

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
March 12, 2015

The Meeting was called to order at 7:31 P.M. by Mrs. Gray Everett, Board President, in the Board Room of the Administrative Center at 292 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois.

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

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

ROLL CALL

**Board President's Agenda**

Need a motion to approve and ratify the consent grouping and routine items including minutes from the Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session held Thursday, February 26, 2015; payroll summaries for February 27, 2015 in the amount of \$826,685.33 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated March 12, 2015, consisting of 22 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE MINUTES -REGULAR  
& EXEC. SESSION – 2/26/15

APPROVE INVOICE LISTING  
3/12/15

APPROVE PAYROLL  
SUMMARIES 2/27/15

Education Fund	\$912,171.21
Tort Liability Fund	8,254.07
Building and Maintenance Fund	183,728.56
Transportation Fund	248,890.51
Total	\$1,353,044.35

Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, and Ms. Ghani.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight to remove Dr. Alicia Geddis as an authorized signer from all the District's bank and financial accounts effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Castillo and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

REMOVE DR. ALICIA GEDDIS  
AS AN AUTHORIZED SIGNER  
FROM ALL THE DISTRICT'S  
BANK AND FINANCIAL  
ACCOUNTS

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Knight to remove Dr. Alicia Geddis as an authorized signer from the District's Flex Plan Account effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Eldridge and Ms. Ghani.

**MOTION CARRIED**

REMOVE DR. ALICIA GEDDIS  
AS AN AUTHORIZED SIGNER  
FROM THE DISTRICT'S FLEX  
PLAN ACCOUNT

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight to add Twyla Harris as an authorized signer for the District's Flex Plan Account effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Castillo and Ms. Ghani.

**MOTION CARRIED**

ADD TWYLA HARRIS AS AN  
AUTHORIZED SIGNER FOR  
THE DISTRICT'S FLEX PLAN  
ACCOUNT

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to remove Dr. Geddis as an authorized signer from all District accounts or programs effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Knight and Mr. Castillo.

**MOTION CARRIED**

REMOVE DR. GEDDIS AS AN  
AUTHORIZED SIGNER FROM  
ALL DISTRICT ACCOUNTS OR  
PROGRAMS

## Meeting open to the public

The Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

### Special Committee Reports. None

#### Diekman

Mrs. Davis stated PARCC is finally here! Students are arriving to school on time and ready for testing! Teachers are rewarding students with incentives and raffle prizes from the PBIS Bulldog Lounge. **Thank you!** School District 149 School Board for providing snacks during this testing period!! Thank you to Ms. Herndon, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Director, for providing excellent training sessions for teachers, support staff and administration. Kudos for giving above and beyond for ALL of us!! We appreciate you. February Classroom instructional walk-through data reveal students are actively engaged during instruction. Students are also conscious of the learning objectives/expectations. PBIS is being utilized throughout the building to encourage and motivate student learning. Diekman teachers have been utilizing Stride Academy to assess math and reading growth. Our January 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 11, 2015 statistics show 281 students are active, 31,454(50%) Questions Answered Correct, 35,863 Total Minutes Worked, and 32% After School Usage. We will continue to encourage students to utilize Stride Academy during after school hours. Our Terra Nova data reveal that from September 2014 to January 20, 2015 students in grades 2 thru 6 made gains in reading, math, and language arts. Although some gains were made, we continue to strive for academic excellence while meeting our student's educational needs. Our areas of focus continue to be in reading and mathematics. Our plan of action will include teachers attending school improvement professional development in the areas of Close Reading, Guided Reading, Differentiated Instruction, and Mathematics Instruction.

