

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette –
at 11:06 a.m.

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Mrs. Ester Viverette, Ms. Jessica Gray, Mr. Mark Mitchell, Mrs. Lera Cook, Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, Mr. Samuel LaWrence, Mr. James Coleman

Absent: None

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
Mr. Matt Gast, Region 55 UniServ Director, IEA/NEA
Ms. Kristy Kemper, Teacher
Ms. Tamara Robinson, Teacher
Ms. Elizabeth Michalski, Teacher
Ms. Matrina Eno, Teacher
Ms. Ann Armstrong, Teacher
Mr. Robert Potter, Teacher
Ms. Robin Washington
Ms. Mikayla Robinson, Substitute
Ms. Rachel Ransom, Teacher

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

Mr. Robert Potter provided an introductory statement as to why he and others were in attendance and explained that it was in regards to union contracts. Mr. Potter requested that the results of union negotiations reflect the value of what the teachers feel they bring as educators to Ford Heights School District 169. Mrs. Matrina Eno, Mrs. Elizabeth Michalski, Ms. Tamara Robinson, Ms. Rachel Ransom and Ms. Mikayla Robinson each spoke about their own grievances or on behalf of an anonymous employee regarding the current state of union negotiations and how critical it is to end those negotiations in favor of their concerns.

AGENDA

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the agenda at **11:20 a.m.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
 L. Cook, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, J. Coleman
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Abstain: None
 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 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 **June 10, 2025.**

Motioned/*Sherman*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the minutes of **June 10, 2025** Regular and Closed Session.

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
 L. Cook, J. Gray, J. Coleman (*Phone*)
 Nays: None
 Absent: S. LaWrence
 Abstain: None
 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 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. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** then asked for favorable consideration and approval of his report as submitted and asked if there were any questions. **There were none.**

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

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

I. CLOSED SESSION

- A. THAT PURSUANT TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169 WILL GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING: (1) THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE OR DISMISSAL OF A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE OF THE PUBLIC BODY (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)); (2) COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)); (3) STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CASES AND/OR MATTERS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9) AND 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); AND (4) LITIGATION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC BODY (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)).**

II. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. PERSONNEL

1. APPOINTMENT(S)

- a. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. MICHELLE JACKSON**, as a ***Substitute Teacher***, effective **Thursday, August 6, 2025**, for the 2025-2026 School Year - **\$45,000 salary**
- b. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. THERESA ELLIS**, as a ***Substitute Teacher***, effective **Thursday, August 6, 2025**, for the 2025-2026 School Year - **\$45,000 salary**

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

B. APPROVE ONE YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR DLM SCHOOL BUS LINES, INC. (REFERENCE #1)

Authorization is sought for a motion to approve contract extension for DLM Bus Lines services for **REGULAR EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION, AND OUT OF DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION** for one additional year (commencing **2027-2028 School Year.**) Effective the **2025-2026** School Year at the previous year's regular and special education transportation rates.

C. APPROVAL OF ADDENDA FOR SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Authorization is sought for approval of Addenda for the Superintendent's Employment Contract.

D. CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

1. **ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL (ASBO) ANNUAL CONFERENCE, October 21-23, 2025 Fort Worth, TX**
2. **ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS STATE (ASBO) ANNUAL CONFERENCE, April 29 – May 1, 2026 Peoria, IL**
3. **ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS (IASA) CONFERENCE September 24-26, 2025 Springfield, IL**
4. **COUNCIL OF URBAN BOARD OF EDUCATION (CUBE) ANNUAL CONFERENCE September 11 – 13, 2025 Los Angeles, CA**
5. **ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS/ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS/ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS**

**(IASB/IASA/IASBO) JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
 November 21-23, 2025 Chicago, IL**

6. **NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS (NASBE) – 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE December 10 - 14, 2025 Chicago, IL**
7. **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS (AASA) – School Superintendent’s Association February 12-14, 2026 Nashville, TN**
8. **NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (NSBA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE April 10 – 12, 2026 San Antonio, TX**
9. **ASSOCIATION FOR SUPERVISION & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (ASCD) June 28 – July 1, 2026 Orlando, FL**

E. COMMERCIAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

(REFERENCE #2)

Authorization is sought for approval of the following premiums, using Liberty Mutual on the package lines (everything other than property) and Chubb as the property carrier option.

Premiums:

Line of Business	2024-2025 Premium	2025-2026 Premium	Difference
General Liability	\$14,368	\$14,538	\$170
School Leaders	\$16,407	\$16,654	\$247
Law Enforcement	\$727	\$727	\$0
Auto	\$36,236	\$32,611	(\$3,625)
Crime	\$500	\$500	\$0
Umbrella	\$18,195	\$20,949	\$2,754
Property (Chubb)	\$272,497	\$235,000	(\$37,497)
Total	\$358,930	\$320,979	(\$37,951)

F. AWARDING OF CONTRACT FOR FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS (REFERENCE #3).

Authorization is sought to award a contract for food service products to the following vendors:

Cloverleaf Farms	Milk
13835 S. Kostner	
Crestwood, IL 60445	

Wilkins Food Service	Frozen Vegetables,
2601 Bond Street	Groceries & Staples, Meat
University Park, IL 60484	Fish & Poultry, Paper
	Goods (Specific Items)

III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB NOTIFICATION (REFERENCE #4)

Members of the Board, please take note of the memorandum that has been sent home to parents notifying them of the official closure of the Ford Heights Boys and Girls Club as of July 2025.

