

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

The public hearing meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette – **at 10:04 a.m.**

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Mrs. Ester Viverette, Mr. Mark Mitchell, Ms. Jessica Gray, Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence, III, Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, Mrs. Lera Cook, Mr. James Coleman (*Phone*)

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. Damaus Viverette, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Coach Timothy Williams
Coach Alyssa Hall
Mr. Matt Gast, Region 55 UniServ Director
Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center Girls' Basketball Players

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Coach Timothy Williams thanked the Board of Education and administration for supporting the girls' basketball team this season. He announced the seventh (7th) grade team had won both the regional and sectional championship with a final score of 14 to 2. Coach Williams went on further to inform the Board of Education participants that the eighth (8th) grade team had recently won the regional game and were preparing for their sectional game on Wednesday, December 10, 2025. Players used this time to introduce themselves and the position each of them plays on their respective teams.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

There were none.

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. APPROVAL OF XPO LOGISTICS NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
(REFERENCE #1)**

Authorization is being sought to accept a negotiated settlement for the XPO Logistics Freight industrial property, located at 1100 Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago Heights, Illinois for the 2022 tax year.

B. APPROVAL OF YEAR TWO (2) RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ABATEMENT OF 2024 AND 2025 TAXES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2025 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT (REFERENCE #2)

Authorization is sought to approve the resolution providing for abatement of 2024 and 2025 taxes in the amount of \$232,926.00 in order to qualify for the FY 2025 Property Tax Relief grant.

**C. APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2026-2027 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR
(REFERENCE #3)**

Approval is sought to approve the **2026-2027 ISBE** School Calendar for the **2026-2027** School Year.

The School Year will begin on **Wednesday, August 12, 2026**, and will end on **Thursday, June 3, 2027**. The calendar represents **185 days**, inclusive of **five (5) emergency days**. If no emergency days are used, school will end **Wednesday, May 26, 2027**.

You will see by the attached copy of the official School Calendar; the following will take place on dates noted below:

TEACHER INSTITUTE DAYS
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
Thursday, August 13, 2026
Friday, August 14, 2026
Tuesday, May 25, 2027

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Friday, October 30, 2026

Friday, April 9, 2027

EMERGENCY DAYS

Thursday, May 27, 2027

Friday, May 28, 2027

Tuesday, June 1, 2027

Wednesday, June 2, 2027

Thursday, June 3, 2027

- D. RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION TO ISSUE \$4,000,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S WORKING CASH FUND, AND DIRECTING THAT NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION BE PUBLISHED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY LAW (REFERENCE #4)**

Authorization is sought to approve the resolution declaring the intention to issue \$4,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.

- E. RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH AND DESCRIBING IN DETAIL CLAIMS HERETOFORE AUTHORIZED AND ALLOWED FOR PROPER SCHOOL PURPOSES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY OUTSTANDING AND UNPAID, DECLARING THE INTENTION TO ISSUE \$7,000,000 BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING CLAIMS AGAINST THE DISTRICT, AND DIRECTING THAT NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED BY LAW (REFERENCE #5)**

Authorization is sought to approve the resolution setting forth and describing in detail claims heretofore authorized and allowed for proper school purposes which are presently outstanding and unpaid, declaring the intention to issue \$7,000,000 bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published as provided by law.

F. 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, 2025*. 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)

**PER DAVID RICKER, TREASURER OF BLOOM TOWNSHIP, THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT (FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025) FROM BLOOM TOWNSHIP WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE.*

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL

PRE-K	60	KDG	45
GRADE 1	45	GRADE 2	57
GRADE 3	51	GRADE 4	40
		TOTAL	298

COTTAGE GROVE:

GRADE 5	33	GRADE 6	44
GRADE 7	35	GRADE 8	37
		TOTAL	149

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
447	17	464

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):

MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
2	540	3	4

COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
1	235	2	2

B. AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AGREEMENT (REFERENCE #6)

Members of the Board, as a reference, attached herewith is a copy of an agreement between the American Institutes for Research and Ford Heights SD 169. This agreement is to conduct school-level needs assessments in support of the Illinois State Board of Education.

C. FY 26 HEALTH/LIFE SAFETY REPORT (REFERENCE #7)

Ford Heights School District 169 received a commendable Fiscal Year (FY) 26 Health/Life Safety report from the South Cook Intermediate Service Center with no violations cited in any of our buildings for a sixth (6th) year in a row during this year's Health/Life Safety Inspection on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

PART B - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON reminded members that they were in advanced receipt of her report.

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON asked the Superintendent for favorable consideration and approval of her report and asked if there were any questions. **There were none.**

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

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

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

- A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$521,047.39)**
- B. PAYROLL SUMMARY (for the month of November 2025) as detailed below:**

November 14, 2025	\$239,228.77
November 28, 2025	<u>\$235,520.80</u>
Total	\$474,749.57

- C. PETTY CASH (\$150.00)**
- D. BUILDING RENTAL(S)**
Authorization is requested for the use of the following:

- A. Holiday Gift Giving Event – Ester Viverette
Date: Saturday, 12/20/2025

PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

DR. SHARON P. RIVERS expressed to members that they were in advance receipt of her report.

DR. SHARON P. RIVERS then asked the Superintendent for favorable consideration and approval of her report and asked if there were any questions. **There were none.**

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, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. Lawrence, III.,
 J. Sherman, L. Cook, J. Coleman (*phone*)
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Abstain: None
 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and PARENT WORKSHOPS

With the month of December, our professional development along with our monthly parent workshops are paused for the holiday season. January will restart our work with a continued focus on the academic challenges as we look towards the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). We are closing the achievement gap by monitoring student data and how students are responding to academic and behavior interventions. These data points drive our instructional goals.

With regards to our monthly workshop for parents, this activity will also resume on January 16, 2026. We will continue providing parents with skills and strategies to implement at home

B. 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Per 105 ILCS 5/10-19, “Each school board shall annually prepare a calendar for the school term, specifying the opening and closing dates and providing a minimum term of at least 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance....”

This guide assumes that the 2026-2027 school year will be a normal school year in terms of calendar requirements. If needed, additional guidance the Illinois State Board of Education will be released with instructions on how to handle unforeseen events, including disaster declarations or major public health issues, that might arise. A draft of the 2026-2027 school calendar has been prepared and submitted for review.