#### New Beginnings Learning Academy

Ms. Slate stated the students at New Beginnings Learning Academy have completed the District-wide Curriculum Assessments and the Terra Nova II exams. The teachers have been working to enhance their instruction and student's skills and abilities in the areas of reading and math. Our goal is to show growth in the Core Subject Areas and meet the requirements of the standards at a Meets and Exceeding Level which will move those students that are Below to Average, and Average to Above Average. It is our goal to show growth at a rate of 5% to 10% per assessment period. As a result of the Terra Nova II data from fall 2014 to spring 2015, the assessment data shows that we have attained growth in the areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics. The overall total score of the Assessment Summary Part II for each grade level shows the students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (8.9%), 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (5.4%), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (11.2%), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (4.8%), and 6<sup>th</sup> grade (3.9%) growth made. Overall there was more growth gained in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level of math and reading, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level in language arts. Hence, the teachers will be working together to identify the areas of strength and the areas of improvement in reading and mathematics. We, as a team understand that there is more work to be done and are willing to put forth the effort to see success! We are moving forward and off to a great start for the national assessments. During the month of March, our students are participating in the PARCC Assessments. We have had 98% attendance for the first week with our students (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders) and staff. The teachers and students have been working very hard to prepare for the assessments. As it has been explained by Ms. Herndon, this is a critical situation and we have to do our best! Thanks and more thanks to Ms. Herndon for all of her time, dedication, hard work, and meetings in helping us to prepare for the PARCC Assessments. We will continue to demonstrate a continued effort to grow academically.

#### Creative Communications Academy

Mr. Scott stated 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall – Spring Terra Nova scores have increased on all levels. Reading increased by 2% (38 to 40 percentile) Language Arts increased by 7% (37 to 44 percentile) Mathematics increased by 8% (25 to 33 percentile). CCA is at the 38 percentile of the Median Nat'l Percentile overall. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading is at 40% of the MNP; Language Arts at 46%. Our Math scores are our lowest subject at 33% MNP. We are continuing to implement strategies for further improvement. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall – Spring Terra Nova scores remained the same or increased on all levels. Reading remained the same at 51 percentile (no change) Language Arts increased by 1% (45 to 46percentile) Mathematics increased by 2% (38 to 40 percentile). CCA is 44 is at the percentile of the Median Nat'l Percentile overall. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade surpasses the Median National Percentile in Reading at 51% and we are close to the MNP in Language Arts at 46%. Our Math scores are our lowest subject at 40% MNP. Creative Communications Academy has made some small gains in every subject on the Terra Nova Assessment. The gains are modest and must be observed as just a beginning. Short Term over the next several weeks our goal as a staff is

to analyze data from this assessment. Identify strengths and weakness of individual students. (Reward student gains.), Identify our largest growth performance objectives per grade level (reading) (How can we improve even more?) Identify our largest area of concern overall on the performance objectives (math). (What's needed?) Analyze the integrity and rigor of class work and grades with the outcomes of the Terra Nova Assessments. Long Term our plan is to emphasize Algebra and Geometry for the coming year. Our goal is to plan for 3 hours of focused instruction on Algebra and Geometry through a partnership with District 205 and Dolton Middle School 149. As a Communication's school we must incorporate more writing across the curriculum. We must emphasize better rubrics for specific outcomes and guidance when it comes to narrative and informative writing. As for reading and analyzing of novels and essays, we will find better ways to improve student's interest and joy for reading.

### **Berger Vandenberg**

Mrs. Hylton stated this month our instructional focus has been on improving our instructional core through the use of purposeful differentiated instruction. Our professional development over the last month has been on this topic and we are strategically trying to improve student learning by changing our own practices. Teachers had an opportunity to experience hands on training on how to form instructional groups based on data, how to differentiate activities within instructional groups/centers, and how to ensure that all of their efforts tie into their instructional objective and learning goals. One of our goals for the year was to improve the number of students meeting and exceeding the standards in reading and mathematics by at least 10% by the end of the year, as reflected in our school's standardized test results. Based on what we've seen in our Terra Nova data from September until January we are well on our way. Overall, we are seeing the most growth in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with a gain of 17 points in reading and 10 points in mathematics. Mathematics continues to be an area of growth for us as we are still performing better in reading. Going forward, teachers will be meeting in grade level teams to further analyze their class data via a data analysis and item analysis tool that was provided to them in one of our meetings. The data analysis tool will allow teachers to examine the Common Core Objectives within the assessment and note areas of strength, areas of growth, root causes, and grade level and school trends. We began our PBA PARCC assessment this week and things have been running smoothly. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and diverse learners began testing this week. I especially want to thank Ms. Gabrielle Herndon for all of the training, the follow up emails and phone calls, and for all of the critical information that she provided for everyone in the district pertaining to testing. She has done an awesome job and should be commended. We're continuing to recognize our students of the month, teachers of the month, and reward students that exhibit positive school behaviors. Our next incentive for positive school behavior will be Friday, March 13, 2015. I am extremely grateful to the Board of Education for the hire of Ms. Veronica Washington, our new administrative assistant who started on Monday, March 9, 2015. This addition to the BV team was greatly needed and much appreciated.

### **Science, Technology, Math, and Engineering**

Mr. Steele stated the first week of PARCC testing at S.T.E.M Academy has gotten off to a great start. Students in grade 7 have completed the first 4 components of the PARCC online assessment and our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be starting on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The students and teachers have worked very hard to be as prepared as possible for the assessments. Student and staff attendance has been excellent and that is critical in regards to smooth implementation during the PBA testing window. Students at S.T.E.M Academy are excited to celebrate National "Pi" day on Saturday, March 14, 2015. All classroom teachers in grades 7 and 8 will be facilitating different activities and lessons related to this topic during the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>. Students will have a culminating activity on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate "Pi" Day as an entire school. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be competing against one another in a memorization contest of digits past 3.14. The top 3 winners will have a chance to throw a pie at some of their favorite staff members. Teachers will be spending time over the next several weeks analyzing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Terra Nova Assessment given to our students during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. Teachers will be working with the data to determine the following: 1) Identifying each student's strengths and areas that students will need to demonstrate improvement 2) Are there patterns of strengths or area for improvement across the classroom or groups of students? 3) Are there patterns of strengths or areas for improvement within content areas or across content areas/objectives? 4) How do each student's results from this assessment compare with his or her results from classroom work and tests? 5) What does each student's overall picture of academic achievement look like? An overall review of the global data from both Terra Nova assessments for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade reveals the following: 1) Student scores in reading above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile increased from 48% of the student body to 54%. 6% Growth, 2) Student scores in language above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile increased from 38% of the student body to 53%. 15% Growth, 3) Student scores in math above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile increased from 27% of the student body to 38%. 11% Growth, 4) the overall total score for the student body above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile

increased from 41% to 49%. 8% Growth. An overall review of the global data from both Terra Nova assessments for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade reveals the following: 1) Student scores in reading above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile increased from 49.1% of the student body to 50.4%. 1.3% Growth, 2) Student scores in language above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile increased from 40.3% of the student body to 49.5%. 9.2% Growth, 3) Student scores in mathematics above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile decreased from 36% of the student body to 35.1%. .9% Deficit 4) The overall total score for the student body above the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile increased from 43% of the student body to 49.5%. 6.5% Growth.

Dr. Alfred stated the month of March brings a variety of concepts for early learners to learn about. The letters of the month are “Q” and “R” and throughout the hallways items are displayed which begin with these letters such as paper quilts and robots made out of cereal boxes or milk cartons. Students are also learning about the seasonal change of Winter to Spring, such as the change of temperature, flowers blooming and days with more sunlight. All these concepts are in alignment with the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards. However, what we at the Pre-Kindergarten Program are most proud and extremely excited about is the Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant. President Obama awarded Illinois \$80 million to be dispensed over four years giving the state \$20 million per year to be used to enhance and expand upon pre-kindergarten programs throughout the state. There were only 26 school districts which were selected to bid and qualify to receive these funds. Thanks to the vision of our Board and Superintendent Dr. Jones, our district was one of the 26. We partnered with Child Life Academy, Nurturing and Developmental Academy and Children’s Home Center enabling us to better serve the communities of Burnham, South Holland, Dolton and Calumet City. This grant was approved by the State of Illinois Thursday, March 5, 2015. The Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant will enable our district to open an additional classroom for four-year-olds in the Fall. Once again thank you to our Board President Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, the Board Members and Superintendent Dr. Shelly Jones for the vision and insight to make our district better able to serve the youngest students in our community.

