

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 162
COOK COUNTY
RICHTON PARK, IL 60471
August 19, 2014**

REGULAR SESSION

Convened: 6:35 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:51 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, Mark Walczak, Yvonne Williams, Linda Disney, Deborah Duskey, David Rupert, Rob Tomic, Latunja Williams, Patricia Ransford, Jo Ross, Gail Hartsough, Brenda Calvin, Pamela Powell, Carl Cogar, Natalie Bumpers, Derek Alexander, Daryll Lacey, Michael Gettings, Lara Reznick, Amanda Godin, Toby Skonecke, Debbie Szczcina, Jori Bell-Jackson, Robert Lane, Elaine Williams, Narishea Parham, Bill Howard, Jason Streeter, Sheloanda Porche-Box, Jessica Washington

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mrs. Rodman McCray called the regular session to order at 6:35 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 the District will kick-off the new school year with Teacher Institute Days scheduled for August 21–22, 2014. Dr. Davis noted

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that in compliance with state law, the first day of school for all District students will be August 25.

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 August 19, 2014, and every item contained therein:

Minutes

Regular Session, July 15, 2014

Executive Session, July 15, 2014, and declare them closed.

Personnel

Employment

Approve the employment of Angelique Williams, media specialist at Indiana School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Nathan Becker, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Elizabeth Bern, teacher at Sauk School, effective August 21, 2014.

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

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

Approve the employment of Kimberly Smith, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Matthew Majchrowicz, teacher at Illinois School, effective August 21, 2014.

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Approve the employment of Anna Daniels, teacher at Illinois School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Jori Bell-Jackson, art teacher at Indiana School and Sauk School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Tiffany Ryan, teacher at Illinois School, effective August 21, 2014.

Approve the employment of Anthony Urban, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 21, 2014.

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

Approve the employment of Ilundria Bardwell, nurse, effective August 21, 2014, through June 8, 2015.

Suspensions/Terminations

Approve the suspension, without pay, of Excell Wilson, custodian, from July 30, 2014, through August 12, 2014.

Approve the suspension, without pay, of Roland Triche, custodian, from August 18, 2014, through August 19, 2014.

Approve the termination of employment of Roland Triche, custodian, effective, August 20, 2014.

Resignations

Approve the resignation of Jennifer Vits, teacher at Illinois School, effective July 22, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Marie Cerny, teacher at Arcadia School, effective July 24, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Eileen Cetera, teacher at Sauk School, effective August 8, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Evelyn Boateng, special education teacher at Arcadia School, effective August 7, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Montia Gardner, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 23, 2014.

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Approve the resignation of Sheryl McEvoy, speech pathologist at Indiana School, effective July 25, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Barbara Szmergalski, teacher at Arcadia School, effective August 1, 2014.

Policy Matters

Nothing at this time.

Annual Business

Nothing at this time.

Bill Listing – Authorization of the administration to pay the schedule of bills payable and authorize the District Treasurer to sign the checks dated August 19, 2014, in the amount of \$914,163.12.

Imprest Fund Reimbursement – Authorization to reimburse the District Imprest Fund in the amount of \$57,299.94.

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

Payroll Vouchers – Authorization for the District Treasurer to sign the payrolls dated September 15, 2014, and September 30, 2014, including all bills for payroll deductions and contributions by the school district.

Gifts and Donations

Nothing at this time.

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The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

McCray

Gordon

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2014–2015 Tentative Budget

Mr. Craig Englert, assistant superintendent of business and finance, addressed the Board regarding the tentative Fiscal Year 2014–2015 budget. Mr. Englert reported that the District's projected 2014–2015 budget is a "breakeven budget." He stated that the District is projecting \$41,624,927 million in anticipated revenue and \$41,550,217 million in budgeted expenditures, with an anticipated surplus of \$74,710. Mr. Englert explained that the District's operating funds are composed of four distinct funds: 1) Education, 2) Operations and Maintenance, 3) Transportation, and 4) Working Cash. He provided a breakdown of the revenue, expenditures and surplus derived from these funds as follows:

- Revenue: \$36,878,865
- Expenditures: \$36,813,088
- Surplus: \$65,777

Mr. Englert stated that the District funds operations based on the following breakdown:

- Property taxes: 51%
- Other local funds: 4%
- State funding: 35%
- Federal funding: 10%

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Mr. Englert explained that the District spends Operational Expenditures as follows:

- Salaries and benefits: 66%
- Purchased services: 16%
- Supplies: 9%
- Capital outlay: 4%
- Other: 6%

Mr. Englert discussed the changes from the 2013–2014 budget, as follows:

Operating Revenue: \$1.3MM increase (3.8%)

- One time grants: \$793,000
- Property taxes: \$460,000
- State Aid: \$423,000
- IDEA carryover: \$154,000
- Costs reallocated to tort fund: \$480,000 decrease to operating funds

Operating expenditures: \$2.6MM increase (7.6%)

- One time grants: \$1.1MM
- Salaries: \$756,000
- Benefits: \$360,000
- Pupil transportation: \$98,000
- Special education tuition: \$420,000
- Other miscellaneous items: \$135,000 decrease

