014. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight to authorize Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Superintendent to enter into a contract agreement with American Rising Stars, Inc. for the purpose of RtI extended day services district-wide for the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE  
CONTRACT  
AGREEMENT WITH  
RISING STARS, INC.  
FOR 2014-2015

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to authorize Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Superintendent to approve the addendum contract with Diversified Therapeutics for an afterschool intervention case manager administrator for 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Knight. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE  
ADDENDUM  
CONTRACT WITH  
DIVERSIFIED  
THERAPEUTICS FOR  
2014-2015

### **Meeting Open to the Public.**

**Special Committee Reports.** None

The Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

### **Berger Vandenberg**

Mrs. Hilton stated On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mrs. Bekas coordinated a project called “Pinwheels for Peace.” In this project, we partnered with people all across the world creating pinwheels of all shapes and sizes, decorated with drawings, paintings, collages, and photographs. We placed them in our school yard to promote and make a visual public statement about PEACE in our school and in our neighborhoods! October marks our National Bullying Prevention Month. To support this movement, BV invited the Imagination Theater out to our school to present and help our students “Ease the Tease: Say No to Bullying.” Students were challenged to take a stand when they see or experience “unfriendly teasing.” Our objective was to boost students’ confidence and boldness when faced with tough situations, and help them to put an end to bullying behaviors. Students were really engaged, and the show was a success. We are moving into another phase of learning in the coming months in which we will be looking at student work. As we engage with our district’s 6 Traits of Writing Program, BV will be looking at the writing samples of our students each month. The goal from these conversations will be to (1) see what students know and are able to do as a result of our instruction (2) provide structure and focus for articulation meetings (3) help us grow in our instruction and assessment practices. Staff members at BV will be participating in a staff Fall Retreat on November 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Lodge at McDonald’s Campus in Oakbrook, IL. During our time together, we will be focusing on team building and Mathematics Instruction using the CCSS. BV is interested in providing a school based Parent meetings. We will cover topics such as: Preparing my Child for the CCSS, What Does the Data Really Tell Us, Promoting Healthy Habits for My Family, and many more. I am committed to partnering with families to engage them in what is happening in our school as well as to provide workshops that are targeted to meeting their needs.

### **Caroline Sibley**

Mrs. Franklin stated during this month our teachers and administrators have convened with each grade level separately to review and discuss student data trends. In the primary grades, the Fall Dibels assessments have been completed and the biggest deficit areas are phonological awareness, comprehension and oral fluency, along with letter and sound recognition. We are continuing to encourage our students to work on Stride Academy both during and outside of the regular school day. Currently, Expressions and Equations, Counting and Cardinality, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Number and Operations in Base Ten and Measurement and Data are the areas in Mathematics that our students are showing the most growth. In Reading, the data indicates that improvement in the areas of Key Ideas and Details, Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, and Integration of Knowledge and Ideas is occurring. To promote October as Bullying Awareness Month, our students are participating in activities that help our students better understand how to deter bullying. These activities include a “Team Bully Free Program” assembly for all grade levels, social workers visiting classrooms to develop and maintain peer relationships, an anti-bullying art competition, an “Act of Kindness Day” and the release of 100 balloons to release bullying from our school. Our vision is to help our students to understand what bullying is and to teach them alternate ways to express themselves without harming others. Special thanks to Ms. Homere (school nurse) for making sure that we

were in compliance on Exclusion Day. I would also like to thank both Ms. Howard and Mr. Johnson for the dynamite job that have done this school year with building positive relationships with our staff, parents and students and their hard work in guiding meaningful discussions on data.

### **Carol Moseley Braun**

Mrs. Hayes stated we are excited to report one of our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, Emmuel Iyodo, was recognized by the Calumet City Public Library for reading 25 books during the library's 2014 summer reading program PAWS to READ. Also one of our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, Kayla Edwards, was featured in the Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, Post Tribune Newspaper as a budding artist in the "2014 Art Festival" in Hammond, Indiana. In keeping with Excellence, Pride, and Humanization, Carol Moseley Braun students have enrolled in Congresswoman Robin Kelly's "Robin's Readers" reading initiative. Robin Readers is a new reading challenge for students to read at least 10m books during a seven week timeframe. We are excited to have students participate in this and will keep you abreast of the results. Upon receiving our TERRA NOVA data this week, we began to identify students according to their strengths and weaknesses. Terra Nova results have provided our teachers with a baseline of student's abilities in math and reading. Our School Leadership team has begun the process of comparing current District Curriculum Assessment results with current Terra Nova results. This comparison will further help teachers to prepare and align their lessons to overcome the academic challenges of our students. Administration will guide teachers in weekly focused collaborative meetings that aim to improve student's scores. We understand that the analysis of our data is vital to improving our teaching instruction, which will improve our scores. Teachers will use group learning, centers, and student engagement in their classrooms to enrich all students, so that all students show growth. With our focus on improved instruction, teachers have shown their commitment to improving learning through their lesson planning and articulation meetings within their grade level. Our teachers are using the lesson plan as a map to improve teaching by showing how their lessons are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and what strategies will be used. With continued progress monitoring, we will be able to use the data to adjust instruction. We have successfully completed our SAFE HAVEN DRILLS, BUS EVUATION DRILLS, and FIRE DRILLS. Our staff is looking forward to our retreat November 7, 2014. Our theme is "CMB is fighting for education".

