

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169**  
***MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD***  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President, Joe Louis Sherman  
- at 10:02 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (*recited by all in attendance*)**

Upon roll call the following members were present:

- Present: Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, Mrs. Ester Viverette, Ms. Jessica Gray,  
Mr. Mark Mitchell, Mr. Samuel LaWrence, Mrs. Lera Cook (*By Phone*),  
Mr. James Coleman (*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  
Mr. David J. Wright, Director of Technology  
Mrs. LaDonna Harris, Executive Assistant to the Supt.  
Mr. William Gleason, Legal Counsel

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

None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

President, Joe Louis Sherman, called for a motion to approve the agenda at 10:03  
a.m.

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

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

## Minutes of Board of Education

October 8, 2024

Page 2

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President, Joe Louis Sherman, called for a motion to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regularly scheduled board meeting of **September 10, 2024.**

Motioned/*Gray*; Seconded/*Mitchell*- to approve the minutes of **September 10, 2024.**

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

### CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card received from the Ball family thanking the Board of Education for flowers received on behalf of Mr. Arthur Ball's passing.

### 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, *inclusive of an addendum report*, and went on to discuss personnel matters, including the re-hiring of a retired teacher, Ms. Carletta Jones, through the "*Retiree Return to Work Program*" and a Pupil Personnel Services Secretary, Mrs. Estella Canales. Personnel matters also included the resignations of Ms. Cristina Lopez, Pupil Personnel Services Secretary and a first (1<sup>st</sup>) grade teacher, Mr. Windell Parker.

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** spoke further regarding the use of facility at Tidye A. Phillips by Ms. Eloise Robinson scheduled for Saturday, 10/26/2024 for a Fall Giveaway. Other items addressed were the estimated aggregate tax levy for 2024 for \$5,514,984.00, an authorization to apply for the school maintenance grant program of \$50,000.00 and a thank you letter from the Illinois Association of School Boards regarding the district's active membership within their organization.

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** went on to remind the members of the Board that Olympian William Williams has e-signed his independent contractor's agreement. He also stated that the area-wide professional developments scheduled by Region 7 was scheduled for Friday, 10/11/2024.

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**October 8, 2024**

**Page 3**

Finally, SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON mentioned there is a scheduled district-wide academic field trip scheduled to the UniverSoul Circus on Monday, 10/14/2024.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON ended by asking for favorable approval of his report, as submitted and asked if there were any further questions. **There were none.**

Motioned/*Mitchell*; Seconded/*Gray* - to approve **PART A - REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT, *inclusive of an addendum report,*** as submitted:

Roll Call:       Ayes:       J. Sherman, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell, S.  
  LaWrence, L. Cook (*By Phone*), J. Coleman (*By Phone*)  
                  Nays:       None  
                  Absent:     None  
                  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 Section 2(c)(1), Section 2(c)(10) and Section 2(c)(11) the Ford Heights School District 169 (FHSD 169) Board of Education goes into Closed Session to discuss the employment, compensation, and/performance of a specific employee of FHSD 169 and or matters regarding students. Any items needing approval will be voted on during open session. (POSSIBLE ACTION)**

**II.    FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION**

**A.     PERSONNEL**

**1.     APPOINTMENT(S)**

a. Authorization is sought to approve retired teacher, Ms. CARLETTA JONES, as a long-term *Substitute Teacher*, returning through the **Retiree Return to Work program offered through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)** pending Board approval effective as of Wednesday, October 2, 2024 for the **2024-2025 School Year -Prorated Salary of \$60,000.00**

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**October 8, 2024**

**Page 4**

- b. Authorization is sought to approve **MRS. ESTELA CANALES**, as the ***Pupil Personnel Services Secretary***, replacing **Ms. CRISTINA LOPEZ**. **MRS. ESTELA CANALES** pending Board approval effective as of Wednesday, October 2, 2024 for the **2024-2025 School Year –Prorated Salary of \$47,000.00**

*(New appointments, as shown above, are pending receipt of all personnel required documents and Illinois State Police and FBI criminal background clearance.)*

**2. APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION(S)**

- a. **Ms. CRISTINA LOPEZ, Pupil Personnel Services Secretary**, resigned effective **Friday, October 4, 2024**

**ADDENDUM ITEM(S):**

Authorization is sought to *approve* a letter of resignation from **MR. WINDELL PARKER, 1st Grade Teacher**, Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center, **effective Monday, September 30, 2024.**

