

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & BOARD MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

The public hearing meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette – **at 10:03 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. Samuel J. LaWrence, III
Absent:	Mr. James Coleman, Mr. 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. LaDonna Harris, Executive Assistant Mr. David Wright, Director of Technology Mr. William Gleason, Legal Counsel

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON informed all those in attendance that this public hearing was to discuss the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 budget. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** went on to discuss corporate tax reductions, teacher salary negotiations and a decrease in state funding. **BOARD PRESIDENT, ESTER VIVERETTE**, went on to request that if any members of the Board or public have any questions or concerns about this year's proposed budget, please step forward and to give their name and to state their purpose or concern.

There were none.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

None.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to *close the public hearing* **at 10:14 a.m.**

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to close the public hearing.

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

OPENING OF REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette –
at 10:15 a.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Mrs. Ester Viverette, Ms. Jessica Gray, Mr. Mark Mitchell, Mrs.
 Lera Cook, Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence, III
Absent: Mr. James Coleman, Mr. 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. LaDonna Harris, Executive Assistant
 Mr. David Wright, Director of Technology
 Mr. William Gleason, Legal Counsel
 Ms. Robin Norris, Administrative Assistant

AGENDA

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the agenda at
10:16 a.m.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Viverette, LaWrence, Gray,
 Mitchell, Cook
 Nays: None
 Absent: Coleman, Sherman
 Abstain: None
 5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 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 **August 5, 2025**.

Motioned/*Cook*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the minutes of **August 5, 2025** Regular and Closed Session.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter was read aloud from Peace Baptist Church thanking the Board and Superintendent Jackson for their support with a technology donation.

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 and addendum regarding Quenshai Griffin becoming a full-time custodian. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** went on to discuss personnel including the appointment of a new teacher, Richard Hesse, a paraprofessional, Jasmine Juarez and the resignation of Keith Stanton in Special Education.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON also reminded the Board that final budgets had been delivered to them and how after school appropriations have now been received from Washington. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** then asked for favorable consideration and approval of his report and asked if there were any questions. **There were none.**

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

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

- a. Authorization is sought to approve **MR. RICHARD HESSE**, as a **Teacher** at the Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, administratively hired pending board approval effective as of Monday, August 18, 2025 for the **2025-2026 School Year – M.A, Step 8 - Prorated Salary of \$49,891**
- b. Authorization is sought to approve **MS. JASMINE JUAREZ**, as the **Paraprofessional**, administratively hired pending board approval effective as of Monday, August 25, 2025 for the **2025-2026 School Year –Prorated Salary of \$35,000**

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

2. APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION(S)

- a. **MR. KEITH STANTON**, *Special Education Teacher*, Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, resigned **effective Friday, August 15, 2025.**

ADDENDA ITEM(S):

APPOINTMENT(S)

Authorization is sought to appoint **MR. QUENSHAI GRIFFIN**, as a **full-time Custodian** at the **Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center**, effective **Monday, September 1, 2025**, for the 2025-2026 School Year - **\$38,000** per year

B. PROPOSED REVISED POLICIES (SEE REFERENCE #1)

Consistent with Ford Heights School District 169's normal practice to conduct periodic reviews of its policies, the following policies are being submitted as needing to be **Revised, Adopted**, and/or **New** as listed below:

❖ **Instruction - Title I Programs- 6:170 (Revised 9/9/2025)**

A. APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 (SEE REFERENCE #2)

NOTE: TO BE DELIVERED BY MON., 09/08/2025 - TENTATIVE BUDGET ENCLOSED

B. APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

NOTE: REFERENCES, #2-5, TO BE DELIVERED BY MON., 09/08/2025

1. Chief Fiscal Officer's Estimate of Revenues anticipated to be received by Ford Heights School District 169, Cook County Illinois for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. (*See Reference #3*)

2. Certification of Resolution and Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the tenth day of September 2025, insofar as same relates to the adoption of a Resolution entitled: Resolution **ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169**, Cook County, Illinois for Fiscal Year **2025-2026**. (*See Reference #4*)
3. **RESOLUTION ADOPTING** the Budget of Ford Heights School District 169, Cook County, Illinois for the **Fiscal Year 2025-2026** (*See Reference #5*)

