

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 162
COOK COUNTY
RICHTON PARK, IL 60471**

July 15, 2014

REGULAR SESSION

Convened: 6:31 p.m.

Adjourned: 10:25 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Alicia Rodman McCray, President; Ron Bean, Vice President; Kevin Murphy, Secretary; Evelyn Green; Sandi Gordon; Felix Simpkins; Karen McCray

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, Lee Stanton, Craig Englert, Earnestine Foster, Jeree Ethridge, Mark Walczak, Yvonne Williams, Linda Disney, Deborah Duskey, David Rupert, Rob Tomic, Latunja Williams, Patricia Ransford, Jo Ross, Karen Austin, Gail Hartsough, Brenda Calvin, Pamela Powell, Narishea Parham, Bill Howard, Terrone Parham, Dorian Elzy, Na’Kaiyah Parham, Sheloanda Porche-Box, Carl Cogar, Natalie Bumpers, Derek Alexander, Daryll Lacey, Michael Gettings, Lara Reznick, Amanda Godin, Toby Skonecke, Barbara Manning, Debbie Szczecina, Jessica Washington

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mrs. Rodman McCray called the regular session to order at 6:31 p.m. and noted that there was a quorum. Mrs. Rodman McCray directed the Board secretary to make a roll call notation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dr. Davis reviewed the “Dates to Remember.” She stated that the District is transitioning to PowerSchool, a web-based student information system. She noted that PowerSchool is sophisticated; she further noted that it can store more information and is more parent-

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friendly. Dr. Davis noted that District 162 staff and administrators will have PowerSchool training from July 16–18.

Dr. Davis announced that the Administrative Retreat is scheduled for four days from August 6–11, at the District's Administrative office. She noted that the retreat will feature guest speakers and workshops.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Nothing at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Bean moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to approve the consent agenda dated July 15, 2014, and every item contained therein:

Mr. Lee Stanton, assistant superintendent introduced new staff member, Sean Caddigan.

Mr. Craig Englert, chief business officer, addressed the Board regarding the motion directing him to prepare the tentative budget for the Board's eventual review and approval.

Minutes

Regular Session, June 17, 2014

Executive Session, June 17, 2014, and declare them closed.

Personnel

Employment

Approve the employment of Janice McCoy-Robertson, transportation office assistant, effective July 7, 2014.

Approve the employment of Dionte Washington, special education teacher at Arcadia School, effective August 21, 2014.

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Approve the employment of John Collins, teacher at Illinois School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Sean Caddigan, P.E. teacher at Arcadia School, Matteson School, and Richton Square School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Ashling Flanagan, teacher at Illinois School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Robyn Radford, social worker at Huth Middle School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Chrishello Bonds, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Joshua Erwin, special education teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Kimberly Peterz, reading specialist at Illinois School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of James Stevenson, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Mary Ann Ragsdale, early childhood special education teacher at Richton Square School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Katherine Hahn, outdoor classroom coordinator, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Leaves

Approve the unpaid leave of absence of Marisa Banowski, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective for the 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 school years, with a return date of the 2016–2017 school year.

Retirement/Resignation

Approve the retirement of Yvonne S. Williams, special education director, effective June 27, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Kathleen Crylen, paraprofessional, effective June 30, 2014.

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Policy Matters

Nothing at this time.

Annual Business

Approve the motion directing the treasurer to prepare the tentative annual budget and to place this tentative annual budget on display no later than August 17, 2014.

Bill Listing – Authorization of the administration to pay the schedule of bills payable and authorize the District Treasurer to sign the checks dated July 15, 2014, in the amount of \$592,854.88.

Imprest Fund Reimbursement – Authorization to reimburse the District Imprest Fund in the amount of \$5,011.05.

Financial Statement – The June 2014 Financial Statement is presented for review.

Payroll Vouchers – Authorization for the District Treasurer to sign the payrolls dated August 15, 2014, and August 29, 2014, including all bills for payroll deductions and contributions by the school district.

Gifts and Donations

Nothing at this time.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

McCray

Gordon

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Simpkins

Rodman McCray

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Matteson District 162 Wellness Policy Amendment

Dr. Davis made a presentation on an amendment to the District's Anti-bullying policy #5314 as follows:

The recommended changes to the Anti-bullying Policy reflect new requirements enacted by the Illinois legislature in the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7). Specific legal requirements reflected in the proposed policy amendments include the following:

- An express statement in the policy that bullying is contrary to Illinois law and District policies.
- Prohibited bullying includes information transmitted from computers and/or other electronic equipment outside the District and/or not owned by the District, if such bullying causes a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of a school.
- Bullying includes "cyber-bullying," which the legislature has defined, as stated in the policy, with the core of the definition providing that "cyber-bullying" is bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication.
- In addition to suspension and/or expulsion, the District will consider whether "retroactive measures," such as education regarding personal and interpersonal skills, are appropriate to address a particular incident of bullying.
- The name, phone numbers and email addresses of the superintendent and principal to whom incidents of bullying are to be reported are included in the policy.
- As required by the new law, anonymous reports of bullying will be investigated in an effort to determine the underlying facts.
- District personnel will make all reasonable efforts to complete investigations of alleged incidents of bullying within ten (10) days.
- Parents of students involved in an alleged incident of bullying will be advised of the matter, as well as of the availability of appropriate interventions, such as social work services, counseling and school psychological services.

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- Acts of retaliation for reporting of alleged bullying, as well as false accusations of alleged bullying, are strictly prohibited and will subject the individual responsible for such actions to disciplinary measures.
- The Anti-Bullying Policy will be appropriately communicated to students and parents each year, including via publication on District 162's website and in District 162's Student and Parent Handbook.
- The Anti-Bullying Policy shall be filed with the Illinois State Board of Education, and every two years the superintendent shall ensure that the policy is reviewed, reevaluated and revised, as necessary, based on an assessment of the effectiveness of the policy.

Dr. Davis commented that the policy now makes districts responsible for acts of bullying that occur on and off their premises. She also noted that cyber-bullying is a part of this policy. Dr. Davis said that taking a photo of another without his or her consent is a violation of that person's First Amendment rights. Dr. Davis stated that the District will conduct in-service workshops for staff and administrators on the Anti-bullying policy. She noted that the consequences for bullying could include police involvement.

Mrs. Gordon asked if the District has ever attempted to bring together the parents of students involved in alleged bullying incidents in order to resolve the problem. Dr. Davis responded that although the District can compel the parents to meet with District representatives to resolve the situation, the District cannot compel the parents to meet with each other.

Mrs. Green asked if the District is responsible for bullying incidents that take place in the neighborhood, off District property. Dr. Davis responded that the District is responsible for intervening if District personnel become aware of the issue or if the issue causes a substantial disruption to the operation of the school.

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Matteson District 162 Wellness Policy Amendment

Dr. Davis made a presentation on an amendment to the District's Wellness policy #5443:

- The recommended changes to the Wellness Policy reflect requirements imposed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Called "Smart Snack" rules, these regulations require that all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program will ensure that ALL food and beverages sold to students on school campuses during the school day will meet USDA standards.
- Except for a limited number of exempted fundraising days during the next two school years, the Smart Snack rules require that food and beverages sold to students in fundraising activities must also satisfy the USDA regulations. Beginning in the 2016–2017 school year and thereafter, no exempted fundraising days will be allowed.
- The USDA regulations also require a separate policy (outlined below) regarding exempted fundraising days on which food may be sold to students, which policy shall set forth the procedures for scheduling such fundraising days during the next two school years, before such fundraising days are entirely prohibited in subsequent years.

Dr. Davis commented that all food and beverages sold on District premises must comply with the requirements of this new "Smart Snack" policy. She noted that the policy does not impact the provision of food and beverages where money is not charged (e.g., classroom pizza parties and birthday cupcake celebrations).

Matteson District 162 Policy Regarding English Language Learners

Dr. Davis made a presentation on the District's policy #6230 regarding English language learners:

This policy complies with the requirements of United States law and Illinois law that District 162 will offer opportunities for students who are English language learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English and to meet the same student achievement standards as all other District 162 students. The policy's requirements include the following:

- District 162 will appropriately identify students with limited English speaking ability.

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- District 162 will determine the appropriate instructional program and environment for English language learners, consistent with the requirements of Illinois law.
- District 162 will ensure that English language learners are included in District 162's student assessment programs as required by United States law and Illinois law.

Dr. Davis stated that the District is required to identify all students who are English language learners. She noted that the District must make accommodations for these students, as needed.

Matteson District 162 Policy Regarding Fundraising Days on Which Food May Be Sold to Students

Dr. Davis made a presentation on the District's policy #5447 regarding Fundraising Days on Which Food May Be Sold to Students:

- As required by the Illinois regulations implementing the United States Department of Agriculture's Smart Snack rules, this policy sets forth the process through which District 162 schools may schedule fundraising days on which food and beverages not meeting the Smart Snack requirements can be sold to students.
- Such exempt fundraising days may occur only in the next two school years and are entirely prohibited thereafter.
 - In the 2014–2015 school year, no more than **nine (9)** exempt fundraising days are allowed at a school.
 - In the 2015–2016 school year, no more than **four (4)** exempt fundraising days are allowed at a school.
- By August 30 of the next two years, District 162 principals shall submit to the superintendent their proposed exempt fundraising days, which shall be approved or denied upon a determination of whether they are in the best interests of our students, considering both the reason for the proposed fundraising and the impact of such fundraising on student wellness.

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Dr. Davis stated that unhealthy snacks may not be served during the lunch period, even if they are free of charge. She noted that this policy mandates that the serving of unhealthy snacks cannot interfere with the regular lunch program. Dr. Davis commented that districts are entitled to nine exempt fundraising days in 2014–2015, and four exempt fundraising days in 2015–2016. Dr. Davis also commented that the schools' PTOs would have to submit a formal proposal requesting an exempt fundraising day. She noted that District representatives will meet with all of the building administrators and their respective PTO representatives to explain this new policy. Dr. Davis mentioned that this policy does not impact cookie dough and taffy apple fundraisers, because these items are not consumed on campus.

LEGISLATION

Dr. Davis stated that the District's current budget is based on 89 percent general state aid. She noted that the budget could be reduced after January 31, 2015, if the legislature does not vote on the sales tax.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will consider approval of the employment of Yvonne S. Williams (.5) as chief special education officer, effective August 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, to approve the employment of Yvonne S. Williams as chief special education officer, effective August 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Rodman McCray asked Dr. Davis if she had any comments on the motion. Dr. Davis commented that she has a great amount of respect for Mrs. Williams. She recommended that Mrs. Williams be appointed to supervise the District's special education department in this new role as part of the reorganization of the District's administrative staff. Dr. Davis stated that one of Mrs. Williams' responsibilities will be to write articles and make presentations about the District's special education programming. Mrs. Williams thanked Dr. Davis and the Board for their consideration and vote of confidence. She noted that she has been a special education administrator for 30 years, and that she is looking forward to the new challenge.

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The motion carried by a unanimous vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the employment of Deborah Duskey as director of special education, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mrs. McCray, to approve the employment of Deborah Duskey as director of special education, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Rodman McCray asked Dr. Davis if she had any comments on the motion. Dr. Davis asked Mrs. Williams to comment on Mrs. Duskey. Mrs. Williams stated that Mrs. Duskey's strengths are that she "sees the big picture," and has a good rapport with students, parents, and teachers. Mrs. Williams noted that prior to joining the District, Mrs. Duskey had been the chief special education officer in the Chicago Public School System, where she brought dignity and respect to the Special Services Department. She noted that Mrs. Duskey is a sensitive problem solver. Mrs. Duskey thanked the Board and Dr. Davis for the opportunity. She said that she was happy to be able to continue to support the District's most delicate students.

The motion carried by a unanimous vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

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Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the employment of Linda Disney as assistant director of special education, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. McCray moved, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, to approve the employment of Linda Disney as assistant director of special education, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Williams commented on Mrs. Disney, stating that prior to joining the special education department as the special education coordinator, she had been a social worker and case manager in the District. Mrs. Williams noted that in her capacity as special education coordinator, Mrs. Disney provided guidance to other case managers in the District. She stated that Mrs. Disney is a committed team member. Mrs. Disney thanked the Board and Dr. Davis for the opportunity and stated that she has had a 25-year involvement with District 162 as both a parent and a staff member. She said that she looks forward to learning and growing with the District.

The motion carried by a unanimous vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the employment of Sheloanda Porche-Box as coordinator of special education, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. McCray moved, seconded by Mrs. Green, to approve the employment of Sheloanda Porche-Box as coordinator of special education, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

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Mrs. Williams commented on Mrs. Porche-Box, stating that she is just beginning her career as an administrator. She noted that Mrs. Porche-Box is currently enrolled in coursework to obtain her special education director certification. She further noted that prior to taking this new position, Mrs. Porche-Box had been an excellent teacher. Mrs. Porche-Box thanked the Board, Dr. Davis, and Mrs. Williams for reminding her that it is “her time to shine.”

Mrs. McCray commented that during the Walk for Autism, she was impressed with how kind and sensitive the special education administrators and staff were to the special needs students and their families. She said that the District was blessed to have Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Duskey, Mrs. Disney, and Mrs. Porche-Box on staff.

The Board will consider approval of the employment of William A. Howard as assistant principal, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, to approve the employment of William A. Howard as assistant principal, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Rodman McCray asked Dr. Davis if she had any comments on the motion. Dr. Davis stated that Mr. Howard will work under the leadership of Mrs. Pamela Powell, principal at Matteson and Richton Square schools. She noted that prior to joining the District, Mr. Howard worked as dean of students and an art teacher at Lincoln-Way West High School. Dr. Davis remarked that Mr. Howard is a career educator and that Dr. Wiley, the superintendent of the Lincoln-Way high school district, highly recommended Mr. Howard for the position. Mr. Howard thanked Dr. Davis and the Board for the opportunity. He stated that he started his education career at the elementary school level, and that he was glad to now work as an administrator at that level.

The Board will consider approval of the employment of Narishea N. Parham as assistant principal, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Mr. Simpkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, to approve the employment of Narishea N. Parham as assistant principal, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

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Mrs. Rodman McCray asked Dr. Davis if she had any comments on the motion. Dr. Davis stated that prior to joining the District, Ms. Parham had been a dean in the Joliet school district. She noted that Ms. Parham is experienced in pre-kindergarten and elementary school and has a passion for working with children. Ms. Parham thanked the Board and Dr. Davis for their consideration. She commented that she had been in education for 15 years and that she resides in Richton Park.

First reading of the proposed amendment to the Matteson District 162 Anti-bullying policy #5314.

First reading of the proposed amendment to the Matteson District 162 Wellness policy #5443.

First reading of the Matteson District 162 policy regarding English Language Learners #6230.

First reading of the Matteson District 162 policy regarding Fundraising Days on Which Food May Be Sold to Students # 5447.

With regard to the four policy-related agenda items, above, Mr. Bean moved that in the interest of time, the Board consider the reading of all of the policies together. Mr. Simpkins seconded the motion. Mrs. Rodman McCray called for a voice vote on the motion. The Board unanimously agreed to the motion. The Board further agreed to vote on the approval of these four policies at the August 2014 Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES/REPORTS

Mr. Simpkins stated that he is glad that the District is in a position to attract quality candidates. He noted that it speaks well of the District and its leadership.

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AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Nothing at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bean moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy, that the Board go into executive session to consider information regarding a student discipline case and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or public officials, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, or the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

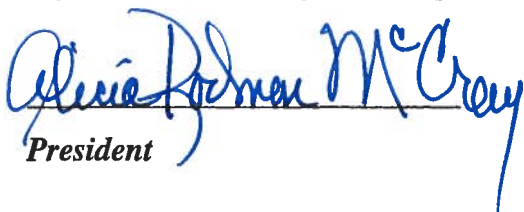
Rodman McCray

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bean moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Rodman McCray adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.


President


Secretary