Other notable items:

- \$300,000 contingency line item for unexpected expenditures
- \$590,000 increase in debt service payments
- Proposed inter-fund transfers
 - Working cash abatement to life safety
 - Operating fund transfers to better allocate cash among funds

Mr. Englert further noted that property taxes are the District's most stable source of revenue. Mr. Englert stated that the District will be working with Mesirow Financial again this year. Mr. Englert commented that Senate Bill 16 proposes a reallocation of state aid among school districts. He noted that based on early projections, the District would realize a significant

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increase in funding if Senate Bill 16 is passed. Mr. Englert presented the following budget timeline:

- 8/15/14: Tentative budget put on display on District website and at District office
- 8/15/14: Notice of public hearing placed in *Southtown Star* newspaper
- 8/19/14: Presentation of tentative budget to Board of Education
- 9/16/14: Public hearing on the budget
- 9/16/14: Board of Education vote on adoption of the budget

Mr. Bean complimented Mr. Englert's clear and concise explanation of the proposed budget and commented that the District's fund balance is the reserve to carry the District through hard times. He noted that the District has a fund balance equivalent to three months of reserves. Mr. Bean further remarked that property tax appeals are a detriment to the District's funding. He noted that the decrease in property taxes has impacted how funds are allocated.

Mr. Murphy commented on the impact of foreclosures on the District's finances.

Dr. Davis stated that Mr. Englert has done a "wonderful" job in managing the District's finances. She said that his counsel on finance matters is reliable and beneficial. Dr. Davis also recognized Mrs. Linda Mitchell, the District's new assistant superintendent of human resources and Mr. Robert Hall, the District's attorney.

Mrs. Green asked if there is anything that the Board members can do to push the legislature to pass Senate Bill 16, which streamlines and changes the current state funding formula for Illinois schools. Mr. Englert said that he would provide the Board members with contact information for the legislators.

E-Rate

Attorney Elaine Williams addressed the Board of Education on the changes to the E-Rate structure. Mrs. Williams stated that the first phase of E-Rate changes have been completed. She explained that there are two types of E-Rate funding: Priority One and Priority Two. She noted that Priority One funding includes telecommunications and internet and that Priority Two funding includes wireless services. She stated that, historically, Priority Two funding

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has never been available due to the high demand for Priority One funding requests. Mrs. Williams reported that the District has received \$297,000 in Priority One funding for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014. Mrs. Williams explained that beginning in 2015, there will be two changes to the E-Rate funding structure:

- 1) the phasing out of Priority One telephone services such as voicemail, which will result in the reduction of the District's funding request by 20 percent every year as a result of this change. Mrs. Williams noted that the Federal Communications Commission will evaluate the impact of this change on school districts. She stated that the District will take a "big hit" on its E-rate funding in 2014–2015.
- 2) Priority Two funding will now fund districts at a rate of \$150 per student.

Mrs. Williams explained that the District is at the top of both funding categories. She stated that the District is now required to retain E-rate-related documents for 10 years.

Mr. Bean commented that he is confident in Mrs. Williams' abilities and expertise, but that the E-Rate program is a complicated program that can be difficult for the layman to understand.

Mrs. Green asked Mrs. Williams for a simplified summary explaining E-Rate.

Dr. Davis commented that with the restructuring, E-Rate is no longer a viable means of supporting funding for the District's technology needs. She further commented that the District's former administrative offices in Matteson are now being used to warehouse old District records. Dr. Davis stated that some of the District's facilities-based funding has been offset by the grant writing efforts of Mr. Mark Walczak, noting that, to date, he has obtained approximately \$100,000 in grant funding for the District.

Performance Objectives

Dr. Davis presented Performance Objectives in the following areas for the 2014–2015 school year:

- Instruction

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- Collaborative Staff Development
- Special Education
- Technology
- Communication with the Board of Education
- Public Relations/External Communications
- Finance

Instruction: Dr. Davis stated that the District is using the Danielson Model for evaluations, which will enable the District to focus on the quality of teaching. Dr. Davis said that this is the District's third year of implementation of the Danielson Model. She noted that per state law, the District's principals' evaluations must be completed by March 1. She noted that there is collaboration between the District and the teachers' union on the use of this model. She further noted that the scope and sequence process has been completed. Dr. Davis explained that the state is moving toward a student growth emphasis. She stated that there is an achievement gap at the kindergarten level that stems, in part, from parenting deficits. She noted that, as a result, many kindergarten-age students must "play catch-up." Dr. Davis stated that it is essential to reduce the achievement gap.

Collaborative Staff Development: Dr. Davis stated that the District has implemented a co-teaching component, which combines general education and special education. Dr. Davis commented that the Illinois State Board of Education wants to see more interaction among general education and special education staff members. Dr. Davis recognized the excellence of the instructional team lead by Mrs. Sandy Simmons, kindergarten teacher at Richton Square School, noting that the team is "magnificent."

Special Education: Dr. Davis noted that Mrs. Yvonne Williams, chief special education officer, will oversee "café" model discussion groups between regular education and special education teachers.

