

**Board of Education
School District No. 155
Calumet City, Illinois**

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December 20, 2018**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Calumet City School District No. 155 was called to order by President Long at 6:00 a.m. On the Roll, the following members were physically present and answered present; Crull, Eveland, Oberman, Valle, Davis, Stern, and Long.

Also present were: Dr. Joseph H. Zotto, Catie Locallo, Nick Dwyer, Kim Nelson, Ellen Patricia Blewitt, Julie Stephan, Dan Fleming, Valerie Wilhoite, Rachel Ilesanmi, Shaina Ivy, Norma Doyle, Clare Magalski, Devena Garcia, Yvette Franklin, and Lamarr Miller.

President Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Acknowledgement

Dr. Zotto introduced Andrew Morgan, Principal at Wentworth Junior High. Mr. Morgan introduced himself and acknowledged the staff and students that were a part of the Newberry club. Mr. Morgan informed those in attendance what the Newberry club was and indicated that the club competed against six other schools and that this was the fourth time in seven years that WJH finished in first place. Mr. Morgan introduced students that were a part of the club and presented the trophy that was won.

Dr. Zotto introduced Kim Nelson, Case Manager. Ms. Nelson presented the monthly character traits that were recently highlighted and presented two students from the Pre-K and Early Childhood programs with acknowledgement and achievement awards.

Public Comment

Moved by Member Valle, seconded by Member Crull, the Board open the floor to the public for comment. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Daniel Fleming discussed an idea he had for a potential show that he would like to organize at WJH to be held in May of 2019. Mr. Fleming informed the Board of his gratitude to the staff for their support over the last year and indicated that he wanted to give back to the staff in the form of this show. Mr. Fleming discussed many of the positive things that are happening at WJH and

expressed desire to involve the community in the event and reiterated his desire to showcase the students of WJH to the staff and community.

Dr. Zotto advised Mr. Fleming that Mr. Morgan and the District Office would follow up with him regarding his request to establish this show at WJH.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Crull, the Board close the floor to the public for comment. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Communications

Member Crull read the communications and indicated a resignation letter from Mercedes Yruegas effective 12/07/2018.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Member Crull, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the consent agenda items as listed. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Finance

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the gross payroll figure for the month of November 2018 in the total amount of \$1,114,717.03. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Valle, the Board approve the following pre-lists of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents.

- a. Pre-list dated 10/29/2018 (Voucher #1093) in the amount of \$125,832.11

Crull, aye; Oberman, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Valle, aye; Eveland, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the following pre-lists of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents.

- a. Pre-list dated 11/14/2018 (Voucher #1118) in the amount of \$237,511.57

Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye.
Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the following pre-lists of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents.

- a. Pre-list dated 12/04/2018 (Voucher #1127) in the amount of \$18,987.46

Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye.
Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the following pre-lists of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents.

- a. Pre-list dated 12/20/2018 (Voucher #1138) in the amount of \$891,070.55

Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye.
Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Crull, the Board approve the contract with American Institute of Research for School Improvement purposes for Wentworth Intermediate School and Wentworth Junior High School for \$31,000.00. Valle, aye; Oberman, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Crull, aye; Eveland, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding of tuition reimbursement for a third-year teacher. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Stern, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve Member Long's 2018 Triple I conference expenses: Conference registration \$685.00; Hotel \$600.20 ; Mileage, Meals, Travel, and Tips \$192.10. Total of \$1,477.30. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Eveland, aye; Davis, aye; Oberman, aye; Stern, aye; and Long, abstain. Motion carried, 6-0-1.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Valle, the Board approve Member Stern's 2018 Triple I conference expenses: Conference registration \$965.00; Hotel \$460.20 ; Mileage,

Meals, Travel, and Tips \$52.26. Total of \$1,477.46. Crull, aye; Oberman, aye; Stern, abstain; Davis, aye; Valle, aye; Eveland, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 6-0-1.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve Dr. Zotto's 2018 Triple I conference expenses: Conference registration \$685.00; Hotel \$900.30 ; Mileage, Meals, Travel, and Tips, \$254.87. Total of \$1,840.17. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve Member Long's NSBA 2019 Annual Conference expenses: registration fee, \$765.00 and hotel fee, \$768.04, total of \$1,533.04. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, abstain. Motion carried, 6-0-1.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve Member Long's NSBA 2019 Annual Conference estimated expenses to be advanced to Member Long; mileage and travel, \$600.00; meals, \$525.00, tips and taxi, \$75.00. Total of \$1,200.00. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, abstain. Motion carried, 6-0-1.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve Member Stern's NSBA 2019 Annual Conference expenses: registration fee, \$765.00 and hotel fee, \$1,065.96. Total of \$1,830.96. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Valle, seconded by Member Crull, the Board approve Member Stern's NSBA 2019 Annual Conference estimated expenses to be advanced to Member Stern; mileage and travel, \$422.92; meals, \$525.00, tips and taxi, \$80.00. Total of \$1,027.92. Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Valle, aye; Crull, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Valle, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve Member Stern's Urban School Board Empowerment Conference estimated expenses to be advanced to Member Stern: mileage and travel, \$1096.00; meals, \$630.00; and estimated expenses to be paid by the District: conference registration, \$1,500.00; and lodging, \$695.00. Total amount of \$3,921.00.

