

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

**December 20, 2016**

*"We take the hopes and dreams of the community and turn them into reality!"*

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Convened: 6:30 p.m.**

**Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen McCray

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, Lee Stanton, Earnestine Foster, Mark Walczak, Yvonne Williams, Deborah Duskey, Linda Disney, Michael E. Gettings, David Rupert, Latunja O. Williams, Sheloanda Porche-Box, Pat Ransford, Jo Ross, Carl Cogar, Narishea Parham, Lara Reznick, Amanda Godin, Bill Howard, Gail Hartsough, Stephanie Healy, Camilla Covington, Cory Gold, Brenda Calvin, Robert Tomic, Greg Huelsman, Kim McGuire, David Weinbrecht, Inge Weinbrecht, Sandra Banger, Danielle Payne, Krista Zinsmeister, Nicole Paver, Litonya Gant, Diane Andrasco, Jessica Weinbrecht, Kaitlyn Van Kuiken, Lynn Stevenson, Courtney Stevenson, Tiffany Fincher, Adrienne LaCour, Melinda Schumann, Debbie Szczecina, Lorrie Clayton, Jessica Washington

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Mrs. Rodman McCray called the regular session to order at 6:30 p.m. and noted that there was a quorum. Mrs. Rodman McCray directed the Board secretary to make a roll call notation. She noted that Mrs. Karen McCray was attending a Matteson Rotary event and was excused from the meeting.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Dr. Davis reviewed the “Dates to Remember.”

Mrs. Rodman McCray praised the District’s staff and students for the wonderful holiday programs that they presented.

Dr. Davis stated that due to the way that the holidays are scheduled this year, classes will not resume from holiday break until January 9, 2017.

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

Nothing at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Huelsman, principal of Matteson School and Richton Square School, introduced Ms. Sandra Banger, the new administrator who will be overseeing the preschool and kindergarten transition at Richton Square School and Matteson School. He noted that Ms. Banger is very experienced and has had a distinguished career as an educator. He further noted that Ms. Banger loves children and “fits Richton Square School and Matteson School like a glove.” Ms. Banger addressed Dr. Davis and the Board of Education. She stated that it is a “joy and pleasure to join District 162.” She further stated that the District’s children are “absolutely phenomenal.” Ms. Banger announced the creation of the Matteson School Eagle Express, a program through which Matteson students will conduct tours of Matteson School for the kindergarten students who are moving to Matteson School from Richton Square School. Ms. Banger thanked Dr. Davis and the Board for the opportunity to join the District.

Ms. Narishea Parham introduced the new Richton Square School staff members.

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Mrs. Gordon commented that Courtney Stevenson, one the new paraprofessionals hired at Richton Square School, is a former District 162 student.

### **Minutes**

Regular Session, November 15, 2016

### **Personnel**

#### *Employment*

Approve the employment of Monica Fountain, director of communications (.5), effective January 1, 2017, through June 30, 2017.

Approve the employment of Elia Alcantar, custodian at Huth Middle School, effective November 9, 2016.

Approve the employment of Courtney Stevenson, paraprofessional at Richton Square School, effective November 28, 2016.

Approve the employment of Kaitlyn Van Kuiken, paraprofessional at Richton Square School, effective November 28, 2016.

Approve the employment of Sandra Banger, administrator, effective November 28, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

Approve the employment of Erik Newman, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective November 28, 2016.

Approve the employment of Jessica Weinbrecht, paraprofessional at Richton Square School, effective December 12, 2016.

Approve the employment of Nicole Paver, teacher at Richton Square School, effective December 5, 2016.

Approve the employment of Litonya Gant, teacher at Richton Square School, effective December 19, 2016.

Approve the employment of Krista Zinsmeister, teacher at Richton Square School, effective December 5, 2016.

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Approve the employment of Tiffany Fincher, parent educator at Richton Square School, effective December 5, 2016.

Approve the employment of Danielle Payne, teacher at Richton Square School, effective December 5, 2016.

Approve the employment of Melinda Schumann, instructional coach at Richton Square School, effective December 5, 2016.

Approve the employment of Justine Kavanagh, teacher at Richton Square School, effective January 9, 2017.

Approve the employment of Diane Andrasco, paraprofessional at Richton Square School, effective December 12, 2016.

Approve the employment of Juana Zarate, custodian at Indiana School, effective December 8, 2016.

*Resignations*

Approve the resignation of Elvira Castillo, custodian at Indiana School, effective November 5, 2016.

Approve the resignation of Jennifer Green, District custodian, effective November 9, 2016.

Approve the resignation of Susana Roa Maya, custodian at Indiana School, effective November 22, 2016.

Approve the resignation of Kevin Green, District custodian, effective December 13, 2016.

Approve the resignation of Marcell Morris, custodian at Richton Square School, effective December 13, 2016.

**Policy Matters**

Nothing at this time.

**Annual Business**

Approve the addendum to the Preferred Meals Contract.

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**Bill Listing** – Authorization of the administration to pay the schedule of bills payable and authorize the District Treasurer to sign the checks dated December 20, 2016, in the amount of \$1,175,172.01.

**Imprest Fund Reimbursement** – Authorization to reimburse the District Imprest Fund in the amount of \$21,693.83

**Financial Statement** – The November 2016 Financial Statement is presented for review.

**Payroll Vouchers** – Authorization for the District Treasurer to sign the payrolls dated January 13, 2017, and January 30, 2017, 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

Green

Murphy

Gordon

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Enrollment*

Dr. Davis presented a report comparing District membership by school for November 2016 and December 2016.

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**Membership: November 10, 2016**

School	Total
Arcadia	436
Huth	559
Illinois	371
Indiana	372
Matteson	344
Richton Square	265
Sauk	359
Out-of-District	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,752</b>

\*Data from PowerSchool

**Membership: December 16, 2016**

School	Total
Arcadia	439
Huth	567
Illinois	370
Indiana	374
Matteson	347
Richton Square	270
Sauk	362
Out-of-District	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,776</b>

\*Data from PowerSchool

Dr. Davis stated that the District's enrollment increased slightly from November to December. She said that she anticipates that the District's enrollment will end the year at 2,800 students.

*Transportation*

Dr. Davis provided an update on the status of transportation services provided to the District by Kickert School Bus Company (Kickert). She reported that there has been steady communication between the District and Kickert. She stated that the District and Kickert are working toward a "real partnership." Dr. Davis commented that Kickert had a "teachable moment" when 200 of its buses failed to start on one of the coldest days of the year. She noted that the buses' batteries had died while Kickert was warming up the buses for their morning routes. She reported that the District was only slightly inconvenienced by this issue.

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*Richton Square School Reorganization*

Mrs. Yvonne Williams, chief special education officer, announced that the District has been awarded a \$425,712 grant for FY17 to expand the District's preschool program. The grant will enable the District to provide a full-day program for 80 four-year old students who qualify for the at-risk preschool. Richton Square School will house four full-day preschool classrooms in addition to two half-day classrooms for three year olds. The District's preschool program will now be able to serve a total of 160 students. The new full-day preschool program will provide the following:

- Full-time parent educator
- Full-time instructional coach
- Increased time for small group and individual support for students; opportunities for differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all children
- More time to develop social-emotional skills
- More time for math, science, and social studies instruction
- More time for physical activity

The preschool program will also provide more comprehensive services including the following:

- Support for transition of students from birth to three programs and to kindergarten programs
- Community collaboration and partnerships
- More parent engagement opportunities led by a Parent Advisory Council
- Home visits
- Workshops and training for parents

The District expects the following results:

- Early learning program aligned within a birth through third grade continuum of services
- Students to meet/exceed expected kindergarten readiness milestones

Mrs. Williams reported that the preschool program will be using a research-based curriculum. She said that as of December 5<sup>th</sup> the new staff had already participated in professional development programming. Mrs. Williams said that the preschool has put a new

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process in place that will enable staff to communicate more effectively with parents. She stated that the preschool programming will incorporate creativity and flexibility, and will combine music and dance with occupational therapy in order to strengthen students' gross motor skills. Mrs. Williams reported that the program will serve students breakfast, lunch, and dinner. She noted that all snacks will meet the standards of the District's wellness policy. Mrs. Williams stated that the program will use observational assessment to capture students' skills and progress. Mrs. Williams reported that as of January 9, 100 four-year olds will be attending the preschool program. She noted that there is still space available in the half day program. She further noted that the preschool is moving up its next screening in order to fill all remaining spaces and to establish a waiting list. Mrs. Williams reported that an Illinois State Board of Education monitor will be visiting the program on January 23. She also reported that the preschool program will be partnering with the Erickson Institute on a math initiative that will build students' inquiry and reasoning skills, and foster intellectual curiosity.

Mrs. Green inquired about the parent education component of the program. Mrs. Williams responded that the program is planning intentional opportunities to get parents engaged and provide them with the tools they will need to help their children. She noted that the program also will comprise a Parent Advisory Council. Mrs. Williams said that she has received a number of angry calls from neighboring daycare providers complaining that the District's preschool program is taking away students from their programs.

Dr. Davis commented that many of the preschool parents are younger and, as a result, the parent education component of the program is essential.

Mrs. Rodman McCray stated that Mrs. Williams' love for these types of projects is clear. She thanked her and her team for their work.



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### *Tax Levy*

Mr. Craig Englert, assistant superintendent of business services, reviewed the presentation he made at the November 2016 Board meeting regarding the levy, as follows:

#### *What Is a Levy?*

- A levy is a request to Cook County for the amount to be raised by property taxes from District 162 residents for all purposes *except* bond payments.
- A bond levy is separate and completed at the time of a bond issue.

#### *Tax Caps*

- Tax caps are designated by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) implemented in 1994 in Cook County.
- Tax caps limit increases in the actual amount paid to school districts from existing properties, to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less, plus new property.
- The CPI for the 2016 levy is 0.7%.

#### *Proposed Final Levy*

- The levy is designed to provide the District with the amount it received from the 2015 levy plus 0.7% (2015 CPI).
- The tentative operating levy = \$22,825,000 (a 4.9% increase over the prior year's actual extension).
- **The District will not receive a 4.9% increase in taxes.**
- The levy is set high to allow for any new property and a possible decrease in EAV (equalized assessed value).

#### *Effect on Taxpayers*

On average, taxpayers will see a 0.4% (less than ½ percent) increase in the amount of taxes paid to District 162 next year.

#### *Three Resolutions*

Mr. Englert asked the Board to approve the following three levy-related resolutions:

- The 2016 Tax Levy Resolution
- The 2016 Tax Levy for Certain Purposes (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, Special Education, and Technology Leasing) Resolution
- The Resolution to Instruct the County Clerk on How to Apportion 2016 Tax Levy Extension Reductions

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***Timeline***

- The Board approved the Tentative Tax Levy on November 5, 2016.
- The Board voted to adopt the Final Tax Levy Resolutions on December 20, 2016.
- The District will file the Final 2016 Tax Levy with Cook County no later than the last Tuesday in December.
- The first half of the taxes collected on March 1, 2017, will be based on estimates made by Cook County.
- The second half of the taxes collected in fall 2017 will be based on the final EAV.

Mr. Englert also reported on the status of the state of Illinois' overdue categorical payments to the District. He noted that the state currently owes the District \$945,550, which was due to the District in June 2016, and \$723,554, which was due to the District in September 2016. He noted that the state currently owes the District a total of \$1,669,104. Mr. Englert stated that he will continue to monitor and report the status of the categorical payments. Mr. Englert stated that the categorical payments do not affect the District's general state aid.

Mr. Bean asked whether the District's general state aid will terminate with the education funding budget on December 30. Mr. Englert responded "no."

**LEGISLATION**

Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board will consider approval of the 2016 Tax Levy Resolution.

Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, to approve the 2016 Tax Levy Resolution.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

**YES**

**NO**

Bean

Green

Murphy

Gordon

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Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the Resolution to Levy 2016 Taxes for Certain Purposes.

Mr. Bean moved, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, to approve the Resolution to Levy 2016 Taxes for Certain Purposes.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Green

Murphy

Gordon

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

The Board will consider approval of the Resolution to Instruct the County Clerk on How to Apportion 2016 Tax Levy Extension Reductions.

Mrs. Gordon moved, seconded by Mrs. Green, to approve the Resolution to Instruct the County Clerk on How to Apportion 2016 Tax Levy Extension Reductions.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Green

Murphy

Gordon

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

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**OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**BOARD MEMBER ISSUES/REPORTS**

Nothing at this time.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Ms. Adrienne LaCour, a District 162 parent, addressed Dr. Davis and the Board of Education regarding several concerns. She stated that she was “disheartened” about the District’s transportation issues, particularly on extremely cold days. She questioned the appropriateness of Dr. Davis’ comment about Kickert’s “teachable moment,” describing the comment as “cavalier.” Ms. LaCour also stated that she is concerned about the drop in the District’s test scores. She asked what the District was doing to improve student test scores. She commented that neighboring districts have developed “cutting edge” STEM and robotics programming, and questioned what District 162 was doing to remain competitive with these other districts. Ms. LaCour also questioned how the District is using its resources when its buildings are not operating at capacity. She asked how the District can justify asking for a tax levy, and questioned how it is staffing its buildings.

Mrs. Rodman McCray responded that the District has “a lot of moving parts” and that Dr. Davis was best suited to respond to Ms. LaCour’s queries.

Dr. Davis clarified her comment about Kickert experiencing a “teachable moment.” Dr. Davis stated that her “teachable moment” comment was not meant to be cavalier. She also acknowledged that certain buses continue to be problematic, but that the District is working with Kickert to improve these routes, and that, overall, transportation has begun to improve. She further stated that the District’s projections indicate that student enrollment is increasing. She remarked that a stabilization in enrollment is on the horizon, which will affect staff and facility utilization.

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Mr. Englert addressed Ms. LaCour's concerns about the tax levy.

Dr. Davis asked Mr. Lee Stanton, assistant superintendent, and Mr. Daniel Evans, director of technology, to meet with Ms. LaCour after the meeting regarding her concerns about the district's cutting edge programming.

Mr. Bean responded to Ms. LaCour, stating that the Board meeting is the appropriate venue to voice concerns. He invited her to return to the next Board meeting if she continues to have concerns. He noted that it is her right to address the Board and that it is the Board's responsibility to address the concerns of the District's constituents.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Bean moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy, that the Board go into Executive Session to consider pending, probable, or imminent litigation, 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. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7), 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

**YES**

**NO**

Bean

Green

Murphy

Gordon

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

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The Board entered Executive Session at 7:24 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:58 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

The Board will consider approval of the Agreement with the IRS Regarding Bond Investments.

Mr. Simpkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Green, to approve the Agreement with the IRS Regarding Bond Investments.

Mr. Englert addressed the Board about the agreement with the IRS regarding bond investments. He explained that the District's escrow agent mistakenly invested bond proceeds in interest-bearing instruments, and that the District self-reported this fact when it learned of the situation. He noted that the District's administration has negotiated a small penalty to protect the District's bondholders and its credit.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

**YES**

**NO**

Bean

Green

Murphy

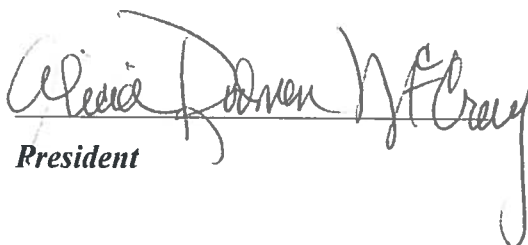
Gordon

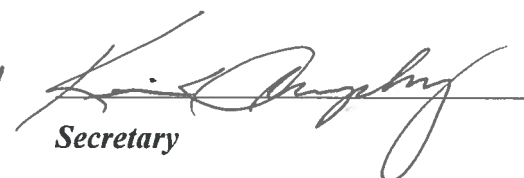
Simpkins

Rodman McCray

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Rodman McCray adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

  
**President**

  
**Secretary**