Authorization is sought to *approve* use of **Tidye A. Phillips** facilities for **MS. ELOISE ROBINSON, Ford Heights Park District**, on **Saturday, October 26, 2024** for a **Fall Giveaway** from **12 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

**B. ESTIMATED AGGREGATE TAX LEVY FOR 2024 (See reference #1)**

The Truth in Taxation Act (**35 ILCS 200/18-55 et:seq.**) affects all local government agencies, including school districts, community colleges and home-rule municipalities, which are authorized to levy property taxes. The basic requirements of the law have been reproduced for your information from the Essentials of Illinois School Finance, The Property Tax Cycle.

One of the main requirements contained in the Truth-in-Taxation Act, is that at least twenty (20) days prior to the adoption of an aggregate levy, the local governing board must estimate the dollar amount of the aggregate levy for the current year, exclusive election costs.

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**October 8, 2024**

**Page 5**

The recommended 2024 Calendar Year levy estimate is **\$5,514,984.00**. Please keep in mind that this estimate is subject to change as more information becomes available.

**C. AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOOL MAINTENANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

Authorization is sought to apply for the School Maintenance Grant Program. The School Maintenance Grant Program is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant open to school districts, cooperative high schools, vocational centers, and special education cooperatives. Eligible applicants can receive up to **\$50,000.00** to put toward completing proposed maintenance projects.

**I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. Monthly Enrollment (As of September 30, 2024)**

**MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL**

<b>PRE-K</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>KDG</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>GRADE 1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>GRADE 2</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>GRADE 3</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>GRADE 4</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>297</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

<b>GRADE 5</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>GRADE 6</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>GRADE 7</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>GRADE 8</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>155</b>

<b>TOTAL DISTRICT</b>	<b>OUT OF DISTRICT</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>
<b>452</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>467</b>

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

**MEDGAR EVERS:**

<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>TELE. CONTACTS</b>	<b>PARENT CONF.</b>	<b>LETTERS SENT HOME</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>TELE. CONTACTS</b>	<b>PARENT CONF.</b>	<b>LETTERS SENT HOME</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**October 8, 2024**

**Page 6**

**B. IASB Membership**

IASB sent a *thank you* letter to all of the Ford Heights School District 169 School Board members for their continued efforts and membership within their organization. IASB also included a 2024 - 2025 Certificate of Membership as well.

**PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS**

**MRS. CORETTA JACKSON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS** reminded members of the Board that they were in advanced receipt of her report.

**MRS. CORETTA JACKSON** ended by asking for favorable approval of this report, as submitted. **There were none.**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: J. Sherman, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell, S. LaWrence, L. Cook (*By Phone*), J. Coleman (*By Phone*)  
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 (\$541,232.54)**

**B. PAYROLL SUMMARY (for the month of September 2024) as detailed below:**

September 6, 2024	\$244,537.51
September 20, 2024	<u>\$234,086.72</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$478,624.23</b>

**Minutes of Board of Education**

**October 8, 2024**

**Page 7**

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

**DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** reminded members of the board that typically the district will have three (3) institute days but due to the mandatory area-wide professional development, the district would only schedule two (2) for the school year. **DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** went on to inform the Board of Education that the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pantherettes are on a roll with their recent basketball victory games, including their 1<sup>st</sup> Basketball Classic for the girls that had taken place during the previous Saturday.

**DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** reminded members of the Board that they were in advance receipt of her report and inquired if there were any questions. **THERE WERE NONE.**

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

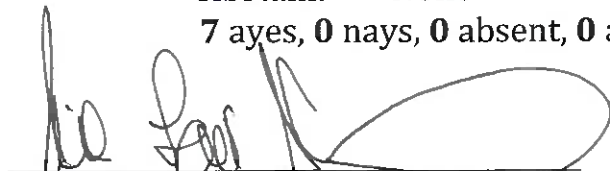
Roll Call:     Ayes:       J. Sherman, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell, S.  
  LaWrence, L. Cook (*By Phone*), J. Coleman (*By Phone*)  
              Nays:       None  
              Absent:     None  
              Abstain:   None  
              7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present –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

At this juncture, President, Joe Louis Sherman, called for a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:29 a.m.**

Motioned/*Mitchell*; Seconded/*Gray* - to adjourn meeting.

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

  
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Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, President

  
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Mrs. Ester Viverette, Secretary