

**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 on March 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm. On the Roll, the following members were physically present and answered present; Davis, Stern (via phone), Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising and Miller. Absent; None. .

Also present were: Dr. Joseph Zotto, Adam Jordan, Julie Stephan, Valerie Wilhoite, Andrew Morgan, Shannon Brown, Jeanelle Smith, Denise McField, Alyssa Mostyn, Kimberly Daniels, and Tara Lawrence.

Public Comment

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to open the floor to the public for comment. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

There was no public comment.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to close the floor to the public for comment. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Communications

Member Oberman read the communication below:

- Charles Russ, Assistant Principal at Wentworth Intermediate, submitted a resignation letter effective 06/30/2021 and the district accepts his resignation and we thank him for his service.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Member Stern, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to approve the consent agenda items as listed in the Meeting Agenda (and below).

- a. Board Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session on 02/11/2020
- b. FMLA leave for Toya Cook
- c. FY22 Regular Board Meeting calendar
- d. FY22 School Calendar
- e. Establish a date for the Board Organizational Meeting of 04/15/2021 immediately following the Regular Board Meeting
- f. Woodrow Wilson Principal job description
- g. Director of Student Services job description
- h. Accept and approve the following closed session minutes remain closed to the public because the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the

minutes: 10/09/20219, 11/05/2019, 11/14/2019, 12/11/2019, 12/19/2019, 01/16/2020, 02/20/2020, 11/20/2020, 12/10/2020, and 01/07/2021.

Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Finance

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to approve the gross payroll figure for the month of February, 2021 in the amount of \$615,834.97. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Long, 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 03/11/2021 (Voucher #1197) in the amount of \$519,098.40.

Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Stern, seconded by Member Rising, a motion to approve the one year agreement for lawn maintenance with Beverly Environmental LLC. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Dr. Zotto provided an overview of the adopted budget and an updated realistic current budget. He discussed federal dollars that were coming in, a decrease in local tax collections, increase in operational costs, a potential increase in EBF state money in the future, the increase of days of cash on hand since FY19 from around 100 days to a projection around 160 days at the end of this FY, the long term debt being the reason the district will not get a 4.0 rating on the ISBE financial designation score.

Buildings and Grounds

Dr. Zotto discussed the \$2.1M in ESSER II funds that the district is receiving, advised that the capital projects tied to that are moving along, and that the HVAC work would be brought to the board for approval in April.

Teachers and Education

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to approve the employment of Maria Gonzalez as a part-time cleaner for the 2020-2021 school year pending receipt of the required documents which include the Illinois State Background Investigation Report and placing her on the appropriate entry level pay. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to approve the Class Size/Case Load Stipend Memorandum of Understanding with the Teachers Union. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Member Franklin read the enrollment total of 1,018 students.

Policy

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the policies listed in the meeting agenda (and below):

2:20-E, Waiver and Modification Request Resource Guide
3:40-E, Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process
4:60-AP1, Purchases
4:80, Accounting and Audits
4:90, Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds
4:120-AP, Food Services; Competitive Foods; Exemptions
4:175-AP1, Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening
5:30-AP2, Investigations
5:185-AP, Resource Guide for Family and Medical Leave
6:20, School Year Calendar and Day
6:235-E5, Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
6:310, High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students
6:310-E, Class Substitution Request
6:340, Student Testing and Assessment Program
7:100, Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
7:140-E, Letter to Parents/ Guardians Regarding the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act
7:300, Extracurricular Athletics
7:325, Student Fundraising Activities
7:340-AP1, School Student Records
7:340-AP1, E1, Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students of Their Rights Concerning a Student's School Records
7:340-AP2, Storage and Destruction of School Student Records
7:340-AP2, E1, Letter Containing Schedule for Destruction of School Student Records

Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

SCOPE

Dr. Zotto mentioned ESSER III funds and a number of other bills currently being discussed.

FOIA

Dr. Zotto read the FOIA report below:

Date of Request	February 4, 2021
Summary of Records Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The district's current website and/or content management system (CMS) provider contract.• The district's current alerts and/or emergency notification provider contract.• The district's current mobile app provider contract.• The district's current learning management system (LMS) provider contract.
Status of Response	Requested applicable documents were sent via email on February 9, 2021

Date of Request	February 8, 2021
Summary of Records Requested	<p>A breakdown of attendance rates by school, whether the attendance was in person or remote, and how attendance is being tracked. If both in-person and remote learning have occurred, please provide this information for both.</p> <p>Information requested from the start of the current school year until the most current date available upon production.</p>
Status of Response	Requested information was sent via email on February 16, 2021

Date of Request	March 3, 2021
Summary of Records Requested	The name and email address of any certified staff (teachers, administrators, nurses, counselors, etc.) who are retiring this year.

Status of Response	Requested information was sent via email on March 3, 2021
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Teachers and Paraprofessional Unions

Ms. Stephan acknowledged the February teacher of the month, Ms. Worrell-Schroader. She also thanked the board for their concern for student and staff safety and the support of the plans to bring students back in.

Ms. Wilhoite discussed a survey of parents that showed concern about bringing students back in to school currently and that some may feel more comfortable in August for the new school year.

Dr. Zotto reiterated the strengths of Ms. Worrell-Schroader and thanked both unions for their continued hard work and support.

A board member acknowledged the work of the teachers and paraprofessional unions and highlighted Ms. Caine for her work.

A board member inquired about the status of teacher vaccinations and Ms. Stephan advised that she did not have current percentage numbers but that they will be ready to return to work in the building after Spring Break.

Discussion for the Good of the School District

Dr. Zotto highlighted staff and administration for their hard work on the enhanced remote learning plan at the schools. He discussed that all parents were called from Wilson school and over 35% of parents were willing to send their students in while roughly 60-65% were hesitant to send students to the building in any format