

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette – at 10:22 a.m.

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Mr. Samuel LaWrence, Mrs. Ester Viverette, Ms. Jessica Gray,
Mr. Mark Mitchell, Mrs. Lera Cook, Mr. Joe Louis Sherman
Absent: Mr. James 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. LaDonna Harris, Executive Assistant
Mr. David Wright, Director of Technology
Mr. William Gleason, Legal Counsel

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

None.

AGENDA

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the agenda at 10:23 a.m.

Motioned/*Sherman*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the Agenda

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

MINUTES

President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regularly scheduled board meeting of April 2, 2025.

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Motioned/*Sherman*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the minutes of **April 2, 2025** Regular and Closed Session.

Roll Call: Ayes: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
 L. Cook, J. Gray
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. Coleman
 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 reminded members of the Board of Education that they were in advance receipt of his report. He went on to state the hiring of three employees: Keith Stanton (Special Ed), Jeneen Kateeb (School Psychologist) and Monica Cuellar (Bilingual School Psychologist). **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** also stated that Jessie Sherman, a custodian of 22 years, will be retiring at the end of the 2024 – 2025 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON then went on further to ask for approval to amend the 2024 – 2025 school calendar to remove five emergency days and to authorize a consulting agreement for another year with Diversified Therapeutics. In addition, **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** informed the Board that we had received a "Certificate of Excellence" from the Intermediate Service Center (ISC4) and that Local 73 Service Employees International Union (SEIU) dues shall now be calculated at 1.45% of annual base salary starting July 1, 2025.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON asked the Board members to enjoy teacher appreciation gift boxes which were set in front of their seats for each member. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** also asked Dr. Rivers to speak to the daily lunches that would be provided to the teaching staff over the course of the week as well.

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Finally, **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** informed the Board that our students had won one (1) gold and three (3) silver awards at the recent State Science Fair at the University of Illinois – Urbana Champagne. He asked Dr. Rivers to elaborate more pertaining to the winners and their awards.

Dr. Rivers was able to provide the following information:

Name(s):	Award:
Reyna Espana	Gold
Leslie Morrison & Carrington Neal	Silver
Mateo Sevilla	Silver
Cinthia Ortiz & Nyah Eddings	Silver

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON ended by asking for favorable consideration and approval of his report, as submitted and asked if there were any further questions. **There were none.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
 L. Cook, J. Gray
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. 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. PERSONNEL

1. APPOINTMENT(S)

- a. Authorization is sought to appoint **MR. KEITH STANTON**, as a ***Special Education Teacher***, Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, administratively hired pending board approval effective as of Wednesday, April 23, 2025 for the **2024-2025 School Year – MA, Step 14 \$57,859**
- b. Authorization is sought to appoint **MS. JENEEN KATEEB**, as a districtwide ***School Psychologist*** hired effective for the **2025-2026 School Year (Reference #1)**
- c. Authorization is sought to appoint **MS. MONICA CUELLAR**, as a districtwide Bilingual ***School Psychologist*** hired effective for the **2025-2026 School Year**
- d. Authorization is sought to approve the appointment of **Ms. Gretchen Bailey**, as an ***Assistant Principal at*** Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center **effective July 1, 2025** for the **2025-2026 School Year** with a base salary of **\$98,000.00 per year, inclusive of board paid TRS.**

(New appointment(s), as shown above, are pending receipt of all personnel required documents and Illinois State Police and FBI criminal background clearance.)

2. LETTER OF RETIREMENT(S)

- a. **MR. JESSIE SHERMAN** Custodian – Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, has submitted a Letter of Intent to Retire, at the conclusion of the **2024-2025 School Year.**

3. AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE SUMMER SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Authorization is sought to hire *additional* personnel for Summer School 2025.

They are:

India Edwards-Muhammad	Summer School Secretary
Sonia Smith	Teacher
Alyssa Hall	Sports Camp & Teacher
Robin Norris	<i>Correction:</i> Head of Gardening
Adrianne Adams	<i>Correction:</i> Sports Camp

B. APPROVAL TO AMEND THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Approval is sought to amend the **2024-2025** School Calendar to abate (remove) **five (5)** emergency days, resulting in school closing Friday, **May 23**. The calendar represents **180 days**, with **174 days** as student attendance days for the **2024-2025** School Year.

C. AUTHORIZE CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH DIVERSIFIED THERAPEUTICS' INCORPORATED

Authorization is sought to enter into agreement with Diversified Therapeutics Incorporated Center for Speech, to provide speech pathology related services for the **2025-2026** School Year. Speech Services **(\$43,000)**.