Mrs. Page stated during the past few weeks we have been preparing for the PARCC assessment. We worked on entering accessibility features and accommodations for students with IEPs and English Language Learners. We have worked to make sure that these needed features and accommodations are properly identified on the students’ PNP, IEP and/or 504 Plan. We have had several afterschool meetings in regards to PARCC. Individual meetings have also been conducted in the schools. In addition, we are working to maintain compliance of Special Education and English Language Learners regulations and requirements.

### **Superintendent’s Agenda.**

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Knight to meet in executive session at 8:22 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: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Castillo and Mrs. Eldridge.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

#### REGULAR SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to return to regular session at 9:08 P.M. Roll call: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Correspondence.** None

**Bulletin Reports.** None

**New Business.**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight to authorize extending the Family Medical Leave of Absence for Cheryl Perry, teacher with an anticipated return date of May 1, 2015 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE EXTENDING THE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR CHERYL PERRY

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Ghani approval of Resolution for Non-Renewal of Certain First Year Probationary Teachers. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION FOR NON-  
RENEWAL OF CERTAIN FIRST  
YEAR PROBATIONARY  
TEACHERS.

**Motion** Mrs. Eldridge seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve the 2014-2015 Donna Gandy Summer School Institute effective June 8, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Castillo and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE 2014-2015  
DONNA GANDY SUMMER  
SCHOOL INSTITUTE

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve the Enrollment and Staffing Projections for the 2015-2016 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE ENROLLMENT  
AND STAFFING PROJECTIONS  
FOR THE 2015-2016

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve all out of state professional development, programs, and/or projects, and conferences are supported and funded in whole or part with Federal Grant funds under the **Stevens Amendment**. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Castillo and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE ALL OUT OF STATE  
CONFERENCE

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve Spring Break hours of operation for the District's 12-month employees 9 am-3pm. Regular business hours will resume on Monday, April 13th from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE SPRING BREAK  
HOURS

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve the revised Staff Crisis Safety Plan for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE REVISED STAFF  
CRISIS SAFETY PLAN FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF THE 2014-2015

#### **New Business.**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones to award E-Rate category I Cellular contract to AT & T for the 2015-2016 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT  
DR. SHELLY DAVIS-JONES TO  
AWARD E-RATE CATEGORY I  
CELLULAR CONTRACT

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones to award E-Rate category I local phone service contract to AT & T for the 2015-2016 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT  
DR. SHELLY DAVIS-JONES TO  
AWARD E-RATE CATEGORY I  
LOCAL PHONE SERVICE  
CONTRACT

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones to award E-Rate category I long distance service contract to AT & T for the 2015-2016 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Castillo and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT  
DR. SHELLY DAVIS-JONES TO  
AWARD E-RATE CATEGORY I  
LONG DISTANCE SERVICE  
CONTRACT

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the TSA Annual Retirement Guide for FY 2015. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE TSA ANNUAL  
RETIREMENT GUIDE FOR FY  
2015

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve entering into an Agreement with Life-Touch for the 2015-2016 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Eldridge and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LIFE-TOUCH

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Knight to accept the Disciplinary Hearing Committee's recommendation to reinstate lost days for student 149-1415-013. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Eldridge and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT 149-1415-013

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation trip to Dave & Buster's on May 19, 2015. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATION TRIP TO DAVE & BUSTER'S

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Knight to approve entering into an agreement with Dave & Buster's for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation trip. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Castillo and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DAVE & BUSTER'S

### **Old Business.**

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Knight to accept the Superintendent's recommendation not to reject all bids for security doors with Berger Vandenberg and Caroline Sibley for lack of funding. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Ghani and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION NOT TO REJECT ALL BIDS FOR SECURITY DOORS

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to adjourn at 9:21 A.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Knight and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT

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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary