

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

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Calumet City School District No. 155 was called to order by President Davis at 6:38 pm. On the Roll, the following members were physically present and answered present; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, and Miller. Absent members; Stern.

Also present were: Dr. Joseph Zotto, Adam Jordan (recording secretary), Patricia Blewitt, Teri Kic, John Gibson, Jeanelle Smith, Luis Peleao, Valerie Wilhoite, Leisl Brown, Dorothy Rock, Norma Doyle, and Julie Hassel.

President Davis read a statement on behalf of the Board of Education regarding the PTA fundraiser and its distribution of goods purchased in the orders.

Public Comment

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion that the Board open the floor to the public for comments. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

There was no public comment.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Rising, a motion that the Board close the floor to the public for comments. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Student Acknowledgement

Andrew Morgan, Principal of WJH asked the Board to combine the student acknowledgement section and for the good of the district sections of the agenda to the present. He first acknowledged the Newberry competition team. WJH is repeat champions of the Newberry trophy as they won last year as well. Mr. Morgan recognized the coach, Mr. Dwyer. The team presented their trophy and took a picture.

Mr. Morgan also recognized members of the NJHS and their advisor, Ms. Dorothy Rock who is a 7th grade math teacher. This is the first year that the school had NJHS officers and Mr. Morgan introduced each of them. Members of NJHS have been volunteering at multiple events at the school. Mr. Morgan discussed the donations that have been made for a food drive, an upcoming pep rally, and a potential Valentine's Day dance.

Communications

Member Oberman read the communications below:

- a. It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a former Board Member, Barbara Crull.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Miller, a motion that the Board approve the consent agenda items as listed in the Meeting Agenda:

- a. Board Minutes for the regular and executive sessions of the 11/14/2019 regular Board meeting, the 11/19/2019 special Board meeting, and 12/11/2019 special Board meeting.
- b. Minutes of the Summer 2020 Food Service Program Opt-Out meeting on November 21, 2019.
- c. Teacher Seniority List
- d. Paraprofessional Seniority List

Dr. Zotto discussed three changes that had been made to the teacher seniority list from the original that was sent to the Board with their first packet.

Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

2019 Property Tax Levy Action Items

Moved by Member Rising, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion that the Board adopt the 2019 Certificate of Tax Levy. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Long, a Motion that the Board sign the Certificate of Compliance with the Cook County Truth in Taxation Law. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion that the Board Approve and Adopt Resolution Directing County Clerk As To Reduction of 2019 Levies for Funds Subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion that the Board Approve and Adopt Resolution to Levy 2019 Property Taxes. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Finance

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to approve the gross payroll figure for the month of November 2019 in the amount of \$934,702.27. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Rising, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion to approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents: Pre-list dated 11/19/2019 (Voucher #1114) in the amount of \$126,256.24. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents: Pre-list dated 12/19/2019 (Voucher #1135) in the amount of \$595,489.21. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Franklin, Rising. Abstains; Long, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 4-0-2.

A Board member discussed a policy regarding receipts for reimbursement requests, how mileage is calculated by using google maps, and the potential changing of the discussed policy to allow for uncertainties in actual miles traveled not covered on google maps.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to approve Member Miller to register for two pre-conference workshops at the NSBA annual conference in April, 2020, one at a cost of \$215 and the other at a cost of \$185. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

A Board member discussed Board members not taking the same workshops. Also discussed was Members communicating out with the Board after workshops are taken on what was learned during the workshops.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Rising, a Motion to approve the resolution providing for the payment of debt service on the outstanding Limited School Bonds, Series 2012A, of School District Number 155, Cook County, Illinois, and abating a portion of the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2019 for said bonds. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Long, a Motion to approve the three year agreement with PowerSchool Group LLC for online enrollment registration services. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

A Board member asked about the length of the agreement and it was advised that the length was for three years because that allowed the overall amount to be lowered.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Rising, a Motion to approve the three year agreement with eLocalLink for video services. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Buildings and Grounds

An upcoming opportunity for a capital improvement matching grant and potential areas to work on if grant money was received was discussed.

It was also advised that the district's water is tested annually.

