

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Samuel J. LaWrence, III – **1:00 pm.**

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Cook, LaWrence, Mitchell, Viverette, Sherman
Absent: Coleman, Hayslett
Also Present: Dr. Gregory T. Jackson, Superintendent
Mrs. Coretta Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Business
Administration & Operations
Mrs. Gloria Lymore, Executive Assistant to the
Superintendent

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

NONE

AGENDA

Motioned/Sherman; Seconded/Mitchell - to approve the agenda

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, LaWrence, Mitchell, Viverette, Sherman
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman, Hayslett
Abstain: None
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

MINUTES

Board President called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motioned/Sherman; Seconded/Mitchell - to approve the minutes **June 9, 2020**
Regular.

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, LaWrence, Mitchell, Viverette, Sherman
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman, Hayslett
Abstain: None
5 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

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CORRESPONDENCE

None

PART A - REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gregory Jackson reminded members of the Board that they were in advanced receipt of the Superintendent's report. He shared that there was an Addendum to the Report of the Superintendent. After which time he asked if there were any questions? **THERE WERE NONE.** Dr. Jackson then asked for approval of the Report of the Superintendent as submitted.

Motioned/Sherman; Seconded/Mitchell – to approve **PART A – REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, inclusive of the addendum** as submitted:

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, LaWrence, Mitchell, Viverette, Sherman
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman, Hayslett
Abstain: None
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. PERSONNEL (*Pending receipt of all personnel required documents and Illinois State Police and FBI criminal background clearance and final outcome of COVID – 19 Novel Coronavirus*).

1. LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Ms. KISHA FLOYD teacher Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center, has submitted a **LETTER OF RESIGNATION** to be effective immediately.

2. APPOINTMENT

a. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. REGINA WRIGHT** as Substitute Teacher for the **2020-2021 School Year**.

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B. AUTHORIZE AND APPROVAL TO SUBMIT INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA) FLOW THROUGH AND PRE-SCHOOL GRANT 2020-2021

This grant provides funds to agencies to help ensure that children with disabilities, including children aged three (3) to five (5) have access to a free appropriate education.

C. APPROVAL TO AMEND THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR (See reference #1)

Approval is sought to amend the **2020-2021 School Calendar** to reflect **Tuesday, November 3, 2020** as a **NOT IN ATTENDANCE DAY**, due to this being an Election Day, and due to the fact that the State mandates that schools be closed on Election Days. This means school will end **Friday, June 4, 2021**. If no emergency days are used, school will end **Thursday, May 27, 2021**.

D. GOOGLE TRAINING STIPENDS

The below listed personnel will receive stipends in the amount of \$2000 for participating in the **Google Training**, for the month of July.

The funds for this stipend will be covered by the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (**CARES**) Act grant. They are as follows:

DARRYL ALLEN
SWIYYAH BUTLER
TROY JUNIEL
JASON KINNAMAN
WINDELL PARKER
ROBERT POTTER
JASON SCOTT
SUSAN TUTOROW
TRIKETA WASHINGTON
LENA WATTS

ADDENDUM REPORT

1. LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Mrs. Marilyn Barnes, Director of Curriculum and Instruction has submitted a letter of resignation, **effective Monday, August 31, 2020.**

2. CHANGE IN POSITIONS

- a. Approve Dr. Sharon P. Rivers** as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, **effective Monday, July 27, 2020. Prorated at a salary of \$115,000.00 (inclusive of Board paid Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and travel stipend of \$75.00 per month).**
- b. Approve Ms. Chantel L. Jones** as Principal, Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, **effective Monday, July 27, 2020. Prorated at a salary of \$100,000.00 (inclusive of Board paid Teacher Retirement System (TRS).]**

3. APPOINTMENT

Authorization is sought for approval to appoint **Ms. Charity Adams** as teacher, Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center, MA +30, Step 7, **effective, Wednesday, August 12, 2020.**

School President LaWrence asked Dr. Jackson to provide a status update of plans for the upcoming school term. Dr. Jackson expressed the need for guidance from the Board as it pertained to the three (3) options available, which administration had been planning policies and procedures around. The three (3) areas included:

- (1) Direct In-person Instruction (face to face);
- (2) Blended Instruction (students & instructors interact in person some days and on other days, students and instructors interact remotely from home); or

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- (3) Full Remote Instruction (students remain home and Instructors communicate with students remotely from either home or classrooms)

Dr. Jackson suggested that before he began his comments, that the Board would be well served to hear from their chief legal counsel, Attorney Raymond Hauser, as to the legal and insurance liability consideration that the Board should keep in mind when making an informed decision.

Receiving approval from school board president to call Attorney Hauser, by way of a landline phone, which allowed members and Attorney Hauser to converse between each other, the call was placed to Attorney Hauser.

Attorney Hauser began by greeting members of the Board present, then he was asked by Superintendent Jackson to provide his opine as to the relative considerations the Board needed to be aware of as it pertained to the aforementioned 3 options Superintendent Jackson stated to the Board which were being considered (i.e., Direct In-person Instruction, Blended Instruction or Full Remote Instruction).

Attorney Hauser stated to members that based upon his review of the law and a number of communications from school district's Liability Insurance Companies relative to COVID-19 Pandemic, most liability insurance companies (including Ford Heights School Districts' liability insurance provider) have indicated there will be no financial or legal payments for any lawsuits arising from parents/guardians for legal actions pertaining to wrongful death or injury to students due to acquisition of the COVID-19 Virus. Actions brought by employees, would likely be considered by way of the School District's Workers Compensation policy, on a case by case basis.

