

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 162
COOK COUNTY
RICHTON PARK, IL 60471
November 15, 2016**

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

REGULAR SESSION

Convened: 6:31 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Felix Simpkins

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, Doug Hamilton, 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, Vanessa Doerr, Brandy Sharp, Kyler Johnson, Ruehen Hoskins, Lea Nelson, Natalie Jones, Rachel Ware, Ozzietta Ballentine, Andrea Barksdale, Roland Hainey, Monica Fountain, Patrice Cogar, John Benish, Jr., Tracye Hutsona, Mikeva Nauden, Laketa Simpson, Baiyinia House, Rachel Martin, Ebony Alexander, Kisha Houston, Tenia Hoskins, Lesley Jackson, LaThica Long, Daphne Johnson, Alphonso Kennedy, Carol Rigsby, Jordan Fitzer, Denise Davis, Debbie Szczecina, Lorrie Clayton, Jessica Washington

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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 Illinois School hosts a V.I.P. Day in lieu of a Dads' Day or Moms' Day.

Mr. Huelsman, principal of Matteson School and Richton Square School, reported that Richton Square will be hosting a Gingerbread Night on December 1, from 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. He noted that the librarian from the Richton Park Library will read gingerbread-related stories throughout the evening while families construct their gingerbread houses.

Dr. Davis stated that school will resume after the holiday break on January 9, 2017. She noted that the return date is scheduled later than usual due to the way the holidays fall this year.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Nothing at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Davis asked the Board to approve the Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Policy #5660. She stated that the policy complies with the requirements of the Illinois School Code. The policy is based on Ann Marie's Law, sponsored by Senator Michael Hastings and named for a student in the south suburbs who committed suicide. The policy is required to be in place for the entire school year; therefore, Dr. Davis requested that the Board approve the policy at the November Board meeting on "first reading." She noted that the District's Special Education Department will provide workshops for staff to train them to recognize the signs of suicide.

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Dr. Davis asked the Board to approve the change in date of the April 2017 Board meeting, from April 18, 2017, to April 11, 2017. She noted that the change in date is necessary because as it is currently scheduled, the April meeting falls during the District's spring break.

Dr. Davis requested that the Board approve a revision to the agenda moving the Superintendent's Report from Item VI. to Item VIII. on the agenda. The Board approved her request.

Minutes

Regular Session, October 18, 2016

Personnel

Leave

Approve the disability leave for Nicole Martin, teacher at Richton Square School, effective November 7, 2016.

Resignation

Approve the resignation of Marcie Uelman, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective November 21, 2016.

Policy Matters

Approval of the Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Policy #5660.

Annual Business

Approval of the change in date for the April 2017 Board meeting from April 18, 2017, to April 11, 2017.

Bill Listing – Authorization of the administration to pay the schedule of bills payable and authorize the District Treasurer to sign the checks dated November 15, 2016, in the amount of \$920,431.18.

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Imprest Fund Reimbursement – Authorization to reimburse the District Imprest Fund in the amount of \$17,025.92

Financial Statement – The October 2016 Financial Statement is presented for review.

Payroll Vouchers – Authorization for the District Treasurer to sign the payrolls dated December 15, 2016, and December 30, 2016, including all bills for payroll deductions and contributions by the school district.

Gifts/Donations/Grants

Approval of the District's Continuous Improvement Plan.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Green

Murphy

Gordon

McCray

Rodman McCray

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will consider approval of the adoption of the Tentative 2016 Tax Levy.

Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mrs. McCray, to approve the adoption of the Tentative 2016 Tax Levy.

Mr. Craig Englert, assistant superintendent of business services, addressed the Board on two matters: the status of categorical payments to the District and the Tentative 2016 Tax Levy.

Mr. Englert reported that the state's categorical payments to the District are slowing down.

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He noted that the state is experiencing some of the same problems with timely remittance of payments to the school districts that it has in the past. He noted that he will continue to monitor the issue.

With regard to the Tentative 2016 Tax Levy, Mr. Englert made the following presentation to the Board of Education:

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%.