### **S.T.E.M. Academy**

Mr. Steele stated October has been full of excitement and opportunities for staff and students at S.T.E.M Academy. Students participated in our school wide bullying assembly on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Our counselor and social workers prepared an informative assembly in relationship to bullying and the impact it has on our schools. Students also participated in a school wide anti-bullying poster contest. Ms. Gentles, S.T.E.M science teacher, has begun her partnership with the Museum of Science and Industry, a program entitled "Our Place in Space Teacher Education Course". She will be attending six workshops with the M.S.I.'s senior educators and presenters. She will learn about how to prepare and facilitate inquiry/hands-on science lessons for the students in her classroom. She will also be responsible for demonstrating evidenced-based lessons for the students. I had the opportunity to attend the first annual Ten-80 STEM Fest hosted by the National STEM League on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. This was a dynamic program that spotlighted different components of a quality STEM program. Events included a fabrication/innovation fair, racing/energy challenges, and a 3-D CAD Demo. I was able to network with various groups, presenters, and vendors in regards to STEM programs and partnerships. The girl's basketball teams for both grade levels have gotten off to a great start. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team has a record of 8-0 and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team has a record of 7-1. They will be competing this weekend in a tournament at Seton Academy. We also celebrated several students for Student of the Month for the month of October. Those students are 8<sup>th</sup> graders Nicholas Rucker and Jalene Wade, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders Xavier Neal, Kristina Wilson, and Aaliyah Bess. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at S.T.E.M Academy made presentations as part of our ongoing project based courtyard project on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students presented to their peers a scale model of what they would like to see in the courtyard. Requirements included actual components for the courtyard, scale measurements, a physical layout and possible suggestions for an urban sculpture garden. Students did exceptionally well presenting in front of their peers and working in teams to share the information.

### **District Office**

Mrs. Harris stated I am pleased as I am sure that everyone is that we met our goal of 100% compliant for Health Exclusion. I commend every nurse, building administrator and parents for their effort to help achieve the district's goal. We will continue to work with the families as a resource to complete physicals and immunizations. We completed our first CPR/AED training on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. Our next mandated CPR/AED trainings will be held at Carol Moseley Braun and The Middle Schools on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The American Heart Association will facilitate the training. We are preparing for our first Parent University workshop of the year on Tuesday, October 29th facilitated by Alanna Mays from Pretty Brown Girl. We are looking forward to the information that

we will receive for the young ladies within the district. The message from Pretty Brown Girl is a message of empowerment and inspiration. I am continuing to interview to fill all vacancies within the district to meet the vision of the School Board. We are building on the 3 pillars of Dolton School District 149: Excellence, Humanization & Pride.

Mrs. Page stated we are staying abreast of current practices for educating students with special needs and the ELL population. Several staff members have participated in professional development activities in an effort to remain current with best practices and mandated state and federal policies. The teachers are using research-based practices and technology to improve instruction and meet the needs of our students. We are using assessments to measure the progress of our students and to drive instruction. The general education and special education teachers are working collaboratively to ensure that all students are learning and working towards meeting their full potential. It has been and still is an honor and pleasure to serve as the Director of Special Education Director in Dolton School District 149. Thank you for this opportunity. I am here to serve.

### **Superintendent's Agenda**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence Request for Willie Sutton, custodian effective November 6, 2014, with an anticipated return date of December 19, 2014 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE FMLA FOR WILLIE SUTTON

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence Request for Gwen Jones, teacher effective November 12, 2014, with an anticipated return date of January 5, 2015 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE FMLA FOR GWEN JONES

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve all administrators, certified teachers, and paraprofessionals district-wide to attend the Superintendent's Commission on Thursday, January 29, 2015 as our second required Institute Day for the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE SECOND REQUIRED INSTITUTE DAY

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani that the Board of Education meet in executive session at 8:51 P.M. to consider student disciplinary matters, the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and pending litigation. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, AND Mrs. Knight. **MOTION CARRIED**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to return to regular session at 9:16 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

REGULAR SESSION

**Correspondence.** None

**Bulletin Reports.** None

**New Business.**

**Motion** By Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to authorize payment for Stem Academy Retreat. Roll call vote: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve the Leadership Summit at the Tinley Park Convention Center on December 12- 13, 2014. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve the additional payment for SOFA'S retreat held on November 14, 2014. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve the additional payment for Caroline Sibley's retreat held on November 14, 2014. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Old Business.**

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, 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 149-1415-005 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Ms. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendation of the Student Disciplinary Committee to refer student 149-1415-006 to an alternative school for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, 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 149-1415-007 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Ms. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mr. Castillo to accept the recommendation of the Student Disciplinary Committee to refer student 149-1415-004 to an alternative school for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR STEM'S RETREAT

APPROVE THE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER ON DECEMBER 12, 13, 2014

APPROVE ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR SOFA'S RETREAT ON NOVEMBER 14, 2014

APPROVE ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR CAROLINE SIBLEY'S RETREAT ON NOVEMBER 14, 2014

ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT 149-1415-005

ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT 149-1415-006

ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT 149-1415-007

ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT 149-1415-004

ADJOURNMENT

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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary