

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

**June 16, 2015**

*“Against All Challenges—This Will Be Our Finest Hour.”*

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Convened: 6:34 p.m.**

**Adjourned: 8:02 p.m.**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, Lee Stanton, Earnestine Foster, Mark Walczak, Yvonne Williams, Deborah Duskey, Linda Disney, Michael E. Gettings, Pamela Powell, Narishea Parham, Bill Howard, David Rupert, Latunja O. Williams, Sheloanda Porche-Box, Brenda Calvin, Carl Cogar, Natalie Bumpers, Jo Ross, Pat Ransford, Gail Hartsough, Jason Streeter, Robert Tomic, Lara Reznick, Debbie Szczecina, Barbara Manning, Heloise Smith, Stephanie Healy, Raphalieta McKenzie, Jessica Washington

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Mrs. Rodman McCray called the regular session to order at 6:34 p.m. and noted that there was a quorum. Mrs. Rodman McCray directed the Board secretary to make a roll call notation.

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 2

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Dr. Davis reviewed the "Dates to Remember." She thanked the administrators and staff for their hard work in making the District's graduation a success. Additionally, she asked for a round of applause for Assistant Superintendent Earnestine Foster for her leadership and guidance in planning the graduation ceremony. Dr. Davis also thanked the parents for their support; she stated that the parents' involvement made the graduation extra special.

Dr. Davis stated that the District will add fifteen minutes to each day of summer school in order to compensate for the instructional time lost due to the observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **AUDIENCE TO VISITORS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Nothing at this time.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Minutes**

Regular Session, May 19, 2015

Executive Session, May 19, 2015, and declare them closed.

#### **Personnel**

##### *Contracts*

Approve the contract for Alecia Sims, psychologist, effective August 10, 2015.

Approve the contract for Ashley Stachniak, special education teacher, effective August 20, 2015.

Approve the change of employment for Julie Pope, secretary at Matteson School, from a 12-month position to a 10-month position, effective July 1, 2015.

Approve the contract for Jessica Washington, Board secretary, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 3

Approve the contract for Steven Yunker, programming specialist, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

Approve the contract for Cornelius Johnson, security officer, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

Approve the contract for Katherine Hahn, outdoor classroom coordinator, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

Approve the contract for Heloise Smith, administrative assistant, effective July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015.

Approve the following Summer School contracts:

***Administrators***

**K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Patricia Ransford

Pamela Powell

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

Corey Levy

Carl Cogar

***Kindergarten***

Erica Walker

Belinda Lear

Amanda Curran

Nikki Gloude

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

Patrick Korthauer

Kelli Malone

Gloria Summerville

Monica Serafini

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Susan Torrance

Kimberly Peterz

Jennifer Krichbaum

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Kristal Jordan

Kendra Austin

Suzanne VanSlyke

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 4

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Elizabeth Bern

Kelika Baker

Anna Daniels

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Tracye Hutsona

Ellen Stidham

Jonathan Chestang

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Tiffany Miles

Anthony Urban

LaThica Long

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Ozzietta Ballentine

Andrea Barksdale

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Mike Rogalski

**Special Education**

Nicole Mahoney-Kindergarten

Kaylee East-1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Chris Chapan-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Jessica Pilot-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Josh Napier & Debra Fitzgerald-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

James Dilger, Michelle Dixon, Patricia Tracey-5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

Charles Brown-7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Special Education Paraprofessionals**

Valerie Churchill-Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Kathleen LaChata-2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

Gerry Youngblood-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Maple Nance-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Elizabeth Pearson-5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

**Nurses**

Megan Miller-K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ilundria Bardwell-5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades

**Leaves**

Approve the leave of absence, under FMLA, for Cornelius Johnson, security officer, effective June 9, 2015, for up to twelve weeks.

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 5

Approve the maternity leave, under FMLA, for Meagan Vinson, teacher at Sauk School, effective August 31, 2015, through September 18, 2015.

*Resignations/Retirement*

Approve the resignation of Mary Ann Ragsdale, teacher at Richton Square School, effective June 10, 2015.

Approve the resignation of Matthew Majchrowicz, teacher at Illinois School, effective June 10, 2015.

Approve the resignation of Kristina Smith-Ross, social worker at Matteson School and Sauk School, effective at the end of the 2014–2015 school year.

Approve the resignation of Jaime Sobecki, technology teacher at Illinois School, effective June 4, 2015.

Approve the resignation of Sharon Nelson, cook at Indiana School, effective June 9, 2015.

Approve the retirement of LT Roberts, custodian, effective June 1, 2015.

**Policy Matters**

Nothing at this time.

**Annual Business**

Approve the designation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/C.S.B.O. to develop the 2015–2016 budget in tentative form including revenues and expenditures that are anticipated during the fiscal year and a statement of estimated cash expected to be on hand at the beginning and end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Craig Englert, assistant superintendent for business services, addressed the Board. He stated that the Illinois School Code requires the Board to direct a District representative to develop a tentative budget.

Approve the resolution to abate a portion of the Working Cash Fund.

Mr. Englert stated that the transfer of working cash funds does not require a public hearing.

Approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of monies from the Transportation Fund to the Educational and Operations and Maintenance Funds.

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 6

Approve the Prevailing Wage Resolution–Adoption of the resolution to determine the prevailing wage as required by the Prevailing Wage Act.

Mr. Englert stated that the District must abide by the parameters of the Prevailing Wage Act when paying contractors.

**Bill Listing** – Authorization of the administration to pay the schedule of bills payable and authorize the District Treasurer to sign the checks dated June 16, 2015, in the amount of \$864,190.22.

**Imprest Fund Reimbursement** – Authorization to reimburse the District Imprest Fund in the amount of \$69,368.86.

**Financial Statement** – The May 2015 Financial Statement is presented for review.

**Payroll Vouchers** – Authorization for the District Treasurer to sign the payrolls dated July 15, 2015, and July 30, 2015, 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

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 7

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### *Enrollment*

Dr. Davis presented an overview of the District's student enrollment numbers from May 2007 through August 2015 (projected).

Schools	May 2007	April 2008	May 2009	Feb 2010	May 2011	May 2012	May 2013	May 2014	May 2015	Projected Aug 2015
Arcadia	561	527	571	579	556	537	519	477	447	418
Huth	660	672	654	645	630	596	603	641	599	557
Illinois	473	458	487	490	449	437	424	471	434	438
Indiana	501	494	457	434	428	436	430	424	399	379
Matteson	561	529	492	540	530	435	444	403	380	368
Richton Square	187	196	201	172	213	255	245	260	275	268
Sauk	468	464	436	436	477	458	449	378	395	386
Out-of-District	72	71	55	52	55	49	46	44	46	41
<b>SD 162 Total</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>3,348</b>	<b>3,338</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>2,975</b>	<b>2,855</b>

(Note: Data for May 2008 and May 2010 are unavailable; the yellow highlighted data are the latest data available for that year.)

Dr. Davis stated that the District continues to lose students. She said that the community is aging, particularly Olympia Fields. She noted that younger families are still moving into Matteson and Richton Park. Dr. Davis stated that the largest decrease in enrollment will occur at Huth Middle School. She noted that the downturn in enrollment will also affect the high schools.

### *ECOLAB*

Dr. Davis announced that ECOLAB awarded grants to several District 162 teachers:

ECOLAB				
Teacher Name	School	Project	Grade Level	Grant Amount
Anjali Sane	Richton Square	Create a Sensory Room	Pre-k-K	\$1,730
Renee Covert	Huth	Chemistry of Matter Lab Kit; Advanced Frog Dissection Kits & Micrometers	Middle School	\$2,642
Amie Leib	Huth	Purchase of a Novel Set	Middle School	\$714

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 8

Dr. Davis announced that Huth Middle School will undergo a restructure at the administration level. She presented the following restructure to the Board:

Principal	Mr. Robert Tomic
Assistant Principal (1)	Dr. Jason Streeter
Assistant Principal (2)	Mrs. Stephanie Healy
Dean	Mr. Derek Alexander
Dean	Mr. Michael Gettings, Sr.

*Corey Levy/Robert Tomic*

Dr. Davis announced that Mr. Corey Levy, formerly the principal of Huth Middle School, will be taking an administrative position at the District's administrative office. She thanked Mr. Levy for his service and noted that Mr. Levy's contributions will strengthen the District.

Dr. Davis also announced that Mr. Robert Tomic, formerly the principal of Indiana School, will be promoted to the position of principal of Huth Middle School. Mr. Tomic thanked the Indiana and Huth staff. He stated that his experience at Indiana School will be an advantage for him at Huth, because approximately half of the students attending Huth matriculate from Indiana School. Mr. Tomic said that he and the Huth administrators and staff have spent some time establishing the core values that will be the guide posts for the school going forward.

*Evolution of Technology*

Dr. Davis reported on the evolution of technology updates in the District; she noted that Mr. Daniel Evans, director of technology, has developed a schematic to determine the age of the District's computers:

- **Huth Middle School-2013:** Replaced desktop PCs in the computer lab and media center with brand new HP Compaq Pro 6300 desktop PCs.
- **Sauk School-2014:** Replaced desktop PCs in the computer lab with brand new HP EliteDesk 800 G1 desktop PCs.
- **Indiana School-2015:** Will replace the Intel iMacs in the computer lab with brand new HP ProDesk 400 G1 desktop PCs.

Dr. Davis commented that the government has not yet released any of the E-rate funding.



Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 9

*Kelly Richardson*

Dr. Davis announced the hiring of Mrs. Kelly Richardson as a technology teacher to serve Arcadia School and Matteson School. Dr. Davis noted that prior to taking this position, Mrs. Richardson was an early childhood special education preschool teacher at Richton Square School. Dr. Davis stated that Mrs. Richardson's goal will be to increase computer literacy at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. She noted that this will help the students prepare for the PARCC exam, which is administered via computer.

*2015–2016 Budget Process*

Mr. Craig Englert addressed the Board regarding the District's budget process for the 2015–2016 school year. He noted that the District will be entering its budget process without funding information from the state due to the latter's failure to pass a budget. He noted that the District will develop a budget based on guestimates.

<b>June 16, 2015</b>	Board directs assistant superintendent for business to prepare tentative 2015–2016 budget
<b>August 16, 2015</b>	Notice placed in the <i>Daily Southtown</i> newspaper of a public hearing to be held at the September 2015 Board meeting; budget will be made available for public display and on the District's website
<b>August 18, 2015</b>	Presentation of tentative budget at August 2015 Board of Education meeting
<b>September 15, 2015</b>	Public hearing on the budget/adoption of the budget by the Board of Education

*Report on Investments*

Mr. Englert presented a report on the District's investments. He noted that he would continue to report on the status of the District's investments on a monthly basis. Mr. Englert reported the following:

- The District's investment policy requires the treasurer to invest money with safety, liquidity, and to maximize the rate of return.
- An investment report will be included in the monthly Board packet.
- All CDs and savings deposit accounts are FDIC-insured.
- The Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund is highly rated and only invests in conservative investments.

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 10

Mr. Englert also noted that the District has some liquidity to invest now because Cook County has released its tax bills on time. He noted that PMA Financial Network identifies the best rates for the District's investments.

*2014 Property Tax Levy*

Mr. Englert presented the following update on the District's 2014 property tax levy, including a 10-year historical analysis of the District's Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV):

- The south suburban area undergoes a reassessment by Cook County every three years.
- The area's EAV is down 6.6% to \$358,651,879.
- The EAV of the new property added to the tax rolls is valued at \$285,518.
- The total levy is up 1.9% to \$24,300,766.
- The operating levy increased to \$333,513.
- The bond levy increased to \$118,932.

Mr. Englert stated that the levy passed in December. He commented that he hopes the District has hit bottom relative to the EAV and that the District will either level out or increase slightly going forward. He noted that Cook County will reassess the south suburban area in another three years. Mr. Englert explained that some levies are capped and some are not. He noted that the District moves funds between uncapped levies and capped levies.

Mrs. McCray asked whether State Senator Toi Hutchinson's proposal to fund school districts is still under consideration. Dr. Davis responded that Senator Hutchinson's proposal has merit.

Mrs. Gordon thanked Mr. Englert for his detailed report.

Mrs. Green asked whether the new state superintendent has commented on the state's budget issues. Dr. Davis responded that he has not yet issued a policy statement.

**LEGISLATION**

Dr. Davis reported that there is a pending change to the discipline policy under the Illinois School Code, which would limit out-of-school suspensions to three days or less. Dr. Davis

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 11

stated that the revised policy is currently an unsigned bill, having passed in both houses of the state legislature; Governor Rauner has yet to sign the bill into law. Dr. Davis commented that schools would have to use more in-school suspensions to compensate for the restrictions on out-of-school suspensions. She noted that weapons and drug offenses would be exempted under the pending policy. Dr. Davis stated that Mr. Robert Hall, attorney for the District, is currently working on the matter. She noted that if the governor signs off on the policy change, the District will have to amend its parent/student handbook to reflect the change.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board will consider approval of the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,010,000 General Obligation Refunding Limited School Bonds, Series 2015, of School District Number 162, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of said School District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Mrs. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, to approve the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,010,000 General Obligation Refunding Limited School Bonds, Series 2015, of School District Number 162, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of said School District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Mr. Englert introduced Raphalieta McKenzie of Speer Financial to address the Board on the bond refinance. Ms. McKenzie explained that the refinance involves three bonds (Series 2007, 2008, and 2009). She estimates that the refinancing of these three bonds will net the District a savings of approximately \$550,000. Ms. McKenzie reported that the District has a Triple A rating from Moody's. She noted that the rating determines the amount of money that the District pays on its bond issue. She further noted that the high rating enables the District to pay less for its bonds; it also eliminates the need for insurance. Ms. McKenzie said that the District's operating fund reserve levels helped to secure its Triple A rating. Ms. McKenzie

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 12

stated that there is a fourth bond issue that is not yet ripe for refinancing; she noted, however, that when the time is right, this bond will also provide a savings to the District.

Mr. Bean commented that the District's good rating is a result of good management, particularly in light of the State of Illinois' recent downgrade to junk bond status.

Mrs. Green thanked Mr. Englert and Ms. McKenzie for their diligence in securing savings for the District.

Mrs. McCray suggested that an article be written for the quarterly newsletter about the savings that the District has secured for the taxpayers and the community. Dr. Davis said that it would be done. She noted that Mr. Englert would work with Denise Faris, the District's communications coordinator, on the article.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the resolution authorizing and directing the execution of an Escrow Agreement in connection with the issue of not to exceed \$7,010,000 General Obligation Refunding Limited School Bonds, Series 2015, of School District Number 162, Cook County, Illinois.

Mr. Simpkins moved, seconded by Mrs. McCray, to approve the resolution authorizing and directing the execution of an Escrow Agreement in connection with the issue of not to exceed

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 13

\$7,010,000 General Obligation Refunding Limited School Bonds, Series 2015, of School District Number 162, Cook County, Illinois.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the contract with Dr. Latunja Williams as Director of Mathematics for the period July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016.

Mrs. McCray moved, seconded by Mrs. Green, to approve the contract with Dr. Latunja Williams as Director of Mathematics for the period July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016.

Dr. Davis said that she is extremely proud of Mrs. Williams, because she has successfully met all of the challenges that have been set before her. She noted that prior to taking this new position, Mrs. Williams was an assistant principal at Huth Middle School. Mrs. Williams earned a doctorate degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Roosevelt University. Dr. Davis stated that in her new capacity, Mrs. Williams will oversee the middle school math programs at Huth Middle School and Illinois School. She also will manage the math articulation processes from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school. Dr. Davis recommended Mrs. Williams for the position without hesitation.

Mrs. Williams thanked Dr. Davis and the Board for the opportunity to impact children through mathematics. Mrs. Williams stated that she has a clear understanding of Dr. Davis' vision for the District and is committed to making a difference.

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 14

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the contract with Dr. Camilla Covington as Principal, for the period July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016.

Mr. Murphy moved, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, to approve the contract with Dr. Camilla Covington as Principal, for the period July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016.

Dr. Davis recommended Dr. Camilla Covington as the new principal at Indiana School. She stated that prior to joining the District, Dr. Covington was the principal of Little Black Pearl Art & Design Academy High School, a “contract school” in Chicago. She noted that Dr. Covington earned a doctorate degree in educational leadership from Argosy University. Dr. Davis reported that Dr. Covington will replace Mr. Robert Tomic, who after eight years at the helm of Indiana School, has been named the new principal at Huth Middle School. Mr. Tomic replaces Mr. Corey Levy, who will now take on a position as a District Office administrator. Dr. Davis stated that Dr. Covington has expertise in working with ESL and special education students and their families. She further stated that Dr. Covington has a proven track record of improved test scores. Dr. Davis noted that Indiana School is very close to “making the leap” to the next level and that Dr. Covington is equipped to lead them there.

Dr. Covington thanked Dr. Davis and the Board for the opportunity to serve the District. She stated that she is an extremely driven person who thrives in a data-driven culture. Dr.

Regular Session

June 16, 2015

Page 15

Covington promised Dr. Davis and the Board that they would not be disappointed in their decision to hire her.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Murphy

Green

Gordon

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

### **BOARD MEMBER ISSUES/REPORTS**

Mrs. McCray thanked Dr. Davis and the team at Southland College Prep High School for hosting the Middle School College and Career Symposium. She stated that the students who participated were engaged in the programming. Mrs. McCray said that she was pleased with the variety of workshops offered. Mrs. McCray also inquired about the Waggle software program. Mr. Lee Stanton, assistant superintendent, explained that Waggle provides online resources for students and teachers.

Mr. Bean thanked Mr. Mark Walczak for his oversight of the District Office parking lot resurfacing project.

### **AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Nothing at this time.

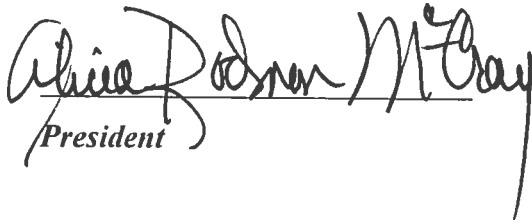
Regular Session

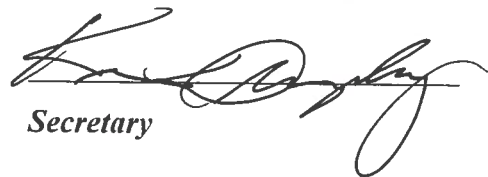
June 16, 2015

Page 16

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Rodman McCray adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

  
*President*

  
*Secretary*