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Technology: Dr. Davis stated that the District will continue to provide each classroom with 21st Century technology. She further stated that parents can now access student information via the PowerSchool student information system. She noted that parents can also access their students' information through PowerSchool, which went "live" on July 1.

Communications with the Board of Education: Dr. Davis assured the Board that her open communications with the Board will continue.

Public Relations: Dr. Davis stated that Mr. Richard Barry does a magnificent job on the District's public relations and marketing. She further stated that Mrs. Denise Faris, former Board secretary, is responsible for the publication of the District's quarterly newsletter.

Finances: Dr. Davis stated that the District's goal is to decrease expenditures.

Terra Nova

Dr. Davis presented the District's goals relative to the Terra Nova. She stated that the District will show growth in academic achievement measured by the spring 2014 to 2015 Terra Nova Common Core assessment:

- Spring 2014 reading in the 59th national percentile
- Spring 2015 reading in the 63rd national percentile
- Spring 2014 math in the 53rd national percentile
- Spring 2015 math in the 57th national percentile

Dr. Davis provided the following background about the Terra Nova:

- All forms are built on the same vertical scale for each content area; districts using Terra Nova Common Core will have the ability to track student growth as students advance from one grade level to the next.
- Terra Nova Common Core meets the guidelines of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).
- Built on 2011 norms, Terra Nova Common Core offers a full range of item formats in one test, including multiple choice, constructed-response, extended-constructed response, and integrated performance tasks.

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- We will use the “Cohort Comparison” report to compare students who took each test administration, to measure student growth.

Dr. Davis stated that for two years, the District has had no basis to compare test scores. She expressed her discomfort with the inability to compare the District’s progress. Dr. Davis noted that the District will use the Terra Nova, a nationally-normed testing tool, to compare student progress on a national basis. Dr. Davis explained that Arcadia and Matteson schools will test at the start of the school year. Dr. Davis reported that the District will begin to follow a cohort of current 3rd grade students to examine their progress from grade to grade. She stated that the District needs data to track students over time. Dr. Davis stated that the District has an obligation to the community in this respect. She introduced Mr. Robert Lane, administrative assistant to the CEO. She noted that Mr. Lane will develop a student progress tracking mechanism. Dr. Davis remarked that the District must be able to explain its scores and student progress longitudinally. She said that assistant superintendents Lee Stanton and Doug Hamilton work together to track student progress. Dr. Davis stated that the District must “take the dreams of the students and give them wings.” She noted that the District is now conducting its own data analysis. She further noted that the District will use both the PARCC and Terra Nova testing tools to determine and compare student progress.

Mr. Murphy complimented Dr. Davis on her leadership and vision.

Mrs. Green stated that the Board wants to work with Dr. Davis and the District staff to make the District stronger. She further stated that she is glad to see the solid foundation that the District has laid for student success in high school.

Mrs. Rodman McCray commented that Dr. Davis is now in her 13th year as superintendent of the District and affirmed the Board’s support for Dr. Davis’ leadership.

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Mr. Bean also commented that the Board of Education has confidence in Dr. Davis' leadership. He stated that Dr. Davis consistently attracts competent administrators and staff to the District. Mr. Bean said that Dr. Davis will get the continuing support of the Board. He described Dr. Davis as a "gem."

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will consider approval of an extension of the Superintendent's contract.

Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mrs. McCray, to approve the extension of the Superintendent's contract.

The motion carried by a unanimous vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider acceptance of the District's and the Superintendent's Performance Objectives for the 2014–2015 school year.

Mr. Simpkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, to accept the District's and the Superintendent's Performance Objectives for the 2014–2015 school year.

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 Mutual Settlement and Release resolving the case captioned *Komaa Mnyofu v. Board of Education of Matteson School District 162, the Village of Matteson, et al.*, Case No. 11 CV 3756, providing for the payment to Mr. Mnyofu and his attorneys in the amount of \$30,000.

Upon motion by Mr. Simpkins, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the Board approved the Mutual Settlement and Release.

The motion carried, with no discussion, by a unanimous vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

First reading of the Matteson District 162 policy regarding Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board.

The Board heard a presentation on District policy #1210 regarding Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board will consider approval of the proposed amendment to the Matteson District 162 Anti-bullying policy #5314.

The Board will consider approval of the proposed amendment to the Matteson District 162 Wellness policy #5443.

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The Board will consider approval of Matteson District 162 policy #6230 regarding English Language Learners.

The Board will consider approval of Matteson District 162 policy #5447 regarding Fundraising Days on Which Food May Be Sold to Students.

With regard to the four policy-related agenda items, above, Mr. Bean moved that in the interest of time, the Board consider and approve all of the policies together. Mrs. McCray seconded the motion to consider and approve the policies together.

The motion carried by a unanimous vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES/REPORTS

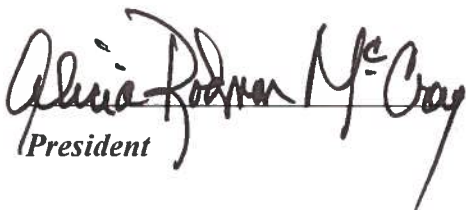
Nothing at this time.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bean moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Rodman McCray adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.


President


Secretary