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. Monthly Enrollment (As of August 31, 2025)

MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL

PRE-K	60	KDG	46
GRADE 1	44	GRADE 2	54
GRADE 3	51	GRADE 4	36
		TOTAL	291

COTTAGE GROVE:

GRADE 5	31	GRADE 6	43
GRADE 7	37	GRADE 8	37
		TOTAL	148

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
439	14	453

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):

MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
0	82	0	0

COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
0	52	0	5

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

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$802,966.25)

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

August 8, 2025	\$232,940.00
August 22, 2025	<u>\$229,521.44</u>
Total	\$462,461.44

C. PETTY CASH (\$183.73)

D. BUILDING RENTAL

A. Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Place: Tidye A. Phillips
Purpose: Repast

Contact Person: James Coleman

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/*LaWrence* - to accept **PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION** Report as submitted.

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

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. OPENING INSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As in the past, achieving excellence is the directive for the 2025-2026 school year. Through “A Portrait of Excellence” the charge is for staff to demonstrate the importance, virtue, power, and beauty of science, social studies, language arts and mathematics. This is what the skill of teaching and the result of learning characterizes. With this portrayal, we are positioned for excellence and are excited about what opening institute had to offer. Wednesday, August 6th began by recognizing members of the staff who had perfect attendance and years of service. Continuing with state mandated training and a focus on the results from the 2024-2025 staff survey. Thursday and Friday focused on preparing for the return of students through the school initiative project.

B. PARENT CENTER MONTHLY MEETINGS

Parent Workshops for the 2025-2026 school year are scheduled to begin in September. The parenting series is open to prekindergarten parents. Selected topics were generated from the survey given to

parents at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. The first meeting of the year is scheduled for Friday, September 5th.

C. AFTER SCHOOL TUTORIAL

The following update was provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on August 27, 2025. It reads in part "[Public Act 104-0003](#) appropriated \$35 million for FY 2026 in General Revenue funds to provide the After School Programs Grant to school districts and community organizations for after-school programming, as well as other programming outside of the normal school day.

The After School Programs Grant is a two-part initiative. School district grant allocations total \$17 million out of the \$25 million appropriated. Another \$18 million is competitive grant allocations for non-school district applicants. The purpose of the funding is to:

- *Improve academic outcomes for students.*
- *Provide opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment*
- *Provide opportunities to strengthen public, private, and philanthropic partnerships so that quality support services are more durable for students facing the greatest challenges."*
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx>

In the past, the Notice of State Award and Uniform Grant Agreement for the After School Program grant would become available on July 1st. It should be noted that as of the date of this writing, the After School Program grant has not been made available for FY26.

D. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

- September 1st – Labor Day
- September 5th – Parent Meeting
 - Topic: *Good Communication is the key to a good school year*
- September 10th – Professional Development
- September 11th – Million Father March
- September 18th – Problem Solving Medgar Evers
- September 19th – Health Clinic
- September 19th – First Progress Report Mailed Home
- September 24th – Professional Development

- September 26th – Picture Day, Medgar Evers
- September 29th – Picture Day, Cottage Grove

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

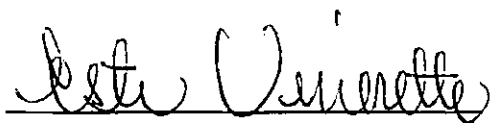
Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

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

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

ADJOURNMENT: 10:29 a.m.

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



Mrs. Ester Viverette, President


Ms. Jessica Gray, Secretary

At this juncture, President Ester Viverette called for a motion to enter into a closed session at **10:29 a.m.** to discuss a matter of personnel.

Motioned/*Mitchell*; Seconded/*Gray* - to start a closed session.

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

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President Ester Viverette called for a motion to close a closed session at **10:46 a.m.**

Motioned/*Mitchell*; Seconded/*Lawrence* - to close a closed session.

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