

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 162  
COOK COUNTY  
RICHTON PARK, IL 60471  
September 20, 2016**

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

**Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alicia Rodman McCray (arrived at 6:35 p.m.); Ron Bean, Vice President; Kevin Murphy, Secretary; Evelyn Green; Felix Simpkins; Karen McCray

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sandi Gordon

**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, Ronald Gary, Tom O’Sullivan, Drew Tierney, Jim George, Stacie Thorpe-Burnett, Lea Nelson, Greg Huelsman, Erin Evangelista, Kim McGuire, Robyn Radford, Debbie Szczecina, Lorrie Clayton, Jessica Washington

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Mr. Bean called the regular session to order at 6:34 p.m. and noted that there was a quorum.

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Mr. Bean directed the Board secretary to make a roll call notation. Mrs. Rodman McCray arrived at 6:35 p.m., after the roll call.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Dr. Davis reviewed the "Dates to Remember."

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

Nothing at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Bean relinquished the gavel to Mrs. Rodman McCray at 6:37 p.m.

Mr. Robert Tomic, principal of Huth Middle School, reported that Mrs. Monica Moss will be the guest speaker at the school's upcoming Dads' Day event.

Ms. Brenda Calvin, principal of Sauk School, and Mrs. Camilla Covington, principal of Indiana School, stated that Reverend Otis Moss III will speak at their schools' respective Dads' Day programs.

Dr. Davis announced that Mrs. Pamela Powell, former principal of Matteson School and Richton Square School, resigned from the District. Dr. Davis said that she wished her well.

**Minutes**

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**Personnel**

*Employment*

Approve the employment of Robyn Radford, social worker at Matteson School, effective August 18, 2016.

Approve the employment of Stacie Thorpe-Burnett, teacher at Illinois School, effective August 30, 2016.

Approve the employment of James George, special education teacher at Huth Middle School, effective August 29, 2016.

Approve the employment of Mary Ann Ragsdale, special education teacher at Sauk School, effective August 29, 2016.

Approve the employment of Mary Radcliffe, tray washer at Sauk School, effective September 12, 2016.

Approve the employment of Ronald Gary, special education teacher at Huth Middle School, effective September 15, 2016.

Approve the employment of Erin Evangelista, math specialist at Indiana School, effective September 19, 2016.

Approve the employment of Kristen Ackerman, math specialist at Sauk School, effective September 19, 2016.

**Leaves**

Approve the leave of absence of Amy Boyle, teacher at Sauk School, effective September 12, 2016, through September 23, 2016.

Approve the leave of absence under FMLA, of Nicole Martin, teacher at Richton Square School, effective August 18, 2016, for up to twelve weeks.

Approve the change in date of maternity leave of Kelika Baker, teacher at Illinois School, from October 3, 2016, through January 9, 2017, to September 9, 2016, or up to twelve weeks.

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Retirements/Resignations

Approve the retirement of Carolyn Cartman, secretary at Indiana School, effective August 31, 2016.

Approve the intent to retire of Susan Torrance, teacher at Arcadia School, effective at the end of the 2017–2018 school year.

Approve the intent to retire of Elena Morone, teacher at Illinois School, effective at the end of the 2017–2018 school year.

Approve the intent to retire of Douglas Horne, teacher at Sauk School and Illinois School, effective at the end of the 2016–2017 school year.

Approve the intent to retire of Marsha Reitz, teacher at Arcadia School, effective at the end of the 2017–2018 school year.

Approve the resignation of Pamela Powell, administrator, effective August 25, 2016.

Approve the resignation of Leslie Scavo, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective September 15, 2016.

Approve the resignation of Levert Armstrong, custodian, effective August 22, 2016.

Policy Matters

Nothing at this time.

Annual Business

Approval of the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report for 2015–2016.

Approval of the application for the recognition of all District 162 schools.

Bill Listing – Authorization of the administration to pay the schedule of bills payable and authorize the District Treasurer to sign the checks dated September 20, 2016, in the amount of \$994,107.96.

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**Imprest Fund Reimbursement** – Authorization to reimburse the District Imprest Fund in the amount of \$30,251.27.

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

**Payroll Vouchers** – Authorization for the District Treasurer to sign the payrolls dated October 14, 2016, and October 28, 2016, 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

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Enrollment*

Dr. Davis presented an overview of the District's enrollment from May 2007 through September 2016:

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**Membership: September 16, 2016**

School	Total
Arcadia	434
Huth	554
Illinois	367
Indiana	363
Matteson	333
Richton Square	256
Sauk	366
Out-of-District	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,716</b>

\*Data from PowerSchool

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

Schools	May 2007	April 2008	May 2009	Feb. 2010	May 2011	May 2012	May 2013	May 2014	May 2015	May 2016	Sept. 2016
Arcadia	561	527	571	579	556	537	519	477	447	464	434
Huth	660	672	654	645	630	596	603	641	599	552	554
Illinois	473	458	487	490	449	437	424	471	434	402	367
Indiana	501	494	457	434	428	436	430	424	399	378	363
Matteson	561	529	492	540	530	435	444	403	380	352	333
Richton Square	187	196	201	172	213	255	245	260	275	253	256
Sauk	468	464	436	436	477	458	449	378	395	374	366
Out-of-District	72	71	55	52	55	49	46	44	46	56	43
<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>2,831</b>	<b>2,716</b>

Dr. Davis commented that the District's enrollment is at an all time low.

*Transportation Issues*

Dr. Davis raised concerns regarding the transportation services provided by Kickert School Bus Company during the first 20 days of the school year. She noted the following:

**Morning Routes**

**13 Times:** The bus did not make the morning/mid-day run because a driver did not show or was running extremely late and Kickert dispatchers were not aware. Another bus had to be scrambled together ½ hour to an hour after the route was supposed to start.

