

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, *President Pro-Tempore*, Samuel J. LaWrence – **at 10:02 a.m.**

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present: Mr. Samuel LaWrence, Mrs. Ester Viverette, Ms. Jessica Gray,
Mr. Mark Mitchell
Absent: Mr. James Coleman, Mrs. Lera Cook, 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
Sports Director Timothy Williams
Coach Shawn Aldridge
Cottage Grove “Elite Eight” Basketball Team

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC (2 Minutes)

Sports Director Timothy Williams and Coach Aldridge thanked the Board of Education for their support of the boys’ basketball team this past season, including the recent State Championship game. The “Elite Eight” members of the team was asked to introduce themselves and their positions on the team during this time and was given a round of applause and accolades for a job well done.

AGENDA

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to approve the Agenda

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

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MINUTES

President Pro-Tempore, Samuel J. LaWrence called for a motion to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regularly scheduled board meeting of **January 7, 2025**.

Motioned/Mitchell; Seconded/Gray - to approve the minutes of **January 7, 2025** Regular and Closed Session.

Roll Call: Ayes: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell
 Nays: None
 Absent: J. Coleman, L. Cook, 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. He went on to discuss the addendum item regarding the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) awarding Ford Heights School District 169 with the FY 2025 School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) for \$50,000. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** gave praise to the Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration and Operations, Ms. Coretta Jackson, for her efforts in ensuring this project grant was tended to with attentive care.

SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON also commended Mrs. Jackson for a job well done to both her and her staff pertaining to the recent ISC4 audit where commendations were sent to the District about the extraordinary daily efforts observed in very well maintained facilities. The Board of Education members gave a round of applause and congratulations to Mrs. Jackson.

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

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

Roll Call: Ayes: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell
Nays: None
Absent: J. Coleman, L. Cook, 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 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 appoint **MRS. MEGAN SCHULTZ**, as a **Physical Education Teacher**, Medgar Evers Academic Center, **effective, Wednesday, August 6, 2025**, for the 2025-2026 School Year – Salary will be determined pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).
- b. Authorization is sought to appoint **MRS. ANGELA RICHARDS**, as a **Teacher effective Wednesday, August 6, 2025**, for the 2025-2026 School Year - Salary will be determined pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).
- c. Authorization is sought to appoint **MR. JOSE ROGUE**, as a supervising **Custodian**, Cottage Grove Upper Grade

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Center, **effective, Monday, February 3, 2025**, for the 2024-2025 School Year

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

2. RESIGNATIONS

- a. **MR. THOMAS HIBBLER**, Custodian – Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, has submitted a Letter of Resignation, effective ***Friday, January 17, 2025*** for the **2024-2025 School Year**.

B. ACCEPT FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169’S ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT: (DELIVERED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Accept Ford Heights School District 169’s Annual Investment Report as submitted and listed below, for Fiscal Year ending *June 30, 2024*. Enclosed herewith for your acceptance is the following financial report. It is:

 **ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT**

III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. Monthly Enrollment (As of January 31, 2025)

MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL

PRE-K	60	KDG	50
GRADE 1	55	GRADE 2	51
GRADE 3	43	GRADE 4	34
		TOTAL	293

COTTAGE GROVE:

GRADE 5	41	GRADE 6	39
GRADE 7	35	GRADE 8	32
		TOTAL	147

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TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
440	17	457

REPORT OF CONTACTS (ATTENDANCE OFFICES):

MEDGAR EVERS:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
5	350	4	10

COTTAGE GROVE:

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
3	326	4	4

B. ISC 4 Audit *(Reference #1)*

Members of the Board, please note that the District received high accolades regarding our recent ISC4 audit from the Regional Office of Education. A job well done is extended to Mrs. Coretta Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration and Operations, and her immediate staff on their extraordinary efforts. A letter of recognition and acknowledgement from ISC4 is attached for your information and review.

ADDENDUM ITEM(S):
SCHOOL MAINTENANCE PROJECT GRANT

Members of the board, please take note that Ford Heights School District 169 has been awarded the FY 2025 School Maintenance Project Grant for \$50,000.00. Our approval notice is attached for your information and review.

PART B – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON reminded members that they were in advanced receipt of her report and mentioned that this is the fifth (5th) year with the ISC4 Audit to receive a great rating or commendation. She used this time to thank the Board of

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Education and SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON for their support of her staff to ensure that facilities stay well-maintained.

MRS. CORETTA JACKSON ended her report by inquiring if there were any questions. **There were none.**

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

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

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Authorization is requested to pay Accounts Payable bills for February 10, 2025, in the amount of **\$641,243.75**

B. PAYROLL SUMMARY

The following is the payroll summary for the month of **January 2025** as detailed below:

January 10, 2025	\$228,478.91
January 24, 2025	<u>\$234,804.05</u>
Total	\$463,282.96

C. PETTY CASH

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

Office of the Superintendent	\$144.00
Building and Grounds	\$22.00
Medgar Evers	\$144.74

Total \$310.74

D. Building Rental

- A. Tamika Harry – Repass (*Reference #1*)
- B. Latoria Viverette – Grief group support sessions (*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 and then went on to mention the Black History Door Decoration contest that will take place starting at Medgar on Friday, 02/28/2025. At this time, **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** then asked the Board of Education if anyone was interested in serving as a judge for this contest between the two schools. Vice President LaWrence and Board Member Gray offered to participate with judging.

DR. SHARON P. RIVERS also mentioned the Regional Spelling Bee that will take place at Southland Prep with Nya Eddings representing Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center on Tuesday, 03/04/2025.

Lastly, **DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** informed the Board of Education members that the regional science fair will take place in Naperville with 5 teams.

DR. SHARON P. RIVERS then inquired if there were any questions. **THERE WERE NONE.** She then asked for approval of report as submitted:

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

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

I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. DISTRICTWIDE SPELLING BEE

Congratulations once again to 8th grader, Nyah Eddings who won the districtwide Spelling Bee, out-spelling twenty-five other

contestants from Medgar Evers and Cottage Grove! Miss Eddings won the 2024 districtwide spelling bee, as well. The 11-round competition was intense as she and 7th grade Jazlynn Harrell battled for several rounds before a winner came forth. She will now compete the 15th Annual South Cook Intermediate Service Center Scripps Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at Southland Preparatory Charter High School, Matteson SD 162 located at 4601 Sauk Trail in Richton Park, IL. (Snow Day: March 6) As in the past, the competition is funded by Pepper Construction and ARCON Associates. The winner of the Regional will move on to the 100th National Spelling Bee the week of Memorial Day 2025 at Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland.

B. 5ESSENTIAL SURVEY

5Essentials is an evidence-based system designed to drive improvement in schools nationwide—it reliably measures changes in a school organization through the 5Essentials Survey and provides individualized, actionable Reports for each school. The 5Essentials system is based on more than 20 years of research by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research on five components found to be critical for school success:

- **Effective Leaders:** The principal works with teachers to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.
- **Collaborative Teachers:** Teachers collaborate to promote professional growth.
- **Involved Families:** The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.
- **Supportive Environment:** The school is safe and orderly. Teachers have high expectations for students and support students to realize their goals. Classmates also support one another.
- **Ambitious Instruction:** Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.

The 5Essentials Survey is taken by all **prekindergarten through 12th-grade teachers** and all **fourth- through 12th-grade**

students and usually requires no more than **30 minutes** to complete. The information collected through the survey is rigorously reviewed and analyzed to generate a 5Essentials Report for each school. The 5Essentials Report includes a breakdown of teacher and student responses and, most importantly, provides a comprehensive picture of the school environment based on five essential areas critical for school improvement in a meaningful context of similar and successful schools. *The 5Essentials Survey is completely confidential and voluntary.*

The overall **STUDENT** response rate is **91%** for the 2024 Illinois 5Essentials Student Survey. *The respondent minimum and response rate threshold of 50% has been met for this survey.*

STUDENT response rates for schools in Ford Heights SD 169:
Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center: 82%
Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center: 100%

The overall **TEACHER** response rate is **78%** for the 2024 Illinois 5Essentials Teacher Survey. *The respondent minimum and response rate threshold of 50% has been met for this survey.*

TEACHER response rates for schools in Ford Heights SD 169:
Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center: 78%
Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center: 78%

The overall **PARENT** response rate is **24%** for the 2024 Illinois Parent Survey. *The respondent minimum and response rate threshold of 20% has been met for this survey.*

PARENT response rates for schools in Ford Heights SD 169:
Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center: 27%
Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center: 21%

The survey window for school year 2024-2025 will be **February 18, 2025, through March 28, 2025.**

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx>

C. BLACK HISTORY MONTH DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

The Black History Month Door Decorating Contest will take place on Friday, February 28, 2025. The theme, “*Celebrating Freedom, Equality, Diversity and Pride*” is a fun and interactive activity for students and staff to participate and will allow us to work together to create something that will represent the many achievements of African Americans. The contest will start at Medgar Evers and conclude at Cottage Grove. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded.

D. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2025

- February 6th – Problem Solving Cottage Grove
- February 7th – Parent Meeting
- February 20th – Problem Solving Medgar Evers
- February 21st – Progress Reports Mailed Home
- February 28th – Black History Door Decorating Contest
 - Medgar Evers 9:30 a.m.
 - Cottage Grove 11:00 a.m.

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
- ✚

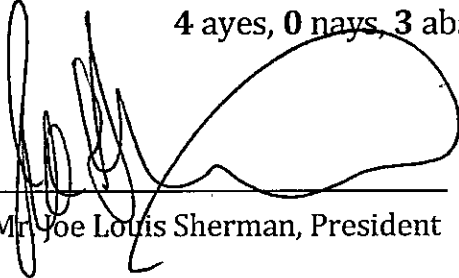
At this juncture, *President Pro-Tempore*, Samuel J. LaWrence called for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:21 a.m.


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

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



Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, President



Mrs. Ester Viverette, Secretary