

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer Mr. Joe Sherman - 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (*recited by all in attendance*)**

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Cook, Coleman, Griffin, Mitchell, Thompson, Sherman, Viverette  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Dr. Gregory T. Jackson, Superintendent  
Mrs. Joyce McEwen, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Coretta Jackson, Coordinator of Business Affairs  
Mrs. Tamara Young, Interim Director of PPS  
Mrs. Marilyn Barnes, Principal, Medgar Evers P.A.C.  
Mrs. Stephanie Stephen, Principal, Cottage Grove U.G.C.

Legal Counsel: Attorney Raymond Hauser

**QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC (3 Minutes)**

**Ms. ROSE JIMERSON** - Stated her name and began to express her sympathy and sorrow over the death of Ms. Mary Thorson. She wanted to make sure the Board understood how teachers felt about the death of Ms. Thorson. Ms. Jimerson stated she wish Ms. Thorson had talked with her or someone.

Ms. Jimerson stated while she had not personally experienced intimidation from the Superintendent or Administrators, she believes there to be some people who feel this way and are afraid to come forward.

At this point, Superintendent Jackson inquired of Ms. Jimerson if she was insinuating that he or Administration had something to do with Ms. Thorson's death?

Ms. Jimerson said that she did not intend to insinuate that the Superintendent or Administration was the cause of Ms. Thorson's death.

**Ms. WENDY FOSTER** - Introduced herself and then informed all in attendance that she had contacted the Illinois State Board of Education, and that an investigation would be taking place. She then proceeded by stating that she was not there to point her

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finger at anyone. She stated Ms. Thorson made a choice to end her life, a choice that no one should ever make. She stated that she likes Superintendent Jackson, she likes that the district is 90% better since he has been here, she liked what he was doing with the kids. Ms. Foster expressed that she went online to see how our students compared to other districts and she thought that the District was doing really well. Ms. Foster went on to say that her issue is with some of the teachers in the district. She also stated that it had been said that she had circulated a petition, and she wanted to set the record straight. She had not circulated a petition. Ms. Foster made clear her issue had nothing to do with what Ms. Jimerson was speaking of, but other issues as previously stated.

**MS. LENA WATTS DRAKE** - Stood to state that she was there as the Union President and that they would be coming to Board meetings in the future. Ms. Drake stated that she did not feel intimidated, but that she believes there are some teacher who do feel intimidated and were afraid to speak up.

**BOARD PRESIDENT JOE SHERMAN**- Introduced himself, and began by stating that he wholeheartedly supports Superintendent Jackson, and Board of Education members. He expressed that the Board has an "open door" policy. In addition, Mr. Sherman noted that there had not been one complaint filed against the Superintendent, the Administration, or a complaint made to Board members.

He went on to say to all in attendance that they too (the Board) was saddened by Ms. Thorson's tragic death.

Mr. Sherman ended by saying to those in attendance, if you have an issue, please by all means bring it before the Superintendent, and then if you are not satisfied with results, or really believe that you cannot, then bring issues before the Board and it will be dealt with.

**BOARD MEMBER JOHNNY GRIFFIN** - Thanked Ms. Foster and others who spoke for coming out and stated that he is very interested in hearing any and all concerns. He expressed that he and members of the Board are there for them (teachers/public) and they should feel free to come whenever the need arose. Mr. Griffin went on to state he supported the Superintendent.

Board member Griffin then spoke to the "Breakfast with Santa Program." He expounded on how hard he had worked to get this program to School District 169. He went on to say that it is such an awesome program and that our children are going to be so excited about all the activities, the food, fun and games that were





I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS - 2011 TAX LEVY  
(See Reference #1)

1. Certification of Compliance with Truth Intaxation Law (Exhibit I)
2. Certificate of Tax Levy (Exhibit II)
3. Certification of Resolution (Exhibit III)
4. Resolution to Levy 2011 Taxes for Certain Purposes (Exhibit IV)
5. Certification of Resolution (Exhibit V)
6. Resolution to Instruct County Clerk How to Apportion 2011 Tax Levy Extension Reductions (Exhibit VI)
7. Certification of Resolution (Exhibit VII)
8. Resolution to Request Application of Loss and Cost Factor to 2011 Levies (Exhibit VIII)
9. Certification of Resolution (Exhibit IX)

B. Personnel (*Pending receipt of all personnel required documents*)

1. Authorization is being sought to hire the following teachers for Saturday School beginning January 9, 2012 and ending April 12, 2012.

