

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
AUGUST 22, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 7:35 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, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani , Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, and. Absent: Mrs. Tillman. Also in attendance were Administrators, and support personnel.

ROLL CALL

Board President's Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to ratify the consent grouping and routine items of the Regular Board Meeting of July 25, 2013 that was cancelled; payroll summaries for June 21, 2013 in the amount of \$845,068.63, July 5, 2013 in the amount of \$787,619.77 and July 19, 2013 in the amount of \$717,907.21 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated July 25, 2013, consisting of 15 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE INVOICE LISTING – 8/22/13

APPROVE PAYROLL SUMMARIES – 6/21/13, 7/5/13, & 7/19/13

Education Fund	\$1,900,509.68
Tort Liability Fund	21,747.73
Building and Maintenance Fund	168,745.47
Transportation Fund	26,542.91
Total	\$2,117,545.79

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

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve the consent grouping and routine items of the Regular Board Meeting held August 22, 2013; payroll summaries for August 2, 2013 in the amount of \$716,899.85 and August 16, 2013 in the amount of \$763,990.09 and authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated August 22, 2013, consisting of 13 pages and chargeable to the following accounts as read:

APPROVE MINUTES - REGULAR & EXEC. SESSION – 8/22/13

APPROVE INVOICE LISTING – 8/22/13

Education Fund	\$566,071.87
Tort Liability Fund	4,661.31
Building and Maintenance Fund	98,561.34
Transportation Fund	5,539.47
Total	\$674,833.39

APPROVE PAYROLL SUMMARIES – 8/2/13 & 8/16/13

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

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve the contract agreement with PRESS Plus Services for the purpose of updating policies to remain compliant with the Illinois Association of School Boards. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH PRESS PLUS SERVICE

Meeting open to the public

Since no one wished to address the Board, the Board resumed regular session.

The Superintendent requested the Principals to give their reports.

Special Committee Reports. None

Caroline Sibley

Mrs. Franklin stated the students, parents and staff are off to a very smooth start at Caroline Sibley School. The staff at CS has done an outstanding job of making sure that our students have been well taken care of (especially at dismissal) during this first week of school. On our District Institute Day, we had the opportunity to share how our speakers (Dr. Noguerra, Dr. Geddis, and especially Superintendent Dr. Jones) have inspired us to accept change and “fight” for our students to have the very best from each and every one of us, every day. These changes were immediately evident in how our staff warmly received our parents and students throughout these first couple of days. Thank you to Dr. Scott for her support during this week. Although CS did not make AYP in reading or mathematics this past school year, improvements were made in our 3rd grade Reading scores and our 5th grade Math scores. Along with our goals of creating a positive building climate, we are also focused on improved collaboration between grade level teams. I have aligned all special area schedules so that each grade level team has the opportunity to connect daily during their planning periods as well as their shared lunch periods. I have also allocated time for undisturbed reading blocks as a means to strengthen academic progress. Scheduled grade level articulation meetings will occur on a weekly basis for the purpose of aligning student data with best teaching practices. The articulation meetings will allow CS to fully utilize the curriculum and create common lesson planning between grade levels. I have also begun to work with Dr. Klonsky (educational consultant) to review the CS restructuring plan and Rising Star indicators that were started last school year. My administrative team is looking forward to working with the SIP team to implement changes that will positively impact student achievement. WE BELIEVE with these changes and our commitment to students, staff, and the community of CS we will make measurable growth. We stand on the 3 pillars of the district: Excellence, Humanization, and Pride.

Diekman

Mrs. Davis stated Diekman School is off to a great start. We had an excellent and very motivating District Institute Day. The presenters were inspiring for me as well as my staff. The Superintendent’s address, “Moment of Truth” struck a chord for us to continue to fight. She asked us an honest question, “Will we fight?” I will fight and the staff of Diekman School will fight. During the afternoon of District Institute Day the staff and I met to reflect on the messages from the morning session and to discuss the 2012-2013 ISAT data. Diekman School is addressing its strengths and shortfalls. We are going to build on the strengths and improve in the areas that we are not strong. We are going to do this through collaborative means. We are working together to build a Plan of Action that will focus on grade level team meetings as well as cross grade level team meetings. I am building a schedule that will allow time for reflection to ensure that we are on a path of academic and behavioral success. I have begun conversations regarding Professional Development, Guided Reading, Response to Intervention labs, as well as a language enriched programs for our English Language Learners. Diekman will improve student achievement through the pillars of the District: Excellence, Humanization, and Pride. I would also like to thank the Mrs. Twyla Harris for all of her support that she has given this week. The Diekman PTA has pledged this year to support every classroom library with more books and materials. We are strongly committed and BELIEVE that we will make measurable growth with these necessary changes.

