

**FORD HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 169  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, President Joe Louis Sherman  
- at 10:01 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  
(10:03a.m.), Mr. Mark Mitchell  
Absent: Mr. James Coleman, Mrs. Lera Cook  
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. William McMurray, Assistant Technologist  
Mr. William Gleason, Legal Counsel.

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

None.

**AGENDA**

Motioned/*LaWrence*; Seconded/*Mitchell* - to approve the Agenda

Roll Call: Ayes: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, L. Cook, J. Gray (10:03a.m.)  
Abstain: None  
4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present - motion carried.

**MINUTES**

President Joe Louis Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the  
public hearing and regularly scheduled board meeting of **February 10, 2025**.

Motioned/*Mitchell*; Seconded/*LaWrence* - to approve the minutes of **February 10,  
2025** Regular and Closed Session.

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Roll Call: Ayes: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Sherman, M. Mitchell  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, L. Cook, J. Gray (10:03a.m.)  
Abstain: None  
4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you card received from the Parker and Scott family thanking the Board of Education for their support during a time of family bereavement.

**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 announce the hiring of a new day-to-day Substitute Teacher, Angela Baldwin and the resignation of Supervising Custodian, Jose Roque. **SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** asked for approval of the resolution which mentioned the names of six (6) teachers and/or administrators who were being dismissed and/or receiving non-renewals for the current school year of 2024-2025.

**SUPERINTENDENT JACKSON** also asked the board for approval to donate \$2,500 to the Bloom Trail Alumni and to accept a negotiated settlement by the recommendation of Board Attorney Izzo for the tax year 2020 LKQ Cop. Industrial Property.

**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** as submitted:

Roll Call: Ayes: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell, J. Sherman  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, L. Cook  
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 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. ANGELA BALDWIN**, as a district-wide **Substitute Teacher**, Ford Heights School District 169, **effective** the 2024-2025 school term at a daily rate of **\$185.00**

*(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. JOSE ROGUE**, Custodian – Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center, has submitted a Letter of Resignation, effective **Wednesday, February 12, 2025** for the **2024-2025 School Year**.

3. **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR THE DISMISSAL AND NON-RENEWAL OF NON-FINAL-YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHERS AND/OR ADMINISTRATORS (SY 2024-2025)** **(REFERENCE #1)**

- Jennifer Carter
- Valerie Gill-Taylor
- Cymanda James
- Michelle Borishade
- Tanitia Smith
- Carletta Jones

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**B. BLOOM TRAIL ALUMNI (REFERENCE #2)**

Authorization is sought to donate to the Bloom Trail Alumni group in the amount of \$2,500.00

**C. NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT (REFERENCE #3)**

Authorization is sought to accept a negotiated settlement for the tax year 2020 LKQ Cop. Industrial property, located at 551 E. Lincoln Highway, Chicago Heights, IL.

**III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. Monthly Enrollment (As of February 27, 2025)**

**MEDGAR EVERS SCHOOL**

PRE-K	60	KDG	47
GRADE 1	56	GRADE 2	52
GRADE 3	43	GRADE 4	35
		TOTAL	<b>293</b>

**COTTAGE GROVE:**

GRADE 5	40	GRADE 6	39
GRADE 7	35	GRADE 8	34
		TOTAL	<b>148</b>

TOTAL DISTRICT	OUT OF DISTRICT	GRAND TOTAL
441	18	459

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

**MEDGAR EVERS:**

HOME VISITS	TELE. CONTACTS	PARENT CONF.	LETTERS SENT HOME
2	255	2	6

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**COTTAGE GROVE:**

<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>TELE. CONTACTS</b>	<b>PARENT CONF.</b>	<b>LETTERS SENT HOME</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

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

**MRS. CORETTA JACKSON** reminded members that they were in advanced receipt of her report and inquired 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: S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell, J. Sherman  
Nays: None  
Absent: J. Coleman, L. Cook  
Abstain: None  
5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

**I. FOR YOUR AUTHORIZATION**

**A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (\$839,348.70)**

**B. PAYROLL SUMMARY (for the month of February 2025) as detailed below:**

February 7, 2025	\$240,772.89
February 21, 2025	\$239,886.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$480,609.21</b>

**C. PETTY CASH (\$200.00)**

**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 results of the Black History door decorating contest, the regional girls' volleyball game and the upcoming regional

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science fair. **DR. SHARON P. RIVERS** also mentioned the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) nomination of Coach Timothy Williams as “Coach of the Year.”