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

**FIFTH GRADE:**

Diane Sergeant-LA  
Cynthia Purdy- **Math**

**SIXTH GRADE:**

T.B.D. - LA  
Jason Kinnaman-**Math**

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

**SEVENTH GRADE:**

T.B.D.-LA  
Nancy Herschberger - **Math**

**EIGHTH GRADE:**

T.B.D.-LA  
Yolanda Wilson-Jarmon - **Math**

**COORDINATOR-** Sharon Rivers  
**DESIGN PERSON -** Chantel Jones

**MEDIA CENTER -** Jacqueline Rush  
**CLERICAL -** Lisa Wallace

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**MEDGAR EVERS:**

**THIRD GRADE:**

Geraldine Joubert  
 Stefanie Williams

**FOURTH GRADE:**

Verletta Falconer  
 Carletta Jones

**COORDINATOR-**  
**DESIGN PERSON-**  
**SCHOOL CLERK-**

Dr. Irma Plaxico  
 Monique Johnson-Bibbs  
 Cheryl Franklin

**2. APPOINTMENTS**

*Marcia McIntyre*, as Instructional Aide(One on One) - Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, effective Monday, December 12, 2011. **\$18,491**

**C. AWARDING OF ERATE CONTRACTS FOR 2012-2013 (See reference #2)**

Authorization is sought to award ERATE contracts to qualified/chosen vendors for the 2012-2013 School year.

**II. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. MONTHLY ENROLLMENT (AS OF DECEMBER 01, 2011)**

**MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL**

PREKINDERGARTEN	<b>40</b>	GRADE 3	<b>43</b>
KINDERGARTEN	<b>44</b>	GRADE 4	<b>38</b>
GRADE 1	<b>46</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>253</b>
GRADE 2	<b>43</b>		

**COTTAGE GROVE UPPER GRADE CENTER**

GRADE 5	<b>53</b>	GRADE 7	<b>46</b>
GRADE 6	<b>44</b>	GRADE 8	<b>39</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>

<b>TOTAL DISTRICT</b>	<b>OUT OF DISTRICT</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>
<b>435</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>446</b>



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### REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICER):

#### MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS	TELEPHONE CONTACTS	PARENT CONFERENCES
24	217	11

#### COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS	TELEPHONE CONTACTS	PARENT CONFERENCES
35	174	6

Roll Call: Ayes: Coleman, Cook, Griffin, Mitchell, Sherman, Thompson, Viverette  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None  
7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present - motion carried.

## PART B - CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Joyce McEwen, Assistant Superintendent expressed that items were informational only, however called attention to several upcoming dates and asked for acceptance as follows:

### I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### A. SATURDAY SCHOOL

Saturday School Tutorials will begin Saturday, *January 7, 2011* for teachers and Saturday, *January 14, 2011* for students, through *March 31, 2012* from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and snacks will be provided. Monies will be paid from *Title I Grant* funds.

Saturday Tutorials will be focusing on the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT).

#### B. RISING STAR

Mrs. Joyce McEwen, and Mrs. Stephanie Stephen have been engaged in the process of updating the Rising Star indicators, which will be done on an annual basis.

As a reminder to members of the Board, Rising Star is an instrument implemented by the State for those schools in School Improvement, to

provide a structure for improving performance. It is patterned like a GPS in that it (1) Shows where you are relative to your destination (2) Provides detailed routs for reaching your destination and (3) Adjusts to variations and even accommodates diversions along the way. But the destination remains constant. This is because roles are clear, purpose is shared, effort is aligned, partnerships prevail, and change is sustained. It is a keep-moving navigational tool, that guides everybody in the same direction.

**C. GRADE LEVEL TEAM MEETINGS**

Assistant Superintendent, **Mrs. Joyce McEwen**, has been participating throughout the year in Grade Level Team meetings at Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center.

**Mrs. McEwen** has also been a part of the Grade Level Team meetings at Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center, and they have initiated their first Cross Grade Level Meetings with staff.

**Mrs. Joyce McEwen**, Assistant Superintendent, **Mrs. Marilyn Barnes** and **Mrs. Monique Johnson Bibbs**, Literacy Coordinator, have been monitoring the progress of students in Reading and Mathematics.

**D. ATHLETIC TUTORIALS**

Tutorial for the District's students participating in athletics has been instituted in an effort to assure that our athletes get the academic support they need in order for them to fair well academically, as well as, to remain eligible to participate in intramural sports. **Tutorials began October 29, 2011** and will end **December 10, 2011**. Staff providing tutorials are **Assistant Principal Sharon Rivers** and **Ms. Chantel Jones**, Lead Teacher. **Mr. L'erin Jones**, Athletic Director, has been very supportive in this effort also.

**E. MONTHLY BUILDING REPORTS (See references #1-3)**

Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

**Nicole Conway-Fason**, Home School Coordinator  
**Marilyn Barnes**, Principal Medgar Evers P.A.C.  
**Stephanie Stephen**, Principal Cottage Grove U.G.C.



**F. MONTHLY INCENTIVE/HONOR ROLL (See reference #4)**

Report submitted by the following personnel:

*Celestine Burrel*, Attendance Officer

**G. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER 2, 2011**

*Spelling Bee* - Schoolwide

**DECEMBER 9, 2011**

*Winter Concert - 5:00 p.m.* - Joint Concert with Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center Students and Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center Students -in the Dr. Willie L. Davis Auditorium.

**DECEMBER 15, 2011**

*Annual Parent Center "Make & Take"* Holiday Workshop in the Parent Center - **11:00 a.m.**

**DECEMBER 17, 2011**

*Breakfast with Santa* - Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center Cafeteria - **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** (Ages 12 and under)

**PART C - PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES & SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Mrs. Tamara Young gave a brief summary of items in her report and asked for acceptance as follows:

**I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. PROBLEM SOLVING MEETINGS**

Problem Solving Team Meetings at both Cottage Grove and Medgar continue to meet regularly. The teachers are being exposed to the Aimsweb, SWIS and CICO data during the Problem Solving Meetings.

Ms. Esco, the new RTI teacher has transitioned very well into the program. RTI groups at both of the buildings have increased in size. Adjustments are being made within the interventions to meet the needs of the students who have recently registered into the district.

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An application was just completed for our district to become apart of the I-RTI Network. Acceptance into this program will allow for standardized professional development, technical assistance, and coaching to district and school RTI teams. We will receive confirmation on November, 28<sup>th</sup> notifying the district if we were chosen for the I-RTI program.

#### **B. HEALTH SERVICES**

The first Tuesday in November, Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and AED Cabinets maintenance check was conducted in the District Office, Cottage Grove, Medgar Evers and Tidye A. Phillips School. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class was held on November 2, 2011 at Cottage Grove School for all employees who were not certified. Employees will receive an American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/AED card valid for two years. The class "consisted of life saving techniques on adults and children as well as how to help choking victims.

Annual hearing and vision screening was conducted in October for Medgar Evers PAC and in November for Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center. Parents will be informed by letter if their child failed the hearing or vision screening.

#### **C. COUNSELING PROGRAM**

The counselor scheduled a meeting with the Internal Coaches at both campuses to distribute information from the monthly meeting and to discuss the results of the Self Assessment Survey ("SAS") that was completed by the teachers during the month of October. The Phases of Implementation (PoI) was distributed to each Internal Coach for completion by the teams at each tier level. A parent workshop was conducted to help parents complete their students' application and to apply for the LINK scholarship. Our district has been accepted as a new Chapter, into the National Junior Honor Society.

**D. Staff Development**

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Rouls and Ms. Griffin attended a seminar on Blended Families that was sponsored by Ingalls Behavioral Healthcare & Family Counseling Institute. Ms. Rouls also participated in the 2012 ISAT/IAA webinar presented by the Illinois State Board of Education.

On November 16, Mr. Palmisano attended a workshop on RTI Leadership in Lisle, IL.

**E. Monthly Reports-Departmental reports were submitted by the following. (See references #1-4)**

**Millicent Griffin-Social Worker/Case Manager**

**Edward Palmisano-Psychologist**

**Sharon Rouls-Counselor**

**Geraldine Parham-Health Coordinator**

**PART D - BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

Mrs. Coretta Jackson reminded members of the Board they were in advanced receipt of her report, asked if there were any questions and conclude by asking for favorable approval of report as follows:

**I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION**

**A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Authorization is requested to pay Accounts Payable bills for December 6, 2011 in the amount of **\$348,635.38**.

**B. PAYROLL SUMMARY**

The following is the payroll summary for the month of November 2011 as detailed below:

November 04, 2011	\$177,278.47
November 25, 2011	<u>\$201,760.32</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$379,038.79</b>

**C. BUILDING RENTAL**

Authorization is requested for the use of the following facilities:

1. Authorization is requested for the use of the following:

A. Date: December 6, 2011 - January 10, 2012  
Time: 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Place: Tidye A. Phillips

Contact: Steve & Vanessa McGhee

Glory Be To God Ministry

Purpose: Religious Purposes

Cost: **\$75.00-Sunday/\$25.00-Friday**

B. Date: December 6, 2011 - January 10, 2012

Time: 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m./7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Place: Tidye A. Phillips

Contact: Pastor Shawn Aldridge

Purpose: Religious Purposes

Cost: **\$75.00-Sunday/\$25.00-Thursday**

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**D. PETTY CASH**

Authorization is requested to replenish a Petty Cash for the following:

Federal & State	\$125.00
Pupil Personnel Services	\$ 5.94
District Office	\$ 17.43
Building & Grounds	\$ 43.01
Medgar Evers	\$104.64
Cottage Grove	<u>\$200.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$496.02</b>

**E. IMPREST FUND**

Authorization is requested to replenish Imprest Fund in the amount of \$5,959.50.

**(Reference #1)**

Roll Call: Ayes: Coleman, Cook, Griffin, Mitchell, Sherman, Thompson,  
Viverette

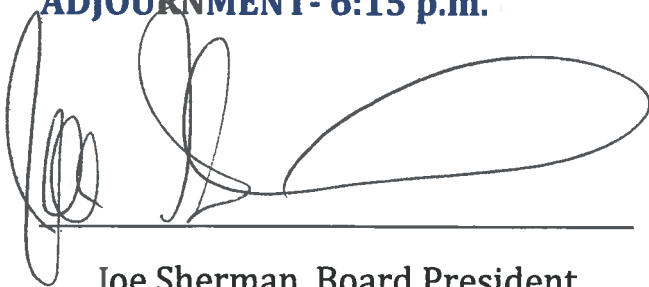
Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present - motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT- 6:15 p.m.**



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Joe Sherman, Board President



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Lera Cook, Board Secretary