New Beginnings Learning Academy

Ms. Slate stated New Beginnings Learning Academy is off to a great start! Thanks to Superintendent Davis-Jones for a phenomenal District Institute Day! The NBLA teachers and staff enjoyed each presenters’ presentation. Therefore, we are going to stand with you and fight! The NBLA staff reviewed the ISAT Data for the 2012-2013 school year and are in the process of collaboratively devising a Plan of Action. As an initial component of our Plan of Action we will implement data and instructional teams to meet, analyze, and disaggregate data to drive instruction. As a means to improve instruction across the curriculum, we will work on specific areas, such as guided reading, differentiated instruction, project-based learning, and hands on performance-based activities in math to improve higher order and critical thinking skills relevant to improve structure across the curriculum. It is the mission and vision to prepare students successfully through an intense, rigorous academic program that focuses on

a complete developmental approach and provide the curriculum through a non-traditional style of teaching. **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!** Special thanks to the custodial staff, the administrative assistants and to Mrs. Harris for helping to get NBLA off to an excellent start.

Carol Moseley Braun

Mrs. Hayes stated prior to the start of school year my new teachers and I meet for a "Meet the Principal's" lunch. During our lunch we spoke about strategies to ensure a cohesive culture and build positive relationships between the staff and the students. The beginning of the 2013-2014 school year has been great. The District Institute Day was extremely inspiring for me as well as my staff. The presenters gave information that was thought-provoking for all educators. The Superintendent's message, "A Moment of Truth", captivated my staff and yes "We will fight". The staff of Carol Moseley Braun have met to discuss the ISAT data from the 2012-2013 school year. We have a challenge that we are equipping ourselves to conquer. We are going to conquer our shortfalls through the use of culturally relevant pedagogy to reach the students of Carol Moseley Braun. We are also going to utilize guided reading and institute math laboratories. This evidence will be visible throughout the school through our data walls. CMB's mission this year is to increase and improve student achievement. We recognize that collaboration, partnerships and the school's climate and culture are key components needed for academic and social/emotional success. This mission was put into motion on the opening day of school. I visited every classroom, greeted every child, sang a welcome back song with the first graders, participated in classroom ice breakers throughout the building and assisted my staff with helping students celebrate returning to school. This demonstration was to let the students and staff know that we are in this together. I would also like to thank the central office administrators for all of their support that they have given this week.

Berger-Vandenberg

Mrs. Winters stated we are off to a great start. During Institute Day many of us felt like we had an educational revival. The messages of Hope gave for so many of teachers and administrators a sense of pride, compassion, commitment and newness. Thanks to the Board of Education and the Superintendent for that vision. Later we reviewed our current data status and discussed Berger's strengths and challenges. We were able to develop a prescriptive plan that will allow us to continue to be progressive this academic school year. In closing, I would like to thank the school board and Central Office Administrators for their continuous support to the BV family. I would also like to thank our custodial team for making the school ready and accessible to the administration, teachers and students. Thanks to my office team for all of their hard work and patience over the past few weeks.

School of Fine Arts

Mr. Love stated I am the Principal of the School of Fine Arts. I am embracing the name TEAM because we will build a culture and climate that invites collaboration from all stakeholders under the guidance of the Superintendent, the Superintendent's cabinet and the School Board of Education. Stakeholders include teachers, students, support staff, security officers, custodians, and culinary staff. With collaboration from all stakeholders, we will achieve higher test scores, better attendance, and parent and community involvement. With **Pride** we will raise our test scores by analyzing current scores, creating a plan with evidenced-based learning strategies, documenting those strategies in a lesson plan, and routinely monitoring the progress of our students. We will embrace the mandate of cut off scores and we will meet and exceed expectations. TEAM School of Fine Arts understands the necessity of collaboration within disciplines to achieve our goal of meeting local, state, and

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national standards and expectations. TEAM SOFA will become a model for **Excellence** in middle school education. In reverence to **Humanization**, we will engage our parents and the community with volunteer efforts, parent/principal conferences, and parent/teacher conferences. We will include parents in the progress monitoring process so that they will feel empowered to help their children. We will involve parents in the data analysis so they understand where their student is and how to help them achieve higher. We will not simply tell them the scores are low, but rather provide them with insight to their child or children's weaknesses and strengths. For effective collaboration with our parents, we must consistently show them the educational status of their students. This year has gotten off to an inspiring start. Team SOFA held a volunteer meeting for teachers to meet the new principal the Friday before District Institute Day. We achieved over 70% attendance. During this meeting, we established the climate and culture of our school, which is One Love, One Team... Team S.O.F.A. Our Team has stepped up to the plate and has welcomed me with open arms. This meeting was well received evidenced by teachers' feedback. We will etch out a Fine Arts identity this year by building relationships with the Goodman Theatre, ETA, Alvin Alley,

The Art Institute of Chicago, and other cooperating companies and organizations. We are excited about exposing our scholars to different varieties of fine arts as well as integrating technology and real world applications. We had a brief assembly with the students introducing myself and setting the tone for the school year. The scholars seemed very eager and open to the changes and expectations. I am excited for what's to come and very proud of our school, our team and especially our students. Team SOFA!!

Science Technology Engineering Math

Mr. Johnson stated we are blessed and very excited about year 2 at the S.T.E.M. Academy. The S.T.E.M. Academy teachers came together and worked diligently to prepare for our 2nd year, we showed you great things our first year wait until you see what we will do this year. The teachers at STEM Academy pledge to actively engage students in problem solving techniques and expose students to diverse technological experiences. Our vision at the S.T.E.M. Academy is to prepare our students for college and career readiness in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This year our main focuses are creating a safe and inviting school climate, build student, parent, and community relationships, and lastly using data to drive instruction. The District Institute has been an inspiration for the entire STEM Academy staff as we move forward. We are implementing our school's plan for academic success through collaboration and reflection. We have redesigned our meetings to ensure that I have an opportunity to meet with the teachers for an entire period to ensure that best practices are been utilized as we monitor current trends. We are pleased to be in partnership with Carlie Mosar from WTTW channel 11. Ms. Mosar will be filming a positive documentary about education in the suburbs. They are tracking one of our 8th grade S.T.E.M. students, Robert Jamison to monitor his daily activities as it relates to education. We are looking forward to having another great year.

Creative Communications Academy

Mr. Scott stated CCA has gone into a partnership with Dr. Jeff Spitz and Columbia College of Chicago Dr. Jeff Spitz and his team will give teachers professional development on how to integrate mass media into the curricula as it is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Columbia College will offer consistent support and training for our staff and students as well as providing some basic equipment and lessons for the entire school. Through our partnership, our goals are to allow media to drive instruction and allow our students to have greater control over their education. Instead of learning about a topic, we want our students to live it and share it with the community, thus making it a ground swell or better yet a life lesson. Our school will also try to improve upon these ground swells by working with Sandridge Nature Center. Our objective is to focus on the life cycle of the nature center and its coexistence with the community. We are looking forward to all subject areas collaborating through this life science experience and record the whole journey. Also, with assistance from our cafeteria, our ground swell will document the eating habits of our school and show the importance of nutrition and exercise to our community. We will start by interviewing students at our back to school carnival. Our children are very excited about the infusion of media (Cameras, ipads, iphones, smartboards, and computers) into their lessons as well as teachers.

Mrs. Harris stated The Dolton School District 149 is off to a tremendous start. The year thus far is full of energy and "Positive Mental Attitudes". District Institute Day was phenomenal as we move in an atmosphere of "HOPE". We are embracing change and conquering fear. The superintendent has posed the question for everyone, "will you fight with me?" I will fight. I have begun designing a Professional Development program for the district principals to build Effective Instructional Leadership. I will facilitate monthly meetings to ensure that we monitor trends and best practices for Instructional Leaders. We will conduct book studies to remain current with 21st Century education. Our first book study, *Leading Change In Your School by Douglas B. Reeves*. We will focus on creating conditions for change. I have begun planning for a more prescriptive Parent University filled with empowerment using essential tools. I am also in the process of building partnerships with Universities and colleges for the elementary schools, the special education program, as well as the English as a Second Language program. I am certain that we are well on our way for a successful school year.

Superintendent's Agenda.

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the resignation of Katherine Sargent, teacher effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF
KATHERINE SARGENT

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve Vedia Page for the Director of Special Education position effective the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE VEDIA PAGE FOR
THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve Jonathan Love for the Principal position effective the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE JONATHAN LOVE
FOR PRINCIPAL

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve Dr. Renata Patterson for the Assistant Principal position effective the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE DR. RENATA
PATTERSON FOR ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL

Motion by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to authorize its President and Secretary to enter into first year probationary teaching contracts, subject to compliance with the Educational Reform Act of 1985, effective August 19, 2013 for:

AUTHORIZE FIRST YEAR
PROBATIONARY TEACHING
CONTRACTS

Barbara Booker at MA Year 3 – Special Education CS
Cynthia James at MA Year 3 - Special Education DKM
Shavon Collier-Pittman at MA-Year 3 - Math - SOFA
Kerrin Rosania at MA-Year 3– Special Education CS
Rechele Carter at BA Year 1 – Math – STEM
David Schmid at MA+18 Year 1 – District-Wide ESL Teacher

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

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Eldridge to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the Calumet City Library for the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH
CALUMENT CITY LIBRARY

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve a Family Medical Leave Act request for Gale Townsend, teacher effective August 19, 2013 with an anticipated return date of September 23, 2013 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE FMLA FOR GALE
TOWNSEND

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve a Family Medical Leave Act request for Malina Wilson, administrative assistant effective August 1, 2013 with an anticipated return date of August 18, 2013 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE FMLA FOR MALINA
WILSON

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve a Family Medical Leave Act request for Malina Wilson, administrative assistant effective September 23, 2013 with an anticipated return date of October 28, 2013 for health reasons. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE FMLA FOR
MALINA WILSON

Motion by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to accept the tentative budget for the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACCEPT TENTATIVE
BUDGET FOR 2013-2014

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to set the 2013-2014 budget hearing for, Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

SET BUDGET HEARING
DATE

Motion by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Ghani to authorize Dr. Alicia Geddis, Deputy Superintendent & CFO to enter into the following contracts for FY 14:

AUTHORIZE CONTRACT
AGREEMENTS FOR FY14

- a. SchoolReach for instant parent contact system;
- b. Illinois Century Network, Community Anchor Institution Master Service Agreement, for ISBE; Mail Finance, Product Lease Agreement, for postage machines;
- c. Amdur Spitz & Associates, Inc. as partner for the Creative Communications Academy for technological and media integration and programmatic direction;
- d. Catcon Corp. Inc. for the purpose of mold removal;
- e. Employees Benefits Program Renewal as recommended by Benefit Brokers & Consultants;
- f. Dr. Pedro Noguera, NYU Professor and sociologist as keynote speaker for District Institute Day August 19, 2013;
- g. Advantage Nursing for the purpose of health services;
- h. American Home Health Corporation for the purpose of health services;
- i. Diversified Therapeutics for Speech and Occupational Therapy Services;
- j. Milestone Therapy for Physical Therapy Services.

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

Motion by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the HIPPA Exemption Election Renewal as recommended by Benefit Brokers & Consultants. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE THE HIPPA
EXEMPTION ELECTION
RENEWAL

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded Mr. Castillo, to adopt the Resolution Electing Exemption for the Mental Health Parity Act of 2008 the HIPPA Exemption Election Renewal as recommended by Benefit Brokers & Consultants. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

ADOPT THE
RESOLUTION FOR THE
MENTAL HEALTH
PARITY ACT

Correspondence. None

Bulletin Reports. None

New Business.

Motion by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Castillo to hire Shantell Dailey-Bullock, teacher at MA+18 year 3. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

AUTHORIZE FIRST
YEAR
PROBATIONARY
TEACHING
CONTRACT

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve the contract agreement with Life Touch Photography for the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms, Ghani, and Mrs. Eldridge. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE
CONTRACT
AGREEMENT WITH
LIFE TOUCH
PHOTOGRAPHY

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the Lobbyist contract agreement for the 2013-2014 school year. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, and Mr. Castillo. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE LOBBYIST
CONTRACT
AGREEMENT

Motion by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Ghani to approve the retirement letter from Kathern Robinson, confidential administrative assistant, effective June 30, 2015. Roll call vote: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVE
RETIREMENT FOR
KATHERN
ROBINSON

Old Business. None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to adjourn at 10:45 P.M. Roll call vote: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. **MOTION CARRIED**

Darlene Gray Everett, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary