

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
MARCH 28, 2013

The Public Hearing on the honorable dismissal of teachers was called to order at 7:56 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING

**Roll Call:** Present Mrs. Gray Everett , Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, and Ms. Ghani. Absent: Mrs. Tillman.

Public hearing open to the public. No one wished to address the Board

**MOTION** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Eldridge, to declare the budget hearing closed. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

HEARING CLOSED

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 8:10 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. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani. Also in attendance were Administrators: Superintendent Dr. Davis-Jones, Dr. Geddis, Mrs. Harris, Dr. Scott, Ms. Herndon, Dr. GarthYoung, Mr. Tolecky, teachers and support personnel.

ROLL CALL

**Board President's Agenda**

**Motion** by Mrs. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the consent grouping of routine items including minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 28, 2013; payroll summaries for March 1, 2013 in the amount of \$847,089.43, & March 15, 2013 in the amount of \$846,227.53 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay the invoices dated March 28, 2013, consisting of 23 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE MINUTES  
REGULAR MTG.  
2/28/13

APPROVE INVOICE  
LISTING -3/28/13

Education Fund	\$1,201,821.87
Tort Liability Fund	83,375.20
Building and Maintenance Fund	146,013.05
Transportation Fund	283,226.11
Total	\$1,714,436.23

APPROVE  
PAYROLL  
SUMMARIES 3/1/13  
& 3/15/13  
APPROVE

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

RESOLUTION OF  
HONORABLE  
DISMISSAL OF  
TEACHING STAFF

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve a resolution authorizing the honorable dismissal of teaching staff pursuant to Section 5/24-12 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/24-12). Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, 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 Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

### **Carol Moseley Braun**

Ms. Hayes stated Carol Moseley Braun's Restructuring Retreat, "**Rebuilding Together Brick-by-Brick**" was a huge success! The event was held at the Hyatt Lodge and attended by the principal, teachers, support staff, and Superintendent Davis-Jones and Deputy Superintendent Alicia Geddis. The theme, "Construction" was chosen to symbolize the work needed to rebuild C.M.B.'s learning community. Ms. Michelle Gunderson, a fourth grade teacher of Chicago Public Schools, facilitated the workshop, "Building Collaborative Learning for Students". She runs a successful classroom, mirroring the educational process of children learning through small group inquiry. The teachers prepared for the event by reading the book, *Inquiry Circles in Action: Comprehension and Collaboration*, and by participating in small group discussions. The workshop afforded each attendee opportunities to not only observe children taking part in learning through collaboration, but to take part in their own inquiry circles based on the book. Of course the retreat could not end without a bit of fun. Sprinkled throughout the workshop were teambuilding activities, giving everyone a chance to learn something new about someone else and to build relationships through laughter. The entire retreat encompassed the theme of restructuring. Every staff member has become a living block and ready to return to school and build together! Also, during the month of March, my staff and I participated in a professional learning community meeting. The entire staff read the book "Comprehension and Collaboration" by Stephanie Harvey and Harvey Daniels. They participated in lengthy discussions regarding the advantages of guided reading and small group instruction. The book talk we had was enjoyed by all. As always, I would like to personally thank Mrs. Gray-Everett, school board president, the school board members, Superintendent Davis-Jones, and the central office staff for their never ending support.

### **New Beginnings Learning Academy**

Mrs. Franklin stated during the month of March, our School Improvement Planning Leadership Team has continued to meet to plan our upcoming School Improvement retreat. We are excited about spending a day of professional development focusing on areas of student engagement and guided reading. We are pleased that our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were awarded the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant! As a result, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders were able to visit the Peggy Notebaerth Museum in Chicago. During their trip, they were able to study examples of conservation of natural resources and wild life conservation, as well as visit the I stock Butterfly Exhibit. Our students reported that this was an enjoyable trip and they truly learned a lot. Thank you to Ms. Cole for finding this wonderful opportunity. On behalf of the NBLA staff, we want to thank our School Board and Superintendent for allowing us to participate in the Superintendent's Commission Institute Day. The speakers and sessions were excellent and a wealth of knowledge was gained on improving student learning.

### **Diekman**

Mrs. Davis stated the Pre-K staff held their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Parent workshop/ Open Gym Night. Staff and families had a great time playing games while developing students' motor skills. Instructional walk-throughs for this month focused on appropriate use of instructional time. Each classroom has been observed and constructive feedback will be provided at the end of the month. We will continue to focus on student achievement. The Diekman family and I would like to thank the School Board and Superintendent Dr. Shelly A Davis-Jones for affording us the opportunity to attend the Superintendent's Commission. The workshop sessions were very informative with lots of fresh ideas. The staff and I were motivated and encouraged to implement new strategies. Our next staff meeting will be Share Shop discussions from sessions attended during this wonderful Conference. We look forward to attending next year's Commission! We are looking forward to our annual School Improvement Retreat on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Itasca, Illinois. We would like to extend an invitation to all Board members that would like to join us.

### **Creative Communications Academy**

Mr. Johnson stated Creative Communications Academy was the winner of the ISAT Bowl of the Middle Schools. 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade both took first place and CCA took second for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We completed ISAT testing on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Way to go to Mrs. Grimes's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade class! Their class had perfect attendance all four days. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> CCA attended Brunswick Zone in Homewood. The staff and students had an enjoyable time. Students were learning the laws of physics and using mathematics to calculate scores. Brunswick Zone was very impressed with the student's participation and behavior. Thanks to Mrs. Cherita Smith for putting the program together. Recently, I attended the Superintendents Commission and I was very impressed with networking and how cordial everyone presented themselves. I especially enjoyed the presentation of Mr. Steve Peters, whose main emphasis of improving student grades and behavior is predicated on the relationships you build with your students. No rapport...you receive no EFFORT! We had the Male Youth Summit at the Middle School. It was well received by the community, student and guest speakers. Many of the Speakers are excited about a return visit and / or strengthening the concept for the future. CCA's School Leadership Team met on Wednesday the 27 and completed its first 11 tasks. We had a lot of thought provoking dialogue and we are looking forward to the improvements to come for next year. Thanks to Dr. Young for getting us started and on our way. CCA will be starting our thematic unit on advertisement when we return from Spring Break! Our emphasis will be on billboards, magazines, and television commercials... We will be selling the concept of Creative Communication Academy.

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

Mr. Johnson stated he 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 the Constitution Test was administered electronically. This initiative saved our school roughly 5,000 sheets of paper. In addition, 100% of the S.T.E.M. Academy students have passed the Constitution Test on the first try. The S.T.E.M. Academy earlier on this year, issued out the School District 205 High School Algebra I (assessment test) to the honor's students. 23 out of 29 honor's students passed that exam, and they will qualify to take the second exam later this year. We are looking forward to continually having a great year!

### **School of Fine Arts**

Ms. Slate stated during the third quarter, the School Of Fine Arts staff worked hard to help our students prepare and do their best on the ISAT exams. Our students utilized our computer labs as well as their own computers at home to get as much practice as they could. By utilizing the programs provided by our district, Kid's College and Study Island our students knew that they were going to be successful. We are so proud of our Seventh grade TEAM for taking "First Place" in the building-wide Middle School ISAT Bowl Competition. Excellent Job! Also, kudos go out to our Sixth and Eighth grade TEAMS who took Second Place in the competition! At this time I'd like to report that all of our eighth students have taken the Federal Constitution exam, and I am proud to say that they all have passed! Now they are continuing to study for the Illinois Constitution. The journey lies ahead for success, and we know they will do there absolute best with this test as well! Let the Battle Begin! Project-based learning is taking place in the SOFA school. Our seventh grade students battled our eighth grade students in a lyric writing contest! The students were grouped and had to prepare lyrics based on school related issues. They could use different tools or objects to accompany them. All the groups did an awesome job! It was entertaining, enjoyable, and thrilling to see our students engaged with this project! For the fourth quarter, the **School of Fine Arts** is focusing on the "History of Cinematography!" The students are learning the history of film and are planning to put together a special project before the quarter ends for viewing. Watch for us! On Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, the vision came to a reality. The "Male Youth Summit" took place at the Middle School. It was well attended and an enlightened evening for our young men! Thanks to Mr. Brath and the Dolton School District 149 Middle Schools Band for showcasing the talents of our Dolton School District 149 students at the Solo Ensemble Concert on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. As of Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, the S.O.F.A School Leadership Team successfully completed the first phase of the school improvement process under "Rising Star". The TEAM was phenomenal under the guidance/direction of the district level personnel, Dr. Young! Thank you for your time and patience! Last but not least, I would like to give a heartfelt special thanks to our **School of Fine Arts Artists (Rodney Jackson, Vincent Washington, Matthew Waites, and Damon Maples)**, all eighth grade students who are charter members of the SOFA school and who have made history in by painting the first mural on the wall! We are so proud of your efforts and talents in making our/your vision come true! **WE Believe.... Excellence, Humanization, and Pride!** We are continuing to empower our students in a positive direction because "**the roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet**". **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!**

### **District Office**

Ms. Herndon, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Director, stated I am excited to announce that our transition to Skyward Web is complete!! Skyward is the student management system that houses all of our students' demographic data, attendance information, and grades. Critical data used for our state reports is generated from the information that is entered into Skyward on a daily basis by our building and district office administrative assistants. In preparation for this transition, we held a series of trainings for the administrative assistants on using Skyward Web. The training afforded the administrative assistants the opportunity to speak with a Skyward trainer which made the experience very personal and beneficial. The administrative assistants are looking forward to more training, as well as, consistent articulation meetings in the future. This enormous transition would not have been possible without the diligence and hard work of Ms. Rita Hall. She spent numerous hours working with Skyward to update the system. I would like to thank the 16 teachers that attended the ICE Chip Spring Mini-Conference, "Heating up Schools with Technology" at Robert Frost Middle School on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. During this conference the teachers were able to increase their knowledge on various topics such as: digital media, Google SketchUp, presentation tools to use with students, SMART board implementation, useful classroom websites, and digitized primary sources. I enjoyed attending this conference with all of them. They left renewed and energized to begin using this information immediately. I would also like to acknowledge the work being done, with respect to restructuring, at Carol Moseley Braun under the leadership of Principal Jamie Hayes. During our restructuring meetings we have been able to have "real talk" conversations about the factors that may be contributing to the achievement gap present in their building. The teachers have been honest in regards to their concerns regarding the implementation of guided reading but they are willing to put those concerns aside because they know that guided reading is one of the effective, research based instructional strategies that can close the achievement gap in reading. I look forward to continuing this great work with them. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the School Board and Superintendent Dr. Davis-Jones, for entrusting my team with their vision for our new district website. We have worked very hard to develop a website that speaks to the mission and vision of our School Board. When you look at our new website it is clear that students are the number one priority. You can also find useful information for parents, students, faculty and staff. I am extremely proud of how well the website has been received by all who have had the opportunity to view it. We will continue to make improvements and keep the information current and up-to-date.

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani that the Board of Education meet in executive session at 8:50 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. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to return to regular session at 10:00 P.M. Roll call: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

REGULAR SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the intent to retire for the following teachers: Marilyn Pold-Jernigan 2014-2015 and Shirley Mayberry 2016-2017. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE INTENT TO RETIRE

**Motion** by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve Spring Break hours of operation for the District's 12-month employees. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE SPRING BREAK HOURS FOR 12-MONTH EMPLOYEES

**Motion** by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the TSA annual retirements benefit guide. Roll call vote: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE TSA ANNUAL RETIREMENTS BENEFIT GUIDE

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to renew the lease agreement for two classrooms with ECHO for the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ECHO

**Motion** by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve Michael Steele, Principal to attend the Council for Exceptional Children Conference held in San Antonio, TX. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE MICHAELA STELLE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO TX

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to authorize Dr. Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent & CFO to enter into an agreement with Sate Mechanical to install two new blower motors at the Middle School. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH STATE MECHANICAL

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to authorize Dr. Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent & CFO to set the Budget Hearing for the amended 2012-2013 budget for April 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE SET BUDGET HEARING FOR THE AMENDED 12-13 BUDGET

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani that the Board of Education meet in executive session at 8:50 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. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to return to regular session at 10:00 P.M. Roll call: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, and Ms. Ghani. **MOTION CARRIED**

REGULAR SESSION

**Correspondence.** None

**Bulletin Reports.** None

**New Business.**

**Motion** by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by, Mr. Castillo to approve alternative placement for student # 149-1213-018 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Jolly. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE  
RECOMMENDATION FOR  
ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT  
FOR STUDENT #149-1213-018

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve Student # 149-1213-021 ten day suspension stands as time served. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE  
RECOMMENDATION FOR TIME  
SERVED FOR STUDENT #149-  
1213-021

**Motion** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve alternative placement for student # 149-1213-020 as discussed in executive session. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT THE  
RECOMMENDATION FOR  
ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT  
FOR STUDENT #149-1213-020

**Old Business**

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

ADJOURNMENT

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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary