

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169**  
***MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD***  
**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026**

The public hearing meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Ester Viverette – **at 10:05 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,  
Mr. Mark Mitchell (*enters by phone at 10:07a.m.*)

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. Jamie Lucas, Guest from Unjaded Therapeutics

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

There were none.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)**

Ms. Jamie Lucas introduced her company and therapeutic services that she offers through Unjaded Therapeutics and how beneficial they would be as a resource for Ford Heights School District 169 students with 504s and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

**AGENDA**

Board President Ester Viverette called for a motion to approve the agenda at **10:07 a.m.**

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

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Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, J. 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 *and* the closed session minutes of **April 7, 2026.**

Motioned/**Gray**; Seconded/**Cook** - to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regularly scheduled board meeting *and* the closed session minutes of **April 7, 2026.**

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, J. Sherman  
Abstain: None  
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 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 resignation of Cheyenne Dreixler, Administrative Assistant, and the hiring of Summer Sports Camp coaches. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** also mentioned the recent awarding of the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) Installation bid to Quality Control Systems of Crete, Il.

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**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** went on to mention authorizations for community engagement specialists, scholarship awards from Dr. Grossi and the “Child Find” newspaper posting that was posted in the newspaper on April 26, 2026.

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

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

Roll Call: Ayes: E. Viverette, M. Mitchell, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, J. 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. RESIGNATION(S)**

**A. Ms. CHEYENNE DREIXLER, Administrative Assistant, has submitted a Letter of Resignation,**

effective *Friday, May 1, 2026* for the **2025-2026 School Year.**

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

Authorization is sought to hire the following personnel as Sports Camp coaches for Summer School 2026.

**They are:**

- Alyssa Hall Sports Camp - Volleyball Coach
- Michelle Borishade Sports Camp - Cheerleading Coach
- Timothy Williams Sports Camp - Basketball Coach
- Shawn Aldridge Sports Camp - Basketball Coach

**C. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) AND RELATED WORK - INSTALLATION BID AT MEDGAR EVERS PRIMARY ACADEMIC CENTER  
(REFERENCE #1)**

Authorization is sought to award a contract for heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) and related work for installation of equipment for Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center (MEPAC) to **Quality Control Systems of Crete, IL** for a contract amount of **\$1,548,804.00.**

**D. RE-AUTHORIZE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALISTS AS LISTED BELOW**

**THEY ARE:**

1. **MATTHEW O'SHEA AND SARA KUHN, M/O CONSULTING**  
JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027
2. **DEJUAN A. KEA, APK, LLC**  
JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027

**III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. Monthly Enrollment (As of April 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>58</b>
<b>GRADE 3</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>GRADE 4</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>294</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

<b>GRADE 5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>GRADE 6</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>GRADE 7</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>GRADE 8</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>141</b>

<b>TOTAL DISTRICT</b>	<b>OUT OF DISTRICT</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>
<b>435</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>454</b>

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

**MEDGAR EVERS:**

	<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>TELE. CONTACTS</b>	<b>PARENT CONF.</b>	<b>LETTERS</b>
<b>SENT HOME</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

	<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>TELE. CONTACTS</b>	<b>PARENT CONF.</b>	<b>LETTERS</b>
<b>SENT HOME</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

**B. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS (REFERENCE #2)**

Acknowledgement of two (2) "Let Your Light Shine" scholarship awards, totaling \$1,000, to two of our eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade students, Epiphany Williams and Rontez Wade. Both students are being

recognized for academic and athletic achievement by Dr. Robert Grossi, Former Bloom Trail Township Treasurer.

**C. CHILD FIND (REFERENCE #3)**

Members of the Board, please be advised that a child find publication was published in the Chicago Sun-Times regarding pre-school aged and homeless children with *potential* specialized instructional needs.

**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, J. Gray, S. LaWrence, III., L. Cook  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, J. Sherman  
Abstain: None  
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

**I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION**

**A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$647,614.25)**

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

April 2, 2026	\$244,366.72
April 17, 2026	<u>\$238,316.32</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$482,683.04</b>

- C. **PETTY CASH (\$612.85)**
- D. **2026-2027 Food Service Product Bids**
- E. **Building Rentals**
  - a. Graduation Party-James Coleman  
Date: Saturday, 05/16/2026
  - b. Baby Shower – James Coleman  
Date: Saturday, 06/13/2026

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

**DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** expressed to members that they were in advance receipt of her report. She went on to discuss teacher and nurse appreciation week and all of the festivities surrounding this week. **DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** also spoke of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade finale week and the expectations of students and scheduling for the week.

**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  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, J. Sherman  
Abstain: None  
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 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
- 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