CPI History-Past Five Years

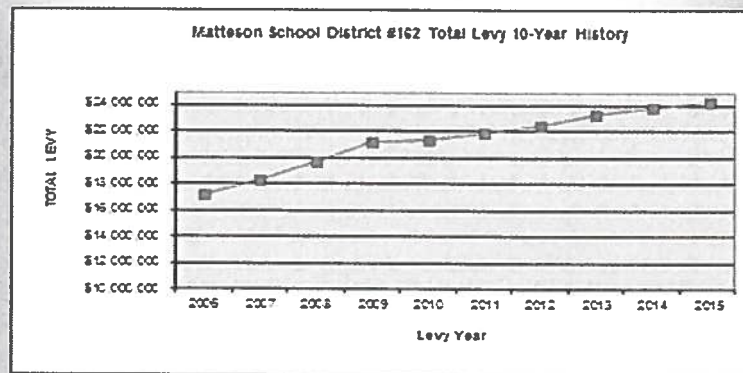
- December 2015: 0.7%
- December 2014: 0.8%
- December 2013: 1.5%
- December 2012: 1.7%
- December 2011: 3.0%

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Actual Total Levy



Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)

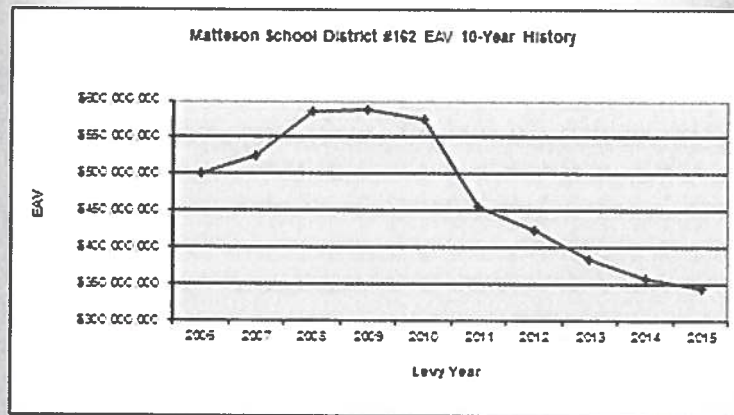
- The EAV is reassessed every three years.
- The last reassessment for the south suburbs was in 2014.
- The actual EAV will not be known until summer 2017.
- The EAV has been declining since 2010.
- As of 2015, the EAV is back to pre-2002 levels.

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Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)



Tentative Levy

- The Tentative 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 (this is a 4.9% increase over the prior year's actual extension).
- The District **will not** receive a 4.9% increase in taxes.
- The Tentative Levy is set high to allow for any new property and a possible decrease in the EAV.

Effect on Taxpayers

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

Timeline

Mr. Englert presented a timeline for the District's completion of the levy process:

- Vote to approve the 2016 Tentative Levy at the November 15, 2016 Board Meeting
- Vote to adopt the Final Levy at the December 20, 2016 Board Meeting
- File levy with Cook County no later than the last Tuesday in December

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Mr. Englert stated that the District's bond levies are decreasing. He reiterated that taxpayers will see less than a .5 percent increase in their property taxes.

Mr. Bean asked when an increase in the EAV will occur as a result of the new Wal-Mart in Olympia Fields. Mr. Englert responded that because the new Wal-Mart is in a tax increment finance (TIF) zone, there will be no increase in EAV for 23 years.

Mrs. McCray asked if the slow categorical payments are due to the politics surrounding the state budget. Mr. Englert responded that cash flow is an issue because the state pays out more than it is taking in.

Mrs. Gordon asked whether the Village of Olympia Fields will give the local school districts any of the surplus of its TIF money as the Village of Richton Park has done in the past. Mr. Englert responded that he did not know whether this would happen and that, ultimately, it would be the village's call.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

YES

NO

Bean

Green

Murphy

Gordon

McCray

Rodman McCray

LEGISLATION

Nothing at this time.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Transportation

At 6:50 p.m., Dr. Davis invited the Board members and the audience members to join her in the building parking lot for a "surprise." Dr. Davis, the Board members, and audience had an opportunity to view and tour 30 new buses supplied by Kickert Bus Company. The Board meeting resumed at 7:02 p.m.

Dr. Davis discussed the status of the Kickert bus issues, as follows:

Late Buses—Morning

- September: 13
- October: 21
- November: 11

Late Buses—Afternoon

- September: 21
- October: 9
- November: 8

Late Buses—Activity Runs

- September: 12
- October: 3
- November: 2

Driver Issues

Drivers not knowing area or dropping off students in the wrong location:

- September: 12
- October: 3
- November: 1

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Bus Break Downs

- September: 4
- October: 3
- November: 2

Changes Implemented by Kickert

- New manager
- New assistant manager
- New manager assigned to District 162 offices
- Two new experienced dispatchers
- Two new staff members dedicated to answering phones

Changes Implemented by Kickert

- Thirty new vehicles assigned to District 162 routes
- Kickert sends daily logs to District 162, noting routes with sub drivers
- New driver attendance policy implemented
- New evening camera technician (pending)