Member Stern indicated she made some mistakes in completing the estimated expense form and was unsure about how to address the issue.

Crull, nay; Eveland, nay; Oberman, nay; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Valle, aye; and Long, nay. Motion failed, 3-4.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the FY18 Audit. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Buildings and Grounds

Member Valle mentioned a recent audit and asked Mary Valle, Director of Buildings and Grounds, to provide an update. Ms. Valle advised that this was the 5th year in a row that the State inspection report came back with no write-ups. Dr. Zotto and Ms. Valle thanked the Buildings and Grounds staff as well as all staff and indicated the strong ratings were due to a group effort of all employees.

Teachers and Education

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board employ Alejandra Ortiz, 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher at Wentworth Junior High School, for the 2018-2019 School Year pending receipt of the required documents which include the Illinois State Background Investigation Report and placing her on the appropriate Lane and Step of the 2018-2019 Salary Schedule. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board employ Karen Edmondson, STEM Teacher at Wentworth Junior High School, for the 2018-2019 School Year pending receipt of the required documents which include the Illinois State Background Investigation Report and placing her on the appropriate Lane and Step of the 2018-2019 Salary Schedule. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

Policy

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board approve the first reading of the policies as listed on the agenda. Valle, aye; Crull, aye; Stern, aye; Davis, aye; Eveland, aye; Oberman, aye; and Long, aye. Motion carried, 7-0.

SCOPE

Member Eveland indicated having no report.

Teachers and Paraprofessionals Unions

No members of either Union addressed the Board.

New Business

Dr. Zotto advised to having no new business.

Discussion for the good of the School District

Kimberly Nelson briefly discussed the Pre-K and Early Childhood Programs with the Board.

Dr. Zotto discussed some pro's including below:

- The District's overall PARCC score has gone up from 16.3% proficient to 22.4%.
- Trending data suggests that student enrollment has flattened out and over the last 3 years the District had student enrollment counts between 1130 and 1158 students. New projections that were created based on historical enrollments show overall enrollment growing 1% every other year for the next five years.
- There has been a decrease in mobile and chronically truant students, both of which are at their lowest percentages in four years.

Dr. Zotto also discussed some areas of improvement including below:

- Illinois Science Assessment scores have decreased. He indicated this is the second year of this new test and is the reason the District adopted a new curriculum K-8 last year. He indicated the District will continue to monitor and implement strategies to address student scores.
- The District's overall PARCC scores are lower than the state average. The overall student English scores showed 23% of students meeting or exceeding expectations compared to 37% of those tested in the State. He indicated the overall Math scores show that 13% of the District's students are meeting or exceeding expectations compared to 32% of the students tested in the State.

Dr. Zotto also discussed other topics and recommendations:

- The overall rating at each school in the District is commendable which means that students are showing growth year over year. He indicated there is work to do as a District and student academic and social/emotional success will continue to be promoted.
- Letters have been sent home and posted on the school website to communicate the school's status and ratings on the report card.

- He recommended that the work of the District Leadership Team will continue to focus on updating curriculum, setting academic goals, and providing professional development for teachers in order to increase student performance. He indicated that Ms. Tara Lawrence will take over as the lead during the DLT meetings.
- The student attendance rate for FY18 is 94% and has been within 1% point of 95% since 2014.
- He recommended that the Board continue its discussion regarding full-day Kindergarten because it would allow teachers and staff to provide much needed supports to students at an earlier age.
- Coffee with Joe will continue to be held and alerts will continue to go out in English and Spanish. He expressed desire to work together with the community to increase participation.
- A meeting is scheduled with the Mayor in January 2019 to discuss crossing guards.

Executive Session

Moved by Member Eveland, seconded by Member Oberman, the Board enter Executive Session to pursuant to Section 2(c)(1), 2(c)(9), and 2(c)(10) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, student discipline, placement of individual student, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(9), 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(10). Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried. **Time: 6:34 p.m.**

Moved by Member Valle, seconded by Member Stern, the Board return to regular order of business. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried. **Time: 7:34 p.m.**

Moved by Member Crull, seconded by Member Davis, the Board adjourn. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

Time adjourned: 7:36 p.m.

Stanley Long, President

Barbara Crull, Secretary

