

FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

The 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:	Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Absent:	Coleman
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. Vivian Carter, Administrative Assistant
Legal Counsel	Mr. William Gleason

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

None

Board President then called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

AGENDA

Motioned/Cook; Seconded/Gray - to approve the agenda

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Coleman
	Abstain:	None
		6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

MINUTES

President Viverette called for a motion to approve the minutes of **May 5, 2026,**
and **Minutes of May 15, 2026, Special Public Meeting**

Motioned/Gray; Seconded/Cook - to approve the minutes of **May 5, 2025,** and
Special Public Minutes of May 15, 2026.

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Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
 Nays: None
 Absent: Coleman
 Abstain: None
 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON stated before he began, he wanted to give the floor over to Dr. Sharon Rivers to introduce the young man joining us today.

DR. RIVERS introduced **KENDRIC BOYD** and expounded on several of Kendric's many accomplishments and stated that he was an 8th grade student who was an elite basketball player and served as a judge for the Essay contest on Excellence Inside and Outside of the Classroom.

DR. RIVERS had **KENDRIC** to pass around the plaques to every board member so that they could read and see photos and inscriptions on each. He did this with a smile and a handshake to each board of education members, as **DR. RIVERS** shared additional information on what gift was received by winners of the contest.

Board of education members applauded **KENDRIC** and expressed congratulations upon his departure from the room.

DR. RIVERS then expressed that the boys and girls track teams went downstate and performed well. She stated that they would have come in 2nd place in the 4x100 relay, but a student ran out of the lane and the team was disqualified. But there was a 100-meter winner from the team.

DR. JACKSON then called for **MS. CLARA JONES** to speak on behalf of the boys' and girls' track team, in which she is a coach. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** asked her questions as to how, when, what. **MS. JONES** shyly stated that when you teach, demonstrate, and train students properly in the way to do things, they in turn can perform to the best of their abilities and this is what the boys' and girls' teams did, and she was very proud of them.

SUPERINTENDENT and members of the Board gave **Kudos** to Ms. Jones, and other coaches who were not in attendance for a job well done!

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SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON also stated that he wanted **ATTORNEY GLEASON** to introduce the young man that accompanied him to today's meeting.

ATTORNEY GLEASON introduced the young man as **JALEN SLEGE**, who was a student at DePaul University studying Law and participating in an Internship at Petrarca, Gleason, Boyle & Izzo, LLC. Attorney Gleason wanted Jalen to see how a Board of Education meeting is conducted.

DR. JACKSON addressed the items in his report briefly but did call attention to the issue of Clear Book Bags for the upcoming school year. He stated to members that for this first year, the district would provide the clear book bags, but after this year, ownness would be on the parent(s).

This brought about discussions of and concerns of board member Gray who mentioned that where her son attends, the book bags are provided by district yearly, and she suggested that the board may want to look into doing such if financially feasible.

Superintendent Jackson also mentioned the upcoming Cell Phone Ban law already passed, but taking place in the 2027-2028 school year. This caused conversations on storage of cell phones and a policy that would address exceptions.

These discussions ended with Dr. Jackson requesting Attorney Gleason to work with him on generating a policy for Clear Book Bags and Cell Phone Ban as needed.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON ended by asking for favorable approval of his report as submitted.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
 Nays: None
 Absent: Coleman
 Abstain: None
 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

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I. CLOSED SESSION

- A. 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. APPOINTMENT(S)

- a. Authorization is sought to appoint **DANETTA MANNING** as a **Resource Teacher**, Ford Heights School District 169, effective, **Wednesday, August 12, 2026**, for the **2026-2027 School Year, \$52,417**

(Any new appointment(s) shown above are pending receipt of all personnel required documents and Illinois State Police and FBI criminal background clearance.)

2. SALARY INCREASES

Authorization is sought to increase the salary of the following personnel by a range of zero percent **(0%)** to six percent **(6%)** for the **2026 -2027 School Year**.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

- (1) TWELVE (12) MONTH BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL – MEDGAR EVERS
- (2) TWELVE (12) MONTH BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL – COTTAGE GROVE

AUXILIARY PERSONNEL

- (1) PARENT COORDINATOR

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CENTRAL OFFICE EMPLOYEES

- (1) EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT
- (2) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS
- (3) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
- (4) PAYROLL COORDINATOR

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

- (1) SCHOOL NURSE
- (2) DISTRICT-WIDE STUDENT ADVOCATE
- (3) SOCIAL WORKER

ADMINISTRATORS

- (1) ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS
- (2) ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
- (3) BUILDING PRINCIPALS
- (4) ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
- (5) PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES COORDINATOR
- (6) DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY
- (7) DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

TECHNOLOGY

- (1) TECH SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

B. APPROVE FISCAL YEAR (FY) ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, TENTATIVE BUDGET
(See reference #1)

C. AUTHORIZE HEALTH, DENTAL, LIFE AND VISION INSURANCE CONTRACTS
(See reference #2)

BLUE CROSS/BLE SHIELD: Our Health carrier will continue to be Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

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Authorization is sought to approve contract with **BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD** for the **2026 – 2027** School Year. **Premium Percentage Increase 19%** Premium amount **\$1,055,677.00** yearly.

