

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169**  
**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & BOARD MEETING HELD**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Pro-Tempore, Samuel J. LaWrence – at **10:04 a.m.**

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: J. Coleman (*via phone at 10:07a.m.*), L. Cook (*via phone*), J. Gray, S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, M. Mitchell

Absent: Joe Louis Sherman

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  
Mrs. Gloria Lymore (*via phone*)  
Mrs. LaDonna Harris, Executive Assistant to the Supt.  
Mr. William Gleason, Legal Counsel

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** informed all those in attendance that this public hearing was to discuss the budget where **CORETTA JACKSON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**, was asked to proceed with explaining the budget plan for the school year, including any increases or decreases in school funding. During this time, Mrs. Jackson, announced to the Board of Education that an Economic Commerce Grant of \$100,000 from State Representative Thaddeus Jones had been received by our offices and that we have received total funding of \$375,000 that was offset by these grant funds.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)**

**BOARD MEMBER, JESSICA GRAY**, asked Mrs. Jackson why the district lost \$100,000 this year. **MRS. CORETTA JACKSON** explained that the state decreased some of the funding the district received from Title I and this would actually be the last year for the Title I funding.

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** asked **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRIUCLUM, DR. RIVERS**, to elaborate more on the connection of funding with Title I. She went on

to explain that our school receives funding from the state based off our ratings of comprehensive (Medgar Evers) and/or targeted (Cottage Grove) with the expectation of improvement within the two schools.

When asked if there were any further questions, there were none.

### **CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING**

President Pro-Tempore, Samuel J. LaWrence, called for a motion to *close the public hearing* at 10:14 a.m.

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to approve the Agenda

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

### **AGENDA**

President Pro-Tempore, Samuel J. LaWrence called for a motion to *adopt the agenda of the regular session* at 10:15a.m..

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Viverette - to approve the Agenda

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

### **MINUTES**

President Pro-Tempore, Samuel LaWrence called for a motion to approve the minutes of **August 8, 2023**

Motioned/Gray; Seconded/Mitchell - to approve the minutes of **August 8, 2023**

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

## CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

### **PART A - REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** asked the board to approve the budget previously mentioned in the public hearing. He then went on to mention that **Ms. Mary Fulwiley's** wristwatch was ready, and it had been engraved to read "*33 years of Service*". The watch was passed around the room as Superintendent Jackson made the announcement that Ms. Fulwiley had reconsidered and agreed to participate in this year's retirement ceremony and her watch be presented to her on this occasion.

Superintendent Jackson then asked if there were any further questions.

**BOARD MEMBER, J. COLEMAN** asked if the students were going to attend an 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. **Mr. Samuel LaWrence**, President Pro-Tempore, stated that he had met with the trip planning committee regarding students going to Washington, D.C. and it was decided that it was too expensive. Parents would pay in excess of \$1,200 per child. It was decided that students would go to the previous destination they have visited for the last couple of years, for their trip, which was more feasible for parents, costing \$300 per child.

**BOARD MEMBER, J. COLEMAN**, then asked a second question pertaining to a point system of some sort established for students wishing to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation trip. **BOARD MEMBER, JESSICA GRAY**, clarified his inquiry by following up with the statement that students with bad behavior should not be rewarded by being allowed to attend 8<sup>th</sup> grade outings. **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, DR. RIVERS**, stated that in the beginning of the year, all of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents were informed of stipulations that would prevent them from going on the trip and because of that, some students were not allowed to go due to their negative behavior in the past. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** stated that this is a matter that will continue to be monitored.

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** ended by asking for favorable approval of his report as submitted.

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to approve **PART A - REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** as submitted:

Roll Call: Ayes: Coleman, Cook, LaWrence, Gray, Mitchell, Viverette  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Sherman  
 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 the open session.  
**(POSSIBLE ACTION)**

## II. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

- A. **PERSONNEL** (*Pending receipt of all personnel required documents and Illinois State Police and FBI criminal background clearance*)

### 1. AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE AFTER SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Authorization is sought to hire the following personnel for After School Tutorial to begins **Tuesday, September 26, 2023**, and ends Wednesday, **December 5, 2023**. They are:

- Cynthia Purdy
- Michael Dreixler
- Tiffany Leshoure
- Austin Ives
- Dayna Harris
- Diane Richardson
- Jason Kinnaman
- Kristy Kemper
- Lena Watts
- Rachel Ransom
- Jennifer Carter
- Tania Richey
- Robin Norris
- Antoina McMichales

- *Ollie Gill*
- *Chantel L. Jones*
- *Monique Johnson*
- *Dr. Sharon P. Rivers*

## 2. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Authorization is sought to approve **Ms. CLARA JONES**, as **Food Service/Custodial worker**, Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, administratively hired pending board approval effective as of Monday, August 28, 2023 for the **2023-2024 School Year – \$36,000**
- b. Authorization is sought to approve **Ms. VERA BALL**, as **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**, Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center, administratively hired pending board approval effective as of Friday, September 1, 2023 for the **2023-2024 School Year – MA+15, Step 10 \$53,462**
- c. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. PRECIOUS LATHAN** as **Baton Coach**, Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, administratively hired pending board approval effective as of Monday, August 28, 2023 for the **2023-2024 School Year – Volunteer Stipend \$1,500**

## 3. RETIREMENT- LETTER OF INTENT

- a. **MRS. DIANE SARGEANT**, Teacher – Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, has submitted a Letter of Intent to Retire, at the conclusion of the **2023-2024 School Year** in accordance to the IEA/NEA union contractual agreement.
- b. **MRS. GERALDINE PARHAM**, District Nurse, has submitted a Letter of Intent to Retire, at the conclusion of the **2024-2025 School Year**.

## PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

**MRS. CORETTA JACKSON** reminded members that they were in advance 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/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to approve **PART B - ASSISTANT**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS** as Report as submitted:

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

## **I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION**

### **A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Authorization is requested to pay Accounts Payable bills for September 5, 2023, in the amount of **\$709,746.10**

### **B. PAYROLL SUMMARY**

The following is the payroll summary for the month of August 2023 as detailed below:

August 11, 2023	<b>\$195,978</b>
August 25, 2023	<b><u>\$203,674</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$399,652</b>

## **PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** expressed to members that they were in advance receipt of her report. She also reminded the board that the "*Million Father March*" will take place this Thursday, September 07, 2023, beginning at 7:30 a.m. with continental breakfast for fathers and a token of appreciation given to all participants

She then inquired if there were any questions. **THERE WERE NONE.** She then asked for acceptance of her report as submitted:

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

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

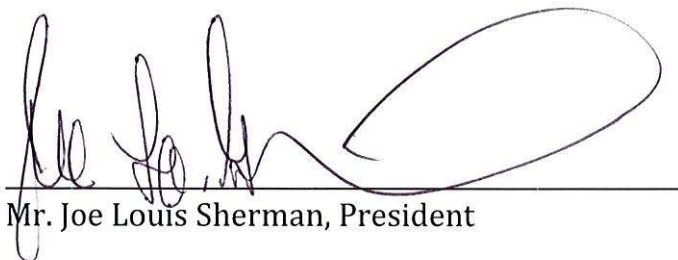
Abstain: None  
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried

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

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:32 a.m.**

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to adjourn meeting.

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



Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, President



Mrs. Ester Viverette, Secretary