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### **Afternoon Routes**

**21 Times:** The bus arrived at school to take students home between 15 minutes and one hour late after school was dismissed.

### **Activity Buses**

**12 Times:** The activity bus arrived between 15 minutes and one hour late to pick-up students from school. Kickert has now informed the District that there will be days when it cannot handle the volume of activity buses due to driver call-offs and shortages.

### **Bus Pick-Ups**

**8 Times:** The bus did not stop at all locations on the route causing parents to drive their children to school.

### **Miscellaneous Issues**

- Bus breakdowns 4 times this year, so far, causing delays.
- Routes are assigned to drivers who do not know the route, are not given directions on where to go, and don't know the area. District 162 administrators must ride these buses to ensure that students get to the right stops.

### **General Issues**

- Kickert almost never calls the District to inform the District that a bus is going to be late, despite REPEATED requests to do so.
- It is very difficult to get through to Kickert on the phone. When District officials do get through, they are often on hold for up to 20 minutes.

### **Steps Taken by District 162**

- Demanded Kickert management call each morning and afternoon to report that all buses have been checked in (this has not helped).
- Demanded a phone number of a person who will answer the phone and provide answers to questions and issues as they arise.

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- Deducted the cost of these late and uncovered routes from Kickert's payments as per the contract. To date, the district will be taking \$2,777.80 in credits on Kickert bills due to service issues.
- Began talks with another bus company to take over activity routes.

Dr. Davis reported that Mr. Robert Hall, attorney for the District, is reviewing the District's contract relative to the company's inability to handle the District's after school activity bus services. She noted that there may be a clause that allows the District to discontinue using Kickert for these services. She further noted that the District may contract with another bus company for activity bus services.

Dr. Davis questioned whether Kickert's poor service stems from its own internal disorganization or a lack of respect for the District and the community it serves. She said Kickert is not paying attention to details and cannot guarantee service. Dr. Davis noted that this is very disturbing to her. She remarked that Kickert has not made the District a priority. Dr. Davis stated that Kickert is not providing transportation in an efficient, effective, and reliable manner. Dr. Davis said that she is very angry about the situation, particularly because of the District's 20-year relationship with Kickert.

Dr. Davis stated that the District will have an opportunity to go out to bid for transportation services soon. She noted, however, that despite its problems, Kickert is so big it can out bid other companies.

Mr. Bean commented that SPEED Cooperative has also had problems with Kickert's transportation services. He inquired whether there might be an option for several school districts to band together in order to pursue services from other bus transportation providers.

Mr. Bean asked whether this was an appropriate time to bring the District's busing in-house.



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Mrs. McCray commented that another organization she is affiliated with recently had difficulty with Kickert.

Mr. Simpkins expressed concern about the safety of students having to wait a long time on bus stops. Mr. Simpkins stated that if the District is paying for a service, it should be getting the benefit of that service. He commented that the District should look at all available options in resolving this issue.

Mr. Murphy said that Kickert must determine its priorities. He noted that the company's priorities must be based on the value that it places on the District and the students it serves.

Mrs. Green stated that she found it difficult to believe that only two months into the school year the District is having such significant problems with bus service.

Mrs. Rodman McCray commented "there is irony in that despite the District's declining enrollment, Kickert is unable to adequately serve the District and its students."

Kickert representatives, Mr. Tom O'Sullivan and Mr. Andrew Tierney, addressed the Board and Dr. Davis regarding Kickert's bus issues. Mr. O'Sullivan admitted that the company's service has been unacceptable, and he apologized for the poor service. He noted that he did not want to make excuses and that the only way to make things right is through an improvement in the company's internal organization. He noted that the company has begun to put mechanisms in place to improve the provision of services. Mr. O'Sullivan said that student safety is Kickert's priority. He took full responsibility for Kickert's failures.

Dr. Davis said that she will provide the Board with a status report on the quality of ongoing transportation services. She remarked that she wants to see improvement between now and the next Board meeting.

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Mrs. Rodman McCray said that there must be a steep improvement in Kickert's services. She noted that she appreciated Mr. O'Sullivan's apology.

Mr. Murphy issued a challenge to Kickert, asking the company to provide Dr. Davis with a contact number, by the end of the Board meeting, of a Kickert representative who will be responsive to the District's needs. He noted that it is a question of safety.

Mr. Bean requested that Dr. Davis provide a report on alternative busing options in tandem with giving the Board an update on the Kickert's service. Mr. Bean reminded the other Board members that the District adjusted its start time two to three years ago in order to accommodate Kickert.

#### *Miscellaneous*

Dr. Davis announced the District has established a new partnership with Rich Township District 227 to work together for the education of all children in the township.

Dr. Davis commented that former District 162 student and son of Mr. Simpkins, Phalen Simpkins, is now an admissions representative for the University of Missouri.

Mr. Simpkins stated that his son's success is due to the educational foundation that he received in District 162.

#### **LEGISLATION**

Nothing at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

The Board will consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2016–2017 budget.

Mr. Simpkins moved, seconded by Mrs. McCray to approve the Fiscal Year 2016–2017 budget.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote:

**YES**

**NO**

Bean

Green

Murphy

McCray

Simpkins

Rodman McCray

**BOARD MEMBER ISSUES/REPORTS**

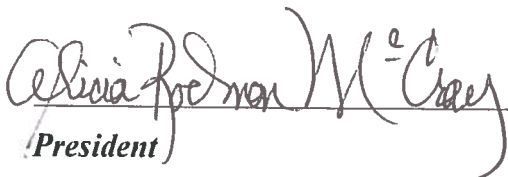
Nothing at this time.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Nothing at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Rodman McCray adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

  
*President*

  
*Secretary*