DENTAL CARE: Our Dental carrier will continue to be **DELTA DENTAL**.

Authorization is sought to approve contract with **DELTA DENTAL** for the **2026-2027** School Year. **Premium Percentage Increase 3.1%**. Premium amount **\$31,677.00**. yearly.

LIFE INSURANCE CARRIER: MET LIFE (METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY): Met Life Insurance will continue to be our carrier.

Authorization is sought to approve contract with **MET LIFE** for the **2026-2027** School Year. **Premium Percentage Increase 4%**. Premium amount **\$13,128.00** yearly.

BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD (EYEMED): Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be our carrier.

Authorization is sought to approve contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for the **2026 -2027** School Year. **Premium Percentage Increase 0%**. Premium amount **\$7,806.00** yearly.

D. LITTLE DIVA’S SUMMER PROGRAM **(RETROACTIVE APPROVAL)**

Authorize continuation of Lil Diva’s Summer Program to be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, **beginning Monday, June 22, 2026, and ending Thursday, June 25, 2026**. There will be three (3) program supervisors: Mrs. Lera Cook, Mrs. Ester Viverette, and Ms. Jessica Gray.

Retroactive approval of stipends in the amount of **\$1,000.00** from May 2026. Associated expenses will be those necessary for the running of the program.

E. SUMMER YOUTH RECREATIONAL PROGRAM (RETROACTIVE APPROVAL)

For the past eighteen (18) years, we have conducted the Ford Heights School District 169 Summer Youth Recreational Program, for the purpose of providing activities for our students during the summer months.

Program to be held on **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, beginning Monday, June 22, 2026, and ending Friday, June 26, 2026.**

Retroactive approval of stipends in the amount of **\$1,000.00** from May 2026. Associated expenses will be those necessary for the running of the program.

There will be three (3) program supervisors: Mr. James Coleman, Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, and Mr. Mark Mitchell.

F. DISCIPLINE CONSULTANT FY 2026 -2027

Authorize the continuation of Discipline Consultant, Mr. Samuel J. LaWrence, III for FY 2026-2027. The stipend to be paid **\$1,000.00**.

G. BOARD MEETING DATES FY 2026 -2027

Authorization to approve the board meeting dates for FY 2026-2027.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Tuesday, November 10, 2026
Tuesday, December 8, 2026
Tuesday, January 5, 2027
Tuesday, February 9, 2027
Tuesday, March 9, 2027

Tuesday, April 6, 2027
Tuesday, May 11, 2027
Tuesday, June 9, 2027

III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. MONTHLY ENROLLMENT (AS OF MAY 31, 2026)

MEDGAR EVERS PRIMARY ACADEMIC CENTER

PRE-K	60	KDG	45
GRADE 1	43	GRADE 2	59
GRADE 3	48	GRADE 4	39
		TOTAL	294

COTTAGE GROVE UPPER GRADE CENTER

GRADE 5	31	GRADE 6	41
GRADE 7	33	GRADE 8	37
		TOTAL	142

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
436	18	454

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):

MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS SENT HOME	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS
2	253	4	13

COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS SENT HOME	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS
2	221	8	6

B. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This Certificate of Recognition was received from South Cook Intermediate Service Center and read as follows: In recognition of your outstanding accomplishment in achieving a perfect FY26 Compliance Visit. Your dedication to excellence in education, adherence to compliance standards, and commitment to student success reflect the highest standards of quality and service.

Kudos to **Mrs. Coretta Jackson**, Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration and Operations, and to **Mr. Damaus Viverette**, Director of Building and Grounds (and his staff) on a job well!

PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON reminded members that they were in advance receipt of her report. Mrs. Jackson inquired if there were any questions. There were none. She ended by asking for favorable approval of her report as submitted:

Motioned/Gray; Seconded/Cook – to approve **PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS** as Report as submitted:

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
 Nays: None
 Absent: Coleman
 Abstain: None
 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Authorization is requested to pay Accounts Payable bills for June 9, 2026, in the amount of **\$354,690.64**

B. PAYROLL SUMMARY

The following is the payroll summary for the month of May 2026 as detailed below:

May 01, 2026	\$257,830.63
May 15, 2026	\$285,717.16
May 29, 2026	<u>\$238,464.58</u>
Total	\$782,012.37

C. PETTY CASH

Authorization is requested to replenish a Petty Cash for the following:

Superintendent's Office	\$500.00
Business Office	\$200.00
Cottage Grove	\$200.00
Medgar Evers	\$200.00
Federal and State	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total	\$1,300.00

D. BUILDING RENTALS

Authorization is requested for the use of the following facilities:

a. Date	Saturday, July 25, 2026
Time	11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Building:	Tidye A. Phillips
Contact:	James Coleman
Purpose:	90 th Birthday Celebration
Cost:	Request fees to be waived
	Reference #1

b. Date: Saturday, October 24, 2026
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Building: Tidye A. Phillips
Contact: Ester Viverette
Purpose: Birthday Celebration
Cost: Request fees to be waived
Reference #2

PART C – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

DR. SHARON P. RIVERS expressed to members that they were in advance receipt of her report, then inquired if there were any questions. **THERE WERE NONE.** She then asked for acceptance of report as submitted:

Motioned/Cook; Seconded/Gray - to accept **PART C - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION** as submitted.

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman
Abstain: None
6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

PART C-CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. DISTRICT HONORS CELEBRATION

A variety of end-of-year activities provided meaningful opportunities to recognize and celebrate student achievement. Among the highlights was the District Honors Celebration, a signature event dedicated to acknowledging the accomplishments of students across academic, social, and extracurricular areas. This program honored students who demonstrated excellence and reinforced the importance of continued effort and success in their educational journey.

In addition to this districtwide celebration, targeted incentive awards were presented to students who excelled academically. The Ming and Lisa Chang Monetary Honors recognized students in kindergarten through eighth grade, who achieved the highest RIT (Rasch Unit) goals and demonstrated the greatest academic growth in mathematics. Complementing this recognition, District 169's Read to Succeed awards honored students who attained the highest RIT scores and showed the most growth in reading based on local assessments.

Students in grades three through eight were recognized for their outstanding performance on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). Financial awards were presented to those who achieved the highest scores, based on the 2025 assessment results. Collectively, these recognitions underscore the district's commitment to academic excellence and provide meaningful motivation for students to continue striving for success.

B. PROJECTED ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2026–2027 school year is now in full swing. Families continue to have several convenient options to complete the process, including our phone bank, pick-up and delivery service, and an online option that allows parents to complete all required paperwork digitally.

By the last day of the school year in May 2026, 43% of our families had already completed early registration packets. This year, our goal is to have more than 80% of new and returning families complete and submit their registration packets by the end of June.

C. SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACADEMY

The Summer Enrichment Academy is designed to extend learning opportunities and address student readiness through the expansion of services. The program prioritizes early learning by providing targeted instruction in foundational literacy and

numeracy skills, alongside explicit social-emotional learning supports. These efforts are intended to strengthen school readiness, promote developmental growth, and ensure a successful transition into the next grade. The program aligns district priorities by supporting early intervention, closing learning gaps, and fostering equitable access to high-quality enrichment experiences in preparation for the upcoming academic year.

D. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (MEDGAR EVERS)

Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center received a Comprehensive summative designation for the 2024–2025 school year and is engaged in a four-year cycle of continuous improvement. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) serves as a strategic blueprint to guide this work and align stakeholders around shared goals.

The SIP is grounded in data analysis to identify strengths and areas for growth, particularly in reading and mathematics. It outlines measurable goals, targeted action steps, and ongoing progress monitoring to ensure effective implementation and continuous adjustment, all in support of improving student outcomes.

E. FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAM GRANTS UPDATE

The Consolidated District Plan (CDP) was submitted May 4th and is waiting for approval from Illinois State Board of Education. After being approved, the following subgrants will be submitted for approval. They are:

- After School Programs
- Title I, Part A
- Title II, Part A
- Title IV, Part A

The Early Childhood Block Grant is no longer part of the CDP in the way Title I or other federal programs are. The CDP is a local school district document required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to outline how the district will use federally funded

programs such as Title I, Title II, Title IV, IDEA, and others. It is focused on K-12 education and includes needs assessments, professional development, and implementation plans for those specific programs.

In contrast, early childhood funding such as the Early Childhood Block Grant at ISBE is a state-level program that supports preschool education, workforce development, and related services for children before kindergarten. This grant is administered by ISBE but is separate from the CDP and no longer appears in the CDP's list of required federal programs.

<https://www.isbe.net>

F. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2026

- June 1st – June 18th – Summer Enrichment Academy
- June 19th – Juneteenth Observed

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

If you have any questions or require additional information, please ask. Thank you.

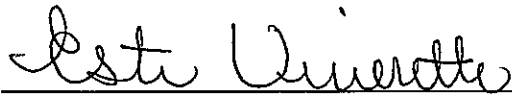
At this juncture, President Viverette called for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:30 a.m.

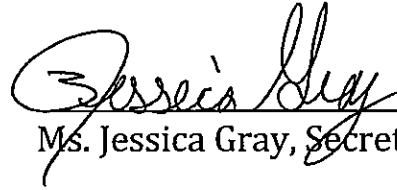
Motioned/Gray; Seconded/Cook - to adjourn meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: Cook, Gray, LaWrence, Mitchell, Sherman, Viverette
 Nays: None
 Absent: Coleman
 Abstain: None
 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ester Viverette", positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs. Ester Viverette, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jessica Gray", positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms. Jessica Gray, Secretary