Teachers and Education

Member Rising read the enrollment total of 1,080 students.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Miller, a motion that the Board employ Daniel Perso as a 4th Grade Teacher at Wentworth Intermediate for the 2019-2020 School Year, pending receipt of the required documents which include the Illinois State Background Investigation Report and place him on the appropriate Lane and Step of the 2019-2020 Salary Schedule. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Tara Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, presented on the ISBE District report card and the following topics to the Board:

- Enrollment totals and trending data on student enrollment
- Student demographic data from the state report card
- Growth numbers in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness scores (47% growth in Math, 37% growth in ELA, 32% in Science)
- Focus continues to be on updating curriculum, setting and monitoring academic goals, and providing PD for teachers to increase student performance
- Details regarding the updating of curriculum
- Currently reviewing and updating curriculum maps in the core content areas
- The overall rating at each school in the District being “commendable” which means students are showing growth year over year
- Focal points as a District will be student academic and social/emotional success
- Recommendation of kindergarten expansion which will allow staff to provide necessary supports to students in a longer day
 - Teams have been meeting and the focus is around common core standard and best practices for Kindergarten
 - Prioritizing buckets of work around furniture, space, instructional materials, scheduling, communication, lunch/breakfast, and staffing
 - The district is looking to add 2 teachers that will be funded by Title I to sustain the program; roughly will have 4 classrooms and 80 students with both breakfast and lunch offered
 - The team is working with District 146 as a resource and will go visit them in January

Dr. Zotto advised the Board of a potential redoing of ISBE standards that could be coming up. He acknowledged the fact that tests are changing as well. Although the schools are currently commendable and schools are showing growth, the District needs to be conscious of the validity of data when it comes to changing tests and changing vendors. Research shows students test better using paper and pencils. He advised that he is skeptical of the validity of the data and does not know how that will change with the changing in test formatting. It was advised that this year, testing has to be computer based as well.

Dr. Zotto advised that in regards to the chronic absenteeism number, he is asking administrators to pull data to check for how things are being coded.

A Board member advised of a date error in one of the meeting minutes in the consent agenda and it was advised that the date would be corrected.

Policy

There was nothing new to report on policy.

SCOPE

A Board member discussed potentially look at severing ties with SCOPE as a lot of districts are pulling out of the program. It was stated that SCOPE is supposed to advocate on behalf of the Districts. More information would be gathered and be brought back to the Board.

FOIA

Dr. Zotto read the FOIA report below:

Date of Request	11/16/2019
Summary of Records Requested	1. A copy of any notice and payment the district has made in relation to the penalty for any salary paid to an employee whose salary exceeds the salary of the governor.
Status of Response	Response provided on 11/18/2019 via email

Date of Request	November 19, 2019
Summary of Records Requested	The fiscal or budget year start date (mm-dd) for District #155.
Status of Response	Response provided on November 19, 2019 via email

Date of Request	12/12/2019
Summary of Records Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any and all purchasing records from 2019-09-09 (yyyy-mm-dd) to current. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purchase order number. If purchase orders are not used a comparable substitute is acceptable, i.e., invoice, encumbrance, or check number b. Purchase date c. Line item details (Detailed description of the purchase) d. Line item quantity e. Line item price f. Vendor ID number, name, address, contact person and their email address
Status of Response	Response provided on December 12, 2019 via email

A discussion took place regarding potentially putting FOIA requester names into the report in the Board packets.

Teachers and Paraprofessional Unions

Norma Doyle wished the Board a wonderful holiday season.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Rising, a motion to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation to Eliminate Vacant Part-Time Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher position, effective for the 2020-21 School Year. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Miller, a motion to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation to Establish Full-Time Kindergarten Program for the 2020-2021 School Year. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation to Establish Two Additional Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher positions for the 2020-2021 School Year. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Executive Session

Moved by Member Rising, seconded by Member Long, a motion that the Board enter Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1), 2(c)(2) and 2(c)(9) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees, and student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(2)(9). Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Time: 7:28pm

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion that the Board return to regular order of business. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Time: 7:50 pm

Expulsion

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion that the Board approve the report of Hearing Officer Ray Williams in Student Discipline Case No. 20-A finding that the student did commit the misconduct with which they were charged, and that the disciplinary sanction of expulsion is warranted for a one year expulsion from 01/01/2020 to 01/01/2021. However, recommendation that the Board should stay the expulsion upon the administrative placement and successful completion of an alternative educational placement. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion that the Board adjourn.
Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 6-0.

Time: 7:51 pm

Board President

Board Secretary