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/*Sherman*; 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, J. Coleman (*Phone*)
Nays: None
Absent: S. LaWrence
Abstain: None

7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$562,933.22)

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

June 13, 2025	\$251,271.39
June 27, 2025	<u>\$249,688.54</u>
Total	\$500,959.93

PAYROLL RUN OUTS

1 st Run Out – 6/27/25	\$120,229.11
2 nd Run Out – 6/27/25	<u>\$119,992.77</u>
Sub Total	\$240,221.88

Grand Totals \$741,181.81

C. PETTY CASH (\$1,500.00)

D. IMPREST FUND (\$25,000.00)

PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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.

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
 L. Cook, J. Gray, J. Coleman (*Phone*)

 Nays: None

 Absent: S. LaWrence

 Abstain: None

7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

A. SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACADEMY (SEA)

The Summer Enrichment Academy (SEA) proved to be a wonderful experience for our students. The 2025 summer program was a four-week district-wide effort and a remarkable success! SEA welcomed children from pre-kindergarten, heading to kindergarten, through seventh grade, who are gifted, talented, and/or creative in a supportive academic and social setting. The elementary grades took a thematic approach and focused on reading and mathematics using dinosaurs and sharks to reinforce basic skills. While the upper grade students were able to select three high interest, hands-on, critical thinking activities, which included: Chess Club, STEAM Club, Mathematics Club, Dance Club, Film Club, Garden Club, and Culinary Club. Our culminating activity commenced at Up Your Alley in Schererville, Indiana on Thursday, June 26th.

Special thanks to the Ms. Jones, Ms. Gill, Ms. Buchanan, Mrs. Norris, Ms. Canales, Ms. Muhammad, Mrs. Dreixler, Ms. Barnes, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Williams, Ms. Lowe, Ms. Ransom, Ms. Carter, Ms. Tutorow, Ms. Watts, Mr. Stanton, Ms. Bell, Ms. Hall, Ms. Harris, Ms. Smith, Mr. Booker, Mrs. Hayslett, Mrs. Landfair, and Mr. Kinnaman for your hard work and continued support!

B. LITTLE DIVAS SUMMER CAMP

Little Divas Summer Camp was filled with events that supported “girl power.” The goal was to teach girls how to be successful, confident, and active young ladies. The weeklong event included:

- Artsy DIVA, (Sip and Paint chef hats and aprons)
- Spa and Dance DIVA (Facials, Manicures, and Tic Toc)
- Culinary DIVA (Baked cookies)
- Travel DIVA (Teambuilding)

C. REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Early Registration for the 2025-2026 school year continues with the goal of having 90% of our students registered for the new school year. Currently 65% of our families have registered. Parents

are encouraged to complete the registration packet sent through the mail. They can also register online or by phone. New families can register during registration on Thursday, July 31st and Friday, August 1st.

D. INSTITUTE DAYS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 school year will start for teachers on Thursday, August 8th through Friday, August 9, 2024. This year, the 3-day Opening Institute will focus on recognizing years of service and other acknowledgments. State mandated training, along with professional development for each department will complete the day. Team building activities on the final day of the Opening Institute will continue as part of the program.

E. E-LEARNING PLAN

Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.56] authorized a pilot program for the use of e-learning days by three school districts to provide instruction while the students were not in attendance at the school to which they were assigned. Public Act 101-0012PDF Document amends the Act by enabling all school districts to take advantage of e-Learning. While the district may adopt a policy for an e-learning program wherein students can receive instruction electronically while they are not in the building, e-learning days can only be used in lieu of a scheduled emergency day and are limited to the minimum number of emergency days in the approved school calendar (five). This option existed in statute prior to the pandemic. The Regional Office of Education must verify that the plan provides access for all students by September 1 annually. An E-Learning Program adopted in accordance with procedural requirements is valid for three years.

F. FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAM GRANTS UPDATE

The Consolidated District Plan has been approved. Each year, the plan is developed and revised to provide programs that will support academic achievement. As a result of the approval, the following subgrants will be submitted for approval. They are:

- Preschool For All
- Title I, Part A

- Title IV, Part A

G. 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.


President Ester Viverette called for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:23 a.m.

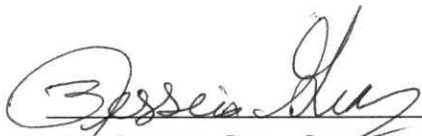
Motioned/*Mitchell*; Seconded/*Sherman* - to adjourn meeting.

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

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Mrs. Ester Viverette, President



Ms. Jessica Gray, Secretary