

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169**  
***MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD***  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026**

The public hearing 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. Samuel J. LaWrence, III, Mrs. Lera Cook (*Enters at 10:03 a.m.*),  
Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, Mr. James Coleman (by phone),  
Mr. Mark Mitchell (by 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 (*Enters at 10:03 a.m.*)

**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 **10:05 a.m.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L.  
Cook, J. Coleman, J. Sherman  
Nays: None

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**April 7, 2026**

**Page 2**

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 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 **March 9, 2026** and the *Special Meeting* held on **March 25, 2026**.

Motioned/*Sherman*; Seconded/*Gray* - to approve the minutes of **March 9, 2026** Regular and Closed Session and the Special meeting minutes of **March 25, 2026**.

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook, J. Coleman, J. Sherman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 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 hiring of a new administrative staff member, Kim Harper, the resignation of a recently hired substitute teacher and the hiring of summer school personnel. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** also mentioned the recommendation to approve a new nutrition and physical activity policy 6.50, the hiring of SIKICH CPA, LLC and the approval of a school-based health services program through Med-Advo-C of Joliet.

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** informed the Board that the pre-bid installation meeting would take place on Wednesday, 04/08/2026 and that all bids were due in by Monday, 04/20/2026.

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

Motioned/*LaWrence*; Seconded/*Sherman* - 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  
                  7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 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.   RESIGNATION(S)**

- A.     **MS. CAROL HOLLIDAY**, Substitute Teacher, has submitted an Email of Resignation, effective ***Friday, March 27, 2026*** for the **2025-2026 School Year**.**

**B. AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE SUMMER SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

Authorization is sought to hire the following personnel for Summer School 2026.

**They are:**

- Rachel Ransom
- Takeisha Williams
- Megan Schultz
- Dayna Harris
- Alyssa Hall
- Richard Hesse
- Michelle Borishade
- Sonia Smith
- Patrice Landfair
- Angela Hayslett
- Timothy Williams
- Shawn Aldridge
- Robin Norris
- Chantel Jones
- Ollie Gill
- Dr. Sharon P. Rivers

**ADDENDUM:**

**APPOINTMENT(S)**

Authorization is sought to approve the appointment of **Mrs. Yvonne (Kim) Harper**, as an **Assistant Principal at Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center effective July 1, 2026** for the **2026-2027 School Year** with a base salary of **\$98,000.00 per year, inclusive of board paid TRS**. Daily compensation in the amount of \$376.92 will be paid to Mrs. Harper for any work performed prior to July 1, 2026.

**C. PROPOSED REVISED POLICY (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 - School Wellness - 6:50 (Adopted 04/07/2026)**

**D. APPROVE THREE YEAR (JUNE 30, 2026 - 2028) INDEPENDENT AUDIT PROPOSAL FROM SIKICH CPA L.L.C. OF NAPERVILLE, IL (Reference #2)**

Consider approval of three year (June 30, 2026 - 2028) independent audit proposal from Sikich CPA, L.L.C of Naperville, IL

**THREE YEAR DELIVERABLES**

AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE DISTRICT - FY26 - \$36,000

AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE DISTRICT - FY27 - \$37,100

AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE DISTRICT - FY28 - \$38,200

**E. SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM**

Authorization is sought to approve the utilization of two classrooms for a school-based health services program sponsored by Med-Advo-C of Joliet, Illinois at Tidye A. Phillips.

**III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. Monthly Enrollment (As of March 30, 2026)**

**MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL**

<b>PRE-K</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>KDG</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>GRADE 1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>GRADE 2</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>GRADE 3</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>GRADE 4</b>	<b>39</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

GRADE 5	33	GRADE 6	41
GRADE 7	33	GRADE 8	36
		TOTAL	143

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
440	19	459

**REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):**

**MEDGAR EVERS:**

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
0	325	6	9

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
2	215	4	4

**B. MILLER COOPER – TERMINATION OF SERVICES (Reference #3)**

Members of the Board, please be advised that Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd. will no longer provide services to governmental clients. The firm has served our district for many years in the areas of accounting and auditing. Attached is their formal notification along with information on SIKICH, the firm they have recommended as a potential successor.

**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.**

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**April 7, 2026**

**Page 7**

Motioned/*LaWrence*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - 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., L. Cook, J. Coleman, J. Sherman  
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 (\$544,243.63)**

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

March 6, 2026	\$238,416.79
March 20, 2026	\$246,359.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$484,776.78</b>

**C. PETTY CASH (\$330.82)**

**PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

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

**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, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook, J. Coleman, J. Sherman  
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 STAFF SURVEY

District 169 administers a needs assessment survey to understand staff perceptions of professional development (PD). Specifically, the survey addresses what educators perceive as the strengths and areas for improvement in their existing school/district PD. Additionally the results will help inform the district's PD priorities and assess the needs of staff. Each department is encouraged to complete the survey relative to their division. All the information provided will guide our professional development calendar for the new school year.

### B. DISTRICT HONORS PROGRAM

The District Honors program recognizes the academic accomplishments of students. Honor roll, high honor roll and perfect attendance are highlighted during the program. Math and reading awards are given to those who made significant growth and met their academic goal on the local assessment (Northwest Evaluation Association) and the state (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) assessments. The program is designed to encourage students to continue to be successful in school.

### C. TEACHER, SCHOOL NURSE, and STUDENT ADVOCATE APPRECIATION WEEK

Teacher Appreciation Week will run from Monday, May 4, through Friday, May 8. It is a time to celebrate the outstanding contributions of our educators and to thank teachers for their hard work. It is celebrated annually during the first week of May and dates back to 1953. This year, our School Nurse and Student Advocate will be recognized for their work keeping our students healthy both physically and mentally.

### D. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2026

- May 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – School Nurse and Student Advocate Appreciation
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Prekindergarten Step-up Day

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**April 7, 2026**

**Page 9**

- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Prekindergarten Luncheon and Parent Meeting
- May 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Spirit Week at Medgar Evers
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – Cottage Grove Commencement Ceremony
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Step-up Day
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Halfway There Ceremony Medgar Evers

**E. 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 Office

President Ester Viverette called for a motion to go into closed session at **10:13a.m.**

- 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)).**

Motioned/**Sherman** Seconded/**Gray** - to go into a closed session.

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

President Ester Viverette called for a motion to adjourn the closed session and return to regular session at **11:26a.m.**

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**April 7, 2026**

**Page 10**

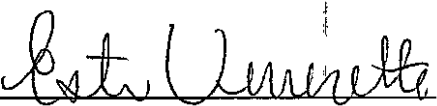
Motioned/*Sherman* Seconded/*Gray* - to adjourn the closed session and return to regular session.

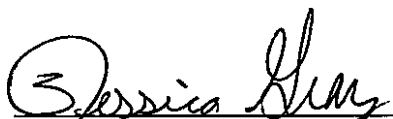
Roll Call:   Ayes:           E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L.  
  Cook, J. Coleman, J. Sherman  
                  Nays:           None  
                  Absent:       None  
                  Abstain:      None  
                  7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present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

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

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:27 a.m.**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Ester Viverette, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Jessica Gray, Secretary