

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

The public hearing meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette – **at 10:09 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 (Entered at 10:11a.m.),
Ms. Jessica Gray, Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence, III, Mr. Joe Louis
Sherman
Absent: Mr. James Coleman, Mrs. Lera Cook
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

There were none.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

There were none.

AGENDA

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the agenda at **10:11/ a.m.**

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

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

II. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. PERSONNEL

LETTER OF RETIREMENT(S)

- a. **MS. CYNTHIA PURDY**, Teacher – Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, has submitted a Letter of Intent to Retire, at the conclusion of the **2028 - 2029 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. AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF THE 2026-2027 BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027

Authorize Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration & Operations to begin preparation of the **2026-2027 Budget**, for fiscal year ending **June 30, 2027**.

C. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD TO SELL \$4,000,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF THE DISTRICT AND \$7,000,000 FUNDING BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING CLAIMS AGAINST THE DISTRICT (REFERENCE #1)

1. Call Public Hearing to Order
2. Administration Information Regarding Intent to Sell Working Cash Fund Bonds
3. Public Input and Comment Regarding Intent to Sell Working Cash Fund Bonds
4. Board Member Questions
5. Close Public Hearing

D. VALUATION EXPERT ENGAGEMENT (REFERENCE #2)

Per the request of Petrarca, Gleason, Boyle and Izzo, LLC., authorization to engage a valuation expert to produce a full appraisal report in support of the County's assessment has been received. The recommendation is based on their expert MAI appraiser's estimate of market value for the Copart of Connecticut commercial property, located at 1201 S. State Street, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

E. FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT REQUEST (FMLA)

Authorization is sought to approve Family Medical Leave (FMLA) request submitted by **MRS. CHEYENNE DREIXLER**, Administrative Assistant, District Office, consistent with Ford Heights School District 169's FMLA Policy 5.185

ADDENDUM:

BUILDING RENTAL

Authorization is requested for the use of the following facilities:

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026
Event: Celebration of Life
Time: 12:00p.m. – 9:00p.m.
Place: Tidy A. Phillips
Contact: James Coleman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. Monthly Enrollment (As of December 2025)

MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL

PRE-K	60	KDG	45
GRADE 1	45	GRADE 2	58

GRADE 3	52	GRADE 4	38
TOTAL		298	

COTTAGE GROVE:

GRADE 5	32	GRADE 6	44
GRADE 7	33	GRADE 8	37
TOTAL		146	

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
444	17	461

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):

MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
3	125	5	3

COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
3	130	4	2

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

PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

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

16th Annual ISC Scripps Spelling Bee. This event is scheduled for the 3rd week of March.

D. PRESCHOOL FOR ALL SITE VISIT

The Preschool for All (PFA) program will welcome a visit from the Early Childhood Learning Center. The visit is a professional development opportunity for the continuing growth of our Prekindergarten program and staff. This will include interpreting data, identifying additional goals, and next steps for program improvement and continuous growth that will help teachers and paraprofessionals determine where to focus their efforts.

E. ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS UPDATE

Thirty-eight (38) days remain before testing for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness for students' 3rd through 8th grade, and the Illinois Science Assessment for 5th and 8th grade only. The District continues to prepare to begin the week of March 2, 2026, through April 17, 2026. With a heavy emphasis on reading, mathematics, and writing, our focused instructional practices are to ensure students are prepared. Furthermore, targeted groups of students and individual conferences are in place to reinforce specific areas.

F. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2026

The following programs are scheduled for the month of January.

- January 5th – PBIS Refresher
- January 8th – Problem Solving Cottage Grove
- January 9th – Districtwide Spelling Bee
- January 10th – 2nd Quarter Ends
- January 13th – District 206 Placement Exam
- January 14th – 16th – Dental Exams
- January 16th – Parent Center Monthly Meeting
- January 22nd – Report Cards Mailed Home
- January 25th – Problem Solving Medgar Evers

F. 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.

