

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Pro Tempore – Sherman – **at 10:01 a.m.**

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell (via phone), Sherman, Viverette
Absent: Coleman
Also Present: Dr. Gregory T. Jackson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Coretta D. Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of
Business Administration & Operations
Dr. Sharon P. Rivers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
& Instruction
Mrs. Vivian Carter, Administrative Assistant
Legal Counsel William (Bill) Gleason, Petrarca, Gleason, Boyle & Izzo, LLC

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

None

AGENDA

Motioned/Cook; Seconded/Gray - to approve the agenda

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman
Abstain: None
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

MINUTES

President Pro Tempore Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022

Motioned/Gray; Seconded/Cook - to approve the minutes December 6, 2022.

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Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman
Abstain: None
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

DR. GREGORY T. JACKSON asked that before he began his report that members of the Board allow Mr. Derek Drake, of DITTO Foods, be allowed to do a short presentation.

MR. DRAKE began by expressing that he was a product of the educational system of Ford Heights School District 169 and that he was the CEO and founder of DITTO Foods.

He spoke first to his experience at Ford Heights School District, as well as acknowledged the impact that board member Samuel J. LaWrence, III had on him and other students as well. He stated that Mr. LaWrence challenged them to be the best that they could be, and that he was not having any negative behaviors in his classroom and was just an encouragement to all students. He thanked him for his dedication during his tenure as a teacher.

MR. DRAKE explained the mission of DITTO Foods, and why he wanted to enter into a contractual agreement/partnership with the district, and expressed what things, items, supplies, materials, time, in person instructions etc. would be included in the agreement and why he wanted so badly to give back to the community and the students.

He further stated that this process for students would include the life cycle of plants and how changing just the light on a plant could change the outcome, it involves science, and patience and consistency. He believes the students will be excited about the process.

From DITTO's website the mission is as shown: **Ditto Foods is a minority-owned hydroponic farming company located in south suburban**

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Chicago. Our mission is to create and maintain a space for the possibility to grow using clean honest food as a link to education, sustainability, and enterprise. With a focus on social responsibility and sustainability, we provide the highest quality lettuce, leafy greens, herbs, and root vegetables to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) groups, wholesalers, local restaurants that feature farm to table menus

Mr. Drake ended his presentation by thanking Superintendent Jackson and members of the Board for allowing him the time to present.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON followed by stating to members that he and some of the Administrators had gone out to the site and that they are very excited about this pending venture and that he would at some point arrange a fieldtrip so that members could see for themselves the awesomeness of this site and the state-of-the-art high-tech setup and method used to grow food.

DR. JACKSON also filled members in on some of the many travels and countries Mr. Drake taught in, and places he worked as a Sous Chef etc., before launching his business.

DR. JACKSON inquired if members had any questions for Mr. Drake. Board member Gray followed up with several questions and board member Cook reminded him that she had previously met him, and he was quick to let her know that he was a former student and former resident of Ford Heights before moving away to travel abroad and several years later returning to the states.

At this juncture, Board President Pro Tempore – Sherman called for the Report of the Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON reminded members that they were in advanced receipt of his report and then informed members of an **ADDENDUM REPORT** item. The item was addressed and explained by the Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON ended by informing members of an upcoming Retreat with Auditors and stated that he would share the information, should anyone be interested in attending.

Dr. Jackson inquired if there were any questions? **THERE WERE NONE.**

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Superintendent Jackson then asked for favorable approval of his report as submitted, inclusive of **ADDENDUM REPORT**

Motioned/Cook; Seconded/Viverette - to approve **PART A - REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, inclusive of ADDENDUM REPORT** as submitted:

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman
Abstain: None
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. CLOSED SESSION

- A. That pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(1), Section 2(c)(10) and Section 2(c)(11) the Ford Heights School District 169 (FHSD 169) Board of Education goes into Closed Session to discuss the employment, compensation, and/performance of a specific employee of FHSD 169 and or matters regarding students. Any items needing approval will be voted on during open session.
(POSSIBLE ACTION)

II. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

- A. **AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF THE 2023-2024 BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.**

Authorize Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration & Operations to begin preparation of the **2023-2024 Budget**, for fiscal year ending **June 30, 2024**.

- B. **ACCEPT FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS (AS FOLLOWS): (DELIVERED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)**

Accept Ford Heights School District 169's Annual Financial Reports as submitted and listed below, for Fiscal Year ending *June 30, 2022*. Enclosed herewith for your acceptance are the following financial reports. They are:

- ✚ LETTERS FROM MILLER COOPER AND Co., LTD.
- ✚ BOUND ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR) FROM MILLER COOPER AND Co., LTD.
- ✚ ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS (AFR) TO ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM MILLER COOPER AND Co., LTD. (LOOSE BOUND)
- ✚ BLOOM TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF SCHOOLS ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

- C. AUTHORIZE CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT 169 BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DITTO FOOD, LLC (See reference #1)

III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- A. MONTHLY ENROLLMENT (AS OF JANUARY 3, 2023)

MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL

PRE-K	60	KDG	50
GRADE 1	53	GRADE 2	37
GRADE 3	51	GRADE 4	40
		TOTAL	291

COTTAGE GROVE UPPER GRADE CENTER

GRADE 5	36	GRADE 6	35
GRADE 7	39	GRADE 8	35
		TOTAL	145

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
436	11	447

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICERS):

MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS	TELEPHONE CONTACTS	PARENT CONFERENCES
3	566	3

COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS	TELEPHONE CONTACTS	PARENT CONFERENCES
2	219	2

PART B - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON reminded members that they were in advanced receipt of her report. Mrs. Jackson inquired if there were any questions. There were none! She ended by asking for favorable approval of her report as submitted:

Motioned/Viverette; Seconded/Cook - to approve **PART B - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS** as Report as submitted:

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman
Abstain: None
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Authorization is requested to pay Accounts Payable bills for January 10, 2023, in the amount of **\$556,478.12.**

B. PAYROLL SUMMARY

The following is the payroll summary for the month November 2022 as detailed below:

December 02, 2022	\$215,705.68
December 16, 2022	\$266,797.76
December 30, 2022	<u>\$184,882.59</u>
Total	\$667,386.03

C. PETTY CASH

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

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Office of Superintendent	\$135.00
Business Office	\$ 75.97
Cottage Grove	\$200.00
Medgar Evers	\$ 93.00
Building & Grounds	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total	\$553.97

PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

DR. SHARON P. RIVERS expressed to members that they were in advanced receipt of her report, then inquired if there were any questions.

Superintendent Jackson asked Dr. Rivers to talk about and give an update of the Districtwide Spelling Bee which was held earlier during the day of board meeting. After completing update, Dr. Rivers inquired if there were any questions. **THERE WERE NONE.** She then asked for acceptance of report as submitted:

Motioned/Viverette; Seconded/Gray - to accept **PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION** as submitted.

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman
Abstain: None
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

PART C-CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. WEEKLY TESTING FOR COVID-19 and INFLUENZA (FLU)

We are on schedule to continue our weekly COVID-19 testing and now Influenza, commonly known as the Flu. Testing through our partnership with MED-ADVO-C Consulting Group culturally competence-based healthcare will resume. Each week the team will perform nose and or mouth swabs to identify cases and reduce the chance of outbreaks in our schools. MED-ADVO-C facilitates all testing for all staff members and students with parent consent forms on file.

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As we return to school after winter break, students, staff, and visitors are reminded of our mandatory safety protocols which includes masking, social distancing, and maintaining the cleaning and sanitation protocols in high touch areas.

B. DISTRICT-WIDE SPELLING BEE

The district-wide Spelling Bee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 6, 2023, in the Willie L. Davis Auditorium at Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center. Students from both Medgar Evers and Cottage Grove will compete for first place which will move them forward to the 13th Annual and Regional ISC Scripps Spelling Bee. This event is scheduled for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd week of March.

C. ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS UPDATE

As there are now forty-five (45) days before testing for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and the Illinois Science Assessment (5th and 8th grade) which is set to begin the week of March 6, 2023, through April 7, 2023, we are now focusing instruction on Common Core Priority Learning Standards with a heavy emphasis on reading and writing to ensure students are prepared.

Each year, a small percentage of the Illinois student population is selected to participate in field testing which is a critical component in planning for future IAR testing. Cottage Grove is slated to participate in the English Language Arts/Language (ELA/L) field test will have a third unit added.

Saturday School Tutorial will allow for enrichment and enforcement of reading and math skills necessary to do well on IAR. Select students will attend the program for the next 10 weeks.

D. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2023

The following programs scheduled for the month of January.

- January 3rd PBIS Refresher
- January 5th – Problem Solving Cottage Grove
- January 6th – Districtwide Spelling Bee
- January 11 – 13th – Dental Exams

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- January 14th – 2nd Quarter Ends
- January 14th – Parent Center Monthly Meeting
Topic: Child development- ages 3 to 5 years old
- January 15th – Saturday School Begins
- January 20th – Problem Solving Medgar Evers
- January 21st – Report Cards Mailed Home
- January 27th – Science Fair Cottage Grove

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

Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

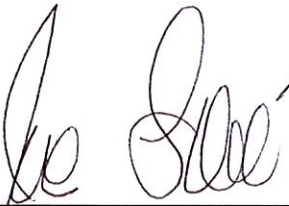
- ✚ Ms. Monique Johnson, Principal of Medgar Evers P.A.C.
- ✚ Dr. Sharon P. Rivers, Principal of Cottage Grove U.G.C.
- ✚ Ms. Celestine Burrell, District-wide Attendance Office

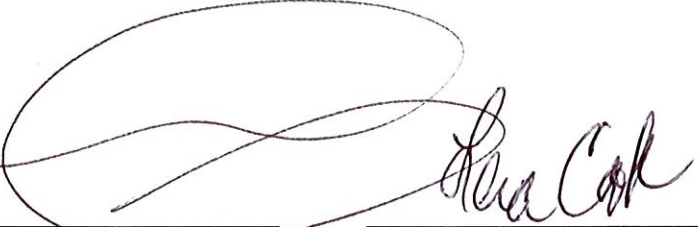
At this juncture, President Pro-Tempore Sherman called for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:25 a.m.

Motioned/Viverette; Seconded/Cook - to adjourn meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman
Abstain: None
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.


Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, President, Pro-Tempore


Mrs. Lera Cook, Secretary