

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Sherman - at **10:00 a.m.**

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present:	Cook (via phone), Gray, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Absent:	Coleman, LaWrence
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	Attorney William Gleason

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

None

**AGENDA**

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

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

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

**MINUTES**

President Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes of **December 10, 2024 Regular and December 10, 2024 Closed Session**

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to approve the minutes of December 10, 2024 Regular and Closed Session.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Cards thanking the Board of Education for your kindness in their time of loss were received from the following:

**MRS. CORA SAWYER AND FAMILY**  
**SAWYER, TYNES, COOPER, & WILSON FAMILY**  
**WILLE E MCCAUSTLE AND FAMILY**  
**WATSON AND FAMILY**  
**WATSON & JONES FAMILY**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** reminded members that they were in advanced receipt of his report, then briefly addressed items in his report. Superintendent addressed the issue of video and audio on In-District Buses and Out-of-District Buses run by DLM to transport our students.

Superintendent Jackson stated to Board members as per their mandate, he spoke with DLM staff regarding the need for video and audio transmission to always be on buses, and in working conditions, because there have been times when audio/video were needed, and they were not available, and that this was unacceptable.

Statements and comments were made by Attorney Gleason regarding this issue and Board Member Gray.

Superintendent briefly addressed the letter that was handed out to members of the Board from DLM regarding this matter, he then asked Mrs. Coretta Jackson and Dr. Sharon Rivers to follow up with DLM by requesting a video and audio recording from both In-District and Out-of-District buses for proof.

Dr. Jackson stated to members that he would provide feedback on financial reports after thoroughly reviewing them.

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Superintendent Jackson stated that he would like to commend Dr. Sharon Rivers for the great job she has been doing and stated that Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center had received a certificate in recognition of improving their Annual Summative Designation (a measure of progress in academic performance and student success) from 2023-2024, from the State Superintendent, Dr. Tony Sanders, and that this award is not given to everyone.

The Board of Education members gave a round of applause and congratulations to Dr. Rivers. 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: Cook, Gray, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette  
Nays: None  
Absent: Coleman, LaWrence  
Abstain: None  
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 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 2025-2026 BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.**

Authorize Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration & Operations to begin preparation of the **2025-2026 Budget**, for fiscal year ending **June 30, 2026**.

**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, 2024*. 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, 2024 (WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE)*

**C. APPROVAL OF CARDIAC EMERGENCY PLAN (REFERENCE #1)**

Authorization is sought to approve a Cardiac Emergency Plan for Ford Heights School District 169.

**III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. Monthly Enrollment (As of December 2024)**

**MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL**

PRE-K	60	KDG	49
GRADE 1	53	GRADE 2	51
GRADE 3	43	GRADE 4	32
		TOTAL	<b>288</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

GRADE 5	42	GRADE 6	39
GRADE 7	36	GRADE 8	34
		TOTAL	<b>151</b>

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
<b>439</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>456</b>

**REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):**

**MEDGAR EVERS:**

<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>TELE. CONTACTS</b>	<b>PARENT CONF.</b>	<b>LETTERS SENT HOME</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>TELE. CONTACTS</b>	<b>PARENT CONF.</b>	<b>LETTERS SENT HOME</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>

**B. RECOGNITION OF IMPROVEMENT FROM ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (REFERENCE #2)**

Members of the Board enclosed herewith is a certificate of recognition of improvement from ISBE regarding our annual summative designations from 2023 – 2024. Congratulations are extended to Dr. Rivers and her Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center staff for a job well done.

**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.

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

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

**I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Authorization is requested to pay Accounts Payable bills for

January 7, 2025, in the amount of \$560,998.47

**B. PAYROLL SUMMARY**

The following is the payroll summary for the month of December 2024 as detailed below:

December 13, 2024	\$253,775.52
December 27, 2024	<u>\$236,176.78</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$489,952.30</b>

**C. PETTY CASH**

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

Office of the Superintendent	<u>\$144.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$144.00</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, then inquired if there were any questions. **THERE WERE NONE.** She then asked for approval of report as submitted:

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

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

**I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. PRESCHOOL FOR ALL MONITORING VISIT**

The Preschool for All (PFA) program received notification from McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National Louis University of the monitoring visit schedule for the 2024-2025

school year. The program monitoring visit will occur during the three-week assessment window of January 6<sup>th</sup> – 20, 2025. Assessors will arrive approximately ½ hour before classes begin and are expected to remain throughout the day.

**B. DISTRICT-WIDE SPELLING BEE**

The district-wide Spelling Bee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 10, 2025, in the Willie L. Davis Auditorium at Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center. The event will be live streamed throughout the district as students from both Medgar Evers and Cottage Grove will compete for first place which will move them forward to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual ISC Scripps Spelling Bee. This event is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March.

**C. ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS UPDATE**

Thirty-seven (37) days remain before testing for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness for students' 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and the Illinois Science Assessment for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade only. The district continues to prepare to begin the week of March 3, 2025, through April 30, 2025. Our focused instruction on Common Core Priority Learning Standards with a heavy emphasis on reading, mathematics, and writing are to ensure students are prepared. Additionally, more targeted groups of students and individual conferences are scheduled to reinforce specific areas.

**D. WINTER CONCERT – “A DISNEY HOLIDAY”**

“A Disney Holiday” brought out the children in us all! The winter concert was not just a concert, it was an experience which highlighted the spirit of the season through song and dance. The curtains opened with prekindergarten and kindergarten waving to an enthusiastic audience performing We Wish You a Disney Christmas. “A Disney Holiday” not only displayed the beginners' band, concert, and jazz band but the show kicked off with the marching band making an appearance down the aisle. Raffles throughout the program gave parents an opportunity to win

various prizes and gifts. Disney songs were sung, and new musical arrangements filled the program. The grand finale was one to be remembered as it included an appearance by Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

**E. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2025**

The following programs are scheduled for the month of January.

- January 6<sup>th</sup> - PBIS Refresher
- January 9<sup>th</sup> - Problem Solving Cottage Grove
- January 10<sup>th</sup> - Districtwide Spelling Bee
- January 10<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Ends
- January 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> - Dental Exams
- January 17<sup>th</sup> - Parent Center Monthly Meeting
- January 17<sup>th</sup> - Report Cards Mailed Home
- January 25<sup>th</sup> - Problem Solving Medgar Evers

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

Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

- ✚ Ms. Ollie Gill, Principal of Medgar Evers P.A.C.
- ✚ Dr. Sharon P. Rivers, Principal of Cottage Grove U.G.C.
- ✚ Mrs. Robin Norris, District-wide Attendance

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


**ADJOURNMENT: 10:15 a.m.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette  
Nays: None  
Absent: Coleman, Lawrence  
Abstain: None  
**5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present - motion carried.**



~~Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, President~~  
Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence, President Pro-Tempore



Mrs. Ester Viverette, Secretary