

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

The public hearing meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette – **at 10:07 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,
Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence, III (*secretary pro-tempore*), Mrs. Lera Cook

Absent: Mr. James Coleman, Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, Ms. Jessica Gray

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 (*Enters at 10:16a.m.*)
Mr. Damaus Viverette, Director of Buildings and Grounds

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

A parent felt as if she was getting conflicting information from her daughter's teacher and administration regarding the circumstances for why her daughter was reporting to the Principal's office weekly.

The parent stated that it had been difficult for her to arrange an appointment to sit with both the teacher and administrators at Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center. She requested some assistance with getting this matter resolved.

AGENDA

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the agenda at **10:17 a.m.**

Motioned/*LaWrence*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the agenda.

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Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. Coleman, J. Gray, J. Sherman
 Abstain: None
 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 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 **February 10, 2026**.

Motioned/*LaWrence*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the minutes of **February 10, 2026** Regular and Closed Session

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. Coleman, J. Gray, J. Sherman
 Abstain: None
 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 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** went on to discuss personnel authorizations including the appointment of three new substitute teachers, Carol Holliday, Patricia Mitchell and Rachelle Ruge-Bernard. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** also mentioned the Board had before them a resolution for a non-renewal of an administrative employee for the school year 2026-2027.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON requested authorizations to file the Federal Consolidated District Plan for SY 2026 – 2027 and the Seconds Matter Safety Solution Proposal for camera system upgrades in the amount of \$84,999.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON then asked for favorable consideration and approval of his report and asked if there were any questions. **There were none.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook
Nays: None
Absent: J. Coleman, J. Gray, J. Sherman
Abstain: None
4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 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

APPOINTMENT(S)

- a. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. CAROL HOLLIDAY** as a ***Substitute Teacher***, Ford Heights School District 169, **effective, Monday, March 9, 2026** for the 2025-2026 School Year - **\$185.00 per day**
- b. Authorization is sought to appoint **Ms. PATRICIA MITCHELL** as a ***Substitute Teacher***, Ford Heights School District 169, **effective, Monday, March 9, 2026** for the 2025-2026 School Year - **\$185.00 per day**

III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. Monthly Enrollment (As of February 28, 2026)

MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL

PRE-K	60	KDG	45
GRADE 1	45	GRADE 2	58
GRADE 3	50	GRADE 4	39
TOTAL		297	

COTTAGE GROVE:

GRADE 5	32	GRADE 6	41
GRADE 7	33	GRADE 8	37
TOTAL		143	

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
440	18	458

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):

MEDGAR EVERS:

	HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS
SENT HOME	0	245	16	16

COTTAGE GROVE:

	HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS
SENT HOME	0	175	10	4

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

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. Coleman, J. Gray, J. Sherman
 Abstain: None
 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$500,442.37)

B. PAYROLL SUMMARY (for the month of Feb. 2026) as detailed below:

February 6, 2026	\$255,093.94
February 20, 2026	<u>\$244,109.91</u>
Total	\$499,203.85

C. PETTY CASH (\$295.17)

D. BUILDING RENTAL

Authorization is requested for the use of the following:

A. Training Class – James Coleman

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2026

B. Easter Program – James Coleman

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2026

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.

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. Coleman, J. Gray, J. Sherman
 Abstain: None
 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. EARLY REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Early registration packets for the 2026-2027 school year are being mailed on Friday, March 6th. Parents are encouraged to complete the packet and return it to school. Calls are made daily to assist with completing the packet and to answer questions concerning the required registration forms. The goal is to exceed eighty percent of our students registered before the end of school.

B. 5ESSENTIAL SURVEY

The 5Essential Survey window is open. The District continues its push for all stakeholders to complete the survey. It is administered once a year for student's 3rd through 8th grade and teachers, with an option for parents to complete the survey. Research shows schools strong on at least three of the five essentials for school improvement were 10 times more likely to show substantial gains in student learning than schools weak on three or more of the five essentials. In 2020, the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research released a report that reaffirms the effectiveness of the 5Essentials in promoting positive student outcomes.

C. ILLINOIS STATE TESTING CYCLE IN SCIENCE, ELA, AND MATH

In compliance with federal testing requirements, Illinois will administer a science assessment to students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 beginning March 3, 2026. The online assessment is aligned to

the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which were adopted in 2014.

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students. It assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards incorporating the Common Core State Standards and will be administered in English Language arts (ELA) and mathematics to all students in grades 3rd through 8th. The IAR spring 2026 testing window opens March 2nd through April 17, 2026.

D. ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS DISTRICT PEP RALLY

Our 3rd-8th graders brought great energy to Friday's pep rally as they prepared for their reading, math, and writing assessments. The IAR gives students a chance to show their understanding of the Common Core and Illinois Learning Standards. To boost confidence and school spirit, the district hosted a high energy IAR pep rally on February 27th. It was a fun and motivating way to remind students that their hard work matters.

E. FEDERAL PROGRAM GRANTS: Federal Consolidated District Plan 2026-2027

Grant management is the processes and methods the district employs to write and oversee grants. It encompasses every part of a grant's lifecycle, from pre-award research through post-award grant closeout. Prior to the start of the writing cycle, the Consolidated Plan is completed serving as the organizational structure to guide our work. Authorization is requested to submit Federal Consolidated District Plan for 2026-2027 school year and is inclusive of the following Grants:

- Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs
- Title II, Part A Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals, & Other School Leaders
- Title III Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP)
- Title IV, Part B Rural and Low-Income Schools

- IDEA, Part B Flow-Through
- IDEA, Part B Preschool

F. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2026

- March 2nd – Casimir Pulaski Day
- March 3rd – Illinois Assessment of Readiness Begins
- March 3rd – Illinois Science Assessment Begins
- March 5th – Scripps Regional Spelling Bee
- March 5th – Family Fun Night Medgar Evers
- March 6th – Early Registration Packets Mailed
- March 6th - Parent Meeting
- March 8th – Daylight Saving Time (*Spring Forward*)
- March 21st – End of 3rd Quarter
- March 27th – Parent Teacher Conference

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

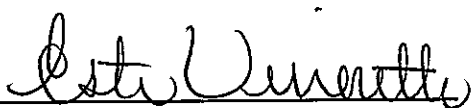
Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

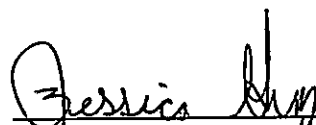
- ✚ Ms. Ollie Gill, Principal of Medgar Evers P.A.C.
- ✚ Dr. Sharon P. Rivers, Principal of Cottage Grove U.G.C.
- ✚ Mrs. Robin Norris, District-wide Attendance

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

ADJOURNMENT: 10:28 a.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III.,
 Nays: None
 Absent: L. Cook, J. Coleman, J. Sherman
 Abstain: None
 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.


Mrs. Ester Viverette, President


Ms. Jessica Gray, Secretary