

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette –
at 10:01 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. James Coleman (Phone)
Absent:	Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence, III
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 <i>Mr. Matt Gast, Region 55 UniServ Director, IEA/NEA</i> <i>Ms. Kristy Kemper, Teacher</i> <i>Ms. Elizabeth Michalski, Teacher</i> <i>Ms. Matrina Eno, Teacher</i> <i>Mr. Robert Potter, Teacher</i> <i>Mr. Jason Kinnaman, Teacher</i> <i>Ms. Rachel Ransom, Teacher</i> <i>Mrs. Geraldine Parham, Nurse</i> <i>Ms. Latasha Buchanan, Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services</i> <i>Ms. Ollie Gill, Principal</i> <i>Ms. Gretchen Bailey, Assistant Principal</i> <i>Ms. Estela Canales, Administrative Assistant</i> <i>Ms. Rochelle Latiker, Paraprofessional</i> <i>Ms. India Muhammad, Administrative Assistant</i> <i>Ms. Robin Norris, Administrative Assistant</i>

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

Mrs. Michalski spoke on behalf of an anonymous employee regarding their current salary. Ms. Ransom and Mr. Kinnaman went on to each speak about their own desire to acquire higher salaries with rising costs.

AGENDA

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the agenda at **10:08 a.m.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell
 L. Cook, J. Gray, J. Coleman (Phone)
 Nays: None
 Absent: S. LaWrence
 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 **July 7, 2025.**

Motioned/*Sherman*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the minutes of **July 7, 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
 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card received from the Grossi family for the love and support shown during the passing of their loved one.

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 and addenda pertaining to personnel 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
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 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. REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION APPROVAL (REFERENCE #1)**

Authorization is sought to approve a resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the District.

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

ADDENDA ITEMS:

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card received from the Grossi family thanking the Board of Education for flowers and support received on behalf of the passing of their loved one, Mr. Robert Grossi, Sr.

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. PERSONNEL

1. APPOINTMENT(S)

- a. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. MICHELLE BORISHADE**, as a ***Substitute Resource Teacher*** at the **Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center**, effective **Thursday, August 6, 2025**, for the 2025-2026 School Year
- b. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. JENNIFER CARTER**, as a ***Substitute Pre-Kindergarten Teacher*** at the **Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center**, effective **Thursday, August 6, 2025**, for the 2025-2026 School Year

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

B. BUILDING RENTAL

Authorization is requested for the use of the following facilities:

Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025
Time: 1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.
Place: Tidye A. Phillips
Contact: James Coleman

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
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$1,509,039.39)

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

July 11, 2025	\$105,235.12
July 25, 2025	<u>\$103,464.70</u>
Total	\$208,699.82

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
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

A. BACK TO SCHOOL STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year began with early registration prior to the end of the last school year. Seventy-eight percent of students were registered. Parents were able to register over the summer and during registration at the end of July which took place at Tidye A. Phillips. Parents were able to pick up student schedules and school supplies as well as schedule physical and mandated immunizations. Late registration took place at both buildings on Monday, August 4th and Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

B. OPENING INSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Opening Institute is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Traditionally, the schedule would include three (3) institute days at the start of the year to set goals on how we will maximize our efforts in a way that will impact student learning. The exception of this school year rests on ongoing construction which has impacted when teachers return to arrange their classrooms as students return on Monday, August 11, 2025. Nonetheless, the one-day training will focus on State mandated training which included: Sexual Harassment, Educator Ethics, and Title IX. The afternoon will include breakout sessions based on staff surveys that will address student behavior, training on various medical issues, and IXL training.

C. ACCELERATED READER (AR)

Accelerated Reader (AR) is an educational program created by Renaissance Learning. It is designed to monitor and manage students' independent reading practice and comprehension in both English and Spanish. The program assesses students' performance through quizzes and tests based on the books they have read. The program implementation will include kindergarten through 2nd grade.

D. ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION SPORTS

The Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) has selected Cottage Grove to host the athletic contests. They are 7th Grade Girls

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Basketball Regionals on November 7th Grade Boys Basketball Regionals in December and 8th Grade Boys Basketball Regionals in January.

E. FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAM GRANTS

The Consolidated District Plan was approved April 29, 2025, and amended July 15, 2025, to include notification to three additional nonpublic schools determining their participation. Once approved, the following subgrants will be submitted for approval. They are:

- Title I, Part A
- Title IV, Part A

Preschool for All 3-5 Early Childhood grant was approved July 29, 2025. With approval by ISBE, the District will be able to make purchases, order materials and supplies and hire staff with the grants.

F. ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS (IAR) RE-DESIGN

The Illinois State Board of Education announced that *“Due to the re-design of the Illinois assessment and accountability system, the performance levels are not currently included in the IAR preliminary score data. Therefore, we are expected to have new cut scores for each of our general education content assessments at Grades 3-12 in the areas of math, English language arts, and science. The recommended cut scores and associated impact data will be reviewed July 22-25, 2025, to determine if any adjustments to the recommended cut scores are warranted in light of policy definitions and guidance. Final cut score recommendations will be presented to the Board for both discussion and approval at the August 2025 Board meeting. Expedited review and approval is necessary both to ensure that ISBE has sufficient time to apply the approved cut scores to data for the 2025 Report Card release at the end of October. This also will allow districts to preview the impact of the new performance levels on their preliminary Report Card data in both the Data Review and Verification Tool (from approval through Sept. 30) and Educator Preview (Oct. 1 through Oct. 29).”* <https://www.isbe.net/iar>

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

Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

✚ Ms. Ollie M. Gill, Principal of Medgar Evers P.A.C.

✚ Dr. Sharon P. Rivers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Cottage Grove U.G.C.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 10:14 a.m.

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

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

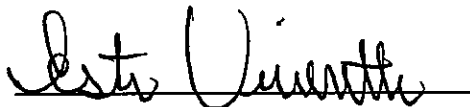
 L. Cook, J. Gray, J. Coleman (Phone)

 Nays: None

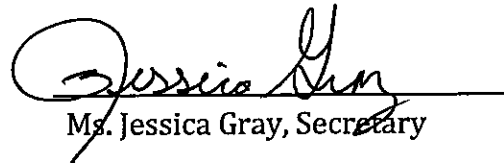
 Absent: S. LaWrence

 Abstain: None

 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.



Mrs. Ester Viverette, President



Ms. Jessica Gray, Secretary