Attorney Hauser went on to state that the liabilities insurance companies, made it unequivocally clear that no financial or legal support would be provided for any COVID-19 related claims or judgements.

Attorney Hauser stated this would mean any payments for legal fees associated with defending the district as well as, any judgments would be borne by the district exclusively.

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Afterwards, members of the Board asked a series of questions to Superintendent Jackson and Attorney Hauser regarding plans for opening of schools.

After hearing responses from Superintendent Jackson and Attorney Hauser, it was the collective decision/consensus of the Board that Superintendent Jackson pursue plans and procedures which support Remote Learning Instruction, rather than Blended Instruction or Direct In-person Instruction.

Upon hearing consensus of Board and its directives, Superintendent Jackson, stated he would begin developing plans which support opening of school remotely, with the understanding that before and/or by the conclusion of the 1st Quarter, the Superintendent recommend to the Board whether or not he proposes a continuation of Remote Instruction.

The Superintendent shared that the Administrative team continues to meet and strategies options for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. We are on parallel rails taking steps to developing a very effective remote program learning program.

We we move forward with an understanding that we are in a unique situation. Much of our work is concentrated on creating opportunities that will reimagine learning. We will continue to outline new proceduresd for the 2020-2021 school year in terms of scheduling, transportation, wearing mask, social distrancing, and other measures intended to keep everyone safe and healthy, for the day we return to in person instruction.

Superintendent Jackson stated that on Wednesday, July 15th at 2:00 p.m., he hosted a Zoom meeting with all staff members to discuss your and my directives of the Opering of School for the 2020-2021 school year.

You should be encouraged to know that of the 78 total employees only 6 indicated some reservation about returning to school beginning with opening Institute on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

IT WAS THE CONCENSUS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAVE REMOTE LEARNING UNTIL FURTHER RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON expressed to members that they were in advanced receipt of her report then inquired if there were any questions. There were none. MRS. JACKSON then asked for favorable approval of report as submitted.

Motioned/Sherman; Seconded/Mitchell to approve PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, LaWrence, Mitchell, Viverette, Sherman
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman, Hayslett
Abstain: None
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

- A. Accounts Payable (\$266,871.69)**
- B. Payroll Summary (for the month of June, 2020) as detailed below:**

June 02, 2020	\$195,990.78
June 19, 2020	<u>\$198,161.79</u>
Sub Total	\$394,152.57

Summer Payroll Run Outs	
1st Run Out – 6/26/20	\$118,415.99
2nd Run Out – 6/27/20	\$105,024.68
3rd Run Out – 6/28/20	<u>\$ 93,679.83</u>
Sub Total	\$317,120.50

GRAND TOTAL \$711,273.07

- C. Petty Cash (\$1,500.00)**
- D. Imprest Fund (\$25,000.00)**

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E. 2020-2021 Food Service Product Bids

Motioned/Sherman; Seconded/Mitchell to approve **PART C - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, LaWrence, Mitchell, Viverette, Sherman
Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Hayslett

Abstain: None

5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

PART C-CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School ended on Wednesday, June 18, 2020. This was a different type of Summer School due to the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which lead to the suspension of in person learning. The teachers and students rose to the occasion with Remote Learning through the Google Suite. Teachers were able to deliver instruction to students by having collaboration through video conferences, engaging activities, and projects. All students who participated received a laptop or Chromebook, and a MiFi connectivity card for the internet. All barriers were removed to allow students to participate in the program.

Kudos to the teachers, as they had to learn how to navigate through the Google Suite, while at the same time ensuring their students had an optimal learning experience.

B. 2020 - 2021 REGISTRATION

The District has begun several efforts to register the students for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents received registration packets that were delivered by DLM Transportation Company on June 18th and 19th, and the

following week on June 23rd and June 24th, the packets were picked back up from the homes.

There will be another attempt to register students during a Drive Up Registration, beginning on Monday, July 6, 2020 through Friday, July 10, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to return any packets that were not returned during the pickup by DLM Transportation Company, or parents can receive a packet to complete, if needed. Staff will be at both buildings to assist parents with their needs.

Robo calls went out to parents to make them aware of the Drive Up Registration. Additionally, the announcement was placed on the signage outside of Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center as another opportunity of ensuring the community was aware of Drive Up Registration.

C. GOOGLE SUITE REMOTE LEARNING TRAININGS

During the month of July, certified and support staff will receive follow-up trainings on the Google Suite. Staff will be placed in groups based on their skill sets, and the level of support that is needed.

The Google platform is what will be used for teaching and learning on days when students are unable to attend school for in person learning. Teachers will be able to create a virtual classroom that provides a hands on and collaborative curriculum to students through video conferencing, assignments, small group breakout sessions, sharing their screen to students, etc. The focus on days when students are engaged in Remote Learning days will be skill maintenance.

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D. INSTITUTE DAYS- AUGUST 12- 14, 2020

During these uncharted times, with the breakout of COVID-19, the District is planning for whether the students are back for in person learning, Remote Learning, or a Blended Learning Program. As a part of the opening of schools, staff participates in three (3) Institute Days. Preparations and planning are being made to ensure the days are productive, and each respective department receives the required trainings to have a successful school year. Our theme for the 2020 -2021 school year is: *"Reimagine Excellence.*


- E. MONTHLY BUILDING REPORTS** (*See references #1-2*) Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

Ms. Monique Johnson, Principal Medgar Evers P.A.C.
Sharon Rivers, Principal of Cottage Grove U.G.C.

BOARD PRESIDENT called for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:49 p.m.

Motioned/Sherman; Seconded/Mitchell - to adjourn meeting



Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence III,
Board President



Mrs. Ester Viverette, Secretary