D. RE-AUTHORIZE LETTERS OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE FIRMS AS LISTED BELOW
THEY ARE:

1. **MATTHEW O'SHEA AND SARA KUHN, M/O CONSULTING**
JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026
2. **JOHN C. CORRIGAN & ASSOCIATES**
JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026
3. **DEJUAN A. KEA, CSC FIRM, LLC**
JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. Monthly Enrollment (As of April 30, 2025)

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MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL

PRE-K	60	KDG	45
GRADE 1	56	GRADE 2	52
GRADE 3	41	GRADE 4	35
TOTAL		289	

COTTAGE GROVE:

GRADE 5	40	GRADE 6	38
GRADE 7	35	GRADE 8	34
TOTAL		147	

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
436	19	455

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):

MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
2	135	2	3

COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
3	125	1	1

B. Certificate of Excellence

(Reference #2)

Ford Heights School District 169 received a Certificate of Excellence from the South Cook Intermediate Service Center for achieving a perfect score with no violations cited in any of our buildings during this year's Health/Life Safety Inspection.

C. Local 73 SEIU

(Reference #3)

Members of the board, per the attached communication, as of July 1, 2025, the dues deduction for all members shall be calculated at **1.45% of their annual base salary**, with a maximum annual dues deduction of \$1,020.

D. Sports Camp

Members of the Board, the first (1st) half of Summer Sports Camp will run from 06/02 – 06/13/2025 for basketball with Athletic Director Timothy Williams and Coach Shawn Aldridge. The second (2nd) half of Summer Sports Camp will run from 06/16 – 06/26/2025 for volleyball with Coach Adrienne Adams and Coach Alyssa Hall.

PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON reminded members that they were in advanced receipt of her report and inquired if there were any questions. **There were none.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
L. Cook, J. Gray
Nays: None
Absent: J. Coleman, S. LaWrence (*Left at 10:25a.m.*)
Abstain: None
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$652,358.12)

B. PAYROLL SUMMARY (for the month of April 2025) as detailed below:

April 4, 2025	\$253,480.73
April 18, 2025	\$230,944.45
Total	\$484,425.18

C. PETTY CASH (\$513.85)

PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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DR. SHARON P. RIVERS expressed to members that they were in advance receipt of her report and inquired if there were any questions. **THERE WERE NONE.**

She then asked for approval of report as submitted:

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

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Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
 L. Cook, J. Gray
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. Coleman, S. LaWrence (*Left at 10:25a.m.*)
 Abstain: None
 5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STAFF SURVEY

District 169 administers a needs assessment survey to understand staff perceptions of professional development (PD). Specifically, the survey addresses what educators perceive as the strengths and areas for improvement in their existing school/district PD. Additionally the results will help inform the district's PD priorities and assess the needs of staff. Each department is encouraged to complete the survey relative to their division. All the information provided will guide our professional development calendar for the new school year.

B. DISTRICT HONORS PROGRAM

The District Honors program recognizes the academic accomplishments of students. Honor roll, high honor roll and perfect attendance are highlighted during the program. Math and reading awards are given to those who made significant growth and met their academic goal on the local assessment (Northwest Evaluation Association) and the state (Illinois Assessment of

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Readiness) assessments. The program is designed to encourage students to continue to be successful in school.

C. TEACHER, SCHOOL NURSE, and STUDENT ADVOCATE APPRECIATION WEEK

Teacher Appreciation Week will run from Monday, May 5, through Friday, May 9. It is a time to celebrate the outstanding contributions of our educators and to thank teachers for their hard work. It is celebrated annually during the first week of May and dates back to 1953. This year, our School Nurse and Student Advocate will be recognized for their work keeping our students healthy both physically and mentally.

D. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2025

- May 1st – District Honors Celebration
- May 5th – 9th – Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 7th – School Nurse and Student Advocate Appreciation
- May 8th – Prekindergarten Step-up Day
- May 9th – Prekindergarten Luncheon and Parent Meeting
- May 12th – 16th Spirit Week at Medgar Evers
- May 14th – Cottage Grove Commencement Ceremony
- May 15th – Step-up Day
- May 22nd – Halfway There Ceremony Medgar Evers

E. 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 Office

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

ADJOURNMENT: 10:46 a.m.

Motioned/*Mitchell*; Seconded/*Sherman* - to adjourn meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
L. Cook, J. Gray

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Nays: None

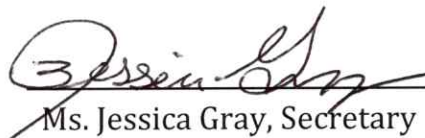
Absent: J. Coleman, S. LaWrence (*Left at 10:25a.m.*)

Abstain: None

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ester Viverette", written over a horizontal line.

Mrs. Ester Viverette, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jessica Gray", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Jessica Gray, Secretary