Dr. Davis noted that communication between Kickert and District 162 has improved significantly. The following Kickert representatives were present at the meeting:

- John Benish, Chief Operating Officer
- Tom O'Sullivan, Vice President
- Jeff Barnes, Regional Manager
- Debbie Cipkar, Operations Manager
- Laketa Simpson, Special Assignments Coordinator

Dr. Davis stated that the timing of the new buses is good with bad weather approaching. She said she is very pleased with the Kickert representative who has been assigned to the District. Dr. Davis said that she anticipated the positive response that the District received from Kickert following the last Board meeting. She stated that the District and Kickert are now moving forward in the spirit of collaboration.

Mr. John Benish addressed the Board, stating that while most of the transportation issues have been resolved, there are still a few issues that remain. He noted that Kickert is

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continuing its efforts to resolve all outstanding issues. Mr. Benish introduced several Kickert employees who were present at the meeting.

Mr. Bean addressed Mr. Benish on behalf of the Board, stating that the Board appreciates Kickert's response to the District's concerns. Mr. Bean noted that Kickert is the District's largest payee on the Consent Agenda.

Preschool for All Expansion Grant

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-year old 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

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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 kindergarten classes currently housed at Richton Square School will move to Matteson School. She noted that the newly expanded preschool program will commence on January 9, 2017. Mrs. Williams stated that the District will be hiring 13 new staff members to support the program: five teachers, five paraprofessionals, one special gross motor teacher, one parent educator, and one instructional coach. She noted that the parent educator will have a social work background and that the instructional coach will be a licensed preschool teacher, who will be responsible for professional development. Mrs. Williams said that the new staff will be in place by December. She commented that the preschool is positioned to have an impact on student test scores at the third grade level. She further commented that District students will be better prepared as a result of improvements at the preschool level. Mrs. Williams stated that Dr. Vinni Hall and Dr. Barbara Radner, Southland College Prep Board members, assisted in the search for an outside evaluator of the preschool program.

Dr. Davis stated that the District's preschool program is experiencing a "renaissance."

Mrs. Rodman McCray asked if any of the new preschool staff are already known to the District. Dr. Davis responded that she is bringing a retired principal on board to staff the program.

Mr. Murphy commended Mrs. Williams and her staff for their meticulous planning. He stated that change management can be a challenge that requires resilience on the part of the students, staff, and parents. He noted that the District should not "gloss over" the impact of

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change and that the District must ensure that the students are comfortable with the process. Mr. Murphy also remarked that despite the fact that we live in a divided nation, the District remains resolute in educating students. He said that the District's external partnerships are important and are made stronger by its relationship with Kickert. He thanked Mr. Englert for his work on the District's finances, noting that Mr. Englert made complex information simple to understand.

Math Video Competition

In order to facilitate its goal of improving students' math fluency, the District sponsored a math fluency video competition, eliciting district schools and their families to share their strategies for teaching and learning math facts. Dr. Latunja Williams, director of mathematics, stated that the enthusiasm for the competition is an indication that staff, students, and parents are engaged in the District's initiative to promote excellence in math education. Dr. Williams and Mrs. Debbie Duskey, special education director, presented awards to the following winners of the math fluency competition:

Family Awards

Name	Category
Mia Ware and Tristan Newman	Best Student Collaboration Video
Haley Love and Andrea Love	Best Problem Solving Video
Jaxon Hainey	Best Video Kicking Out the Facts
Kyler Johnson	Best Math Fact Dance Video
Dorian Davis	Best Family Math Fact Involvement Video
Julian Johnson, Jeffery Johnson, Jr., Destiny Johnson, Jeffrey Johnson, Sr., Daphne Johnson, Alphonso Kennedy	Best Multi-generational Math Fact Video
Tia Jones	Best Team Spirit Math Fact Video
Sean Baker Billings and Anthony House (Two-way tie)	Best Math Fact Rap Video
Randall Nauden	Best Homework Help Video

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School Awards

Name	Category
Huth Middle School	Best All-Around Video
Sauk School	Best Example of Math Fact Fluency
Illinois School	Best Video Demonstrating Collaboration Between Students, Teachers, and School Administration
Indiana School	Most Videos Submitted
Arcadia School, Matteson School, Richton Square School	Best Examples of Little People Standing Tall

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES/REPORTS

Mrs. Rodman McCray announced that four Board members are running for reelection and that they were all currently circulating petitions.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Rodman McCray adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.


President


Secretary