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

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

Roll Call:   Ayes:           S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell, J. Sherman  
              Nays:           None  
              Absent:        J. Coleman, L. Cook  
              Abstain:     None  
              5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.

**I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**A. EARLY REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

Early registration packets for the 2025-2026 school year are being mailed on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to complete the packet and return it to school. Calls are made daily to assist with completing the packet and to answer questions concerning the required registration forms. The goal is to exceed eighty percent of our students registered before the end of school.

**B. 5ESSENTIAL SURVEY**

The 5Essential Survey window is open. The District continues its push for all stakeholders to complete the survey. It is administered once a year for student’s 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and teachers, with an option for parents to complete the survey. Research shows schools strong on at least three of the five essentials for school improvement were 10 times more likely to show substantial gains in student learning than schools weak on three or more of the five essentials. In 2020, the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research released a report that reaffirms the effectiveness of the 5Essentials in promoting positive student outcomes.

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**C. ILLINOIS STATE TESTING CYCLE IN SCIENCE, ELA, AND MATH**

In compliance with federal testing requirements, Illinois will administer a science assessment to students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 beginning March 4, 2025. The online assessment is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which were adopted in 2014.

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students. It assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards incorporating the Common Core State Standards and will be administered in English Language arts (ELA) and mathematics to all students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. The IAR spring 2025 testing window opens March 4<sup>th</sup> through April 11, 2025.

**D. READER'S THEATER**

Reader's Theater is an engaging way to get students to read. It is a strategy that combines reading practice and performing and is used to promote reading fluency, especially oral expression. Reader's theaters are a great way to improve fluency and comprehension skills in the classroom. With reader's theater, students work together to present an oral reading of a script, typically adapted from literature, plays, or other written texts. For Black History, the students at Medgar Evers and Cottage Grove collaborated on the African Folktale Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti. This traditional Ashanti tale was read and performed by students in grades 3, 4, and 8.

**E. PROGRAMS ON SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2025**

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Casimir Pulaski Day
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – Illinois Assessment of Readiness Begins
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – Scripps Regional Spelling Bee
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Family Fun Night Medgar Evers
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Early Registration Packets Mailed
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Parent Meeting

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- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Saving Time (*Spring Forward*)
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – Illinois Science Assessment Begins
- March 31<sup>st</sup> – Parent Teacher Conference

**F. MONTHLY BUILDING REPORTS (*See references #1-3*)**

Building reports were submitted by the following personnel:

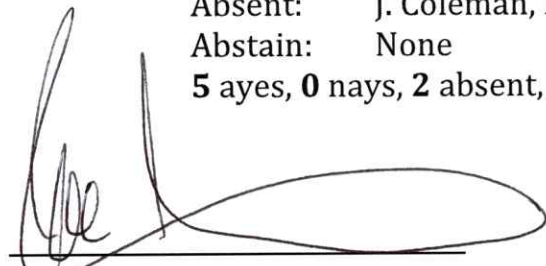
- ✚ Ms. Ollie Gill, Principal of Medgar Evers P.A.C.
- ✚ Dr. Sharon P. Rivers, Principal of Cottage Grove U.G.C.
- ✚ Mrs. Robin Norris, District-wide Attendance

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

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:23 a.m.**

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

Roll Call:    Ayes:            S. LaWrence, E. Viverette, J. Gray, M. Mitchell, J. Sherman  
                  Nays:            None  
                  Absent:        J. Coleman, L. Cook  
                  Abstain:       None  
                  **5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, 0 abstain, 0 present – motion carried.**



Mr. Joe Louis Sherman, President



Mrs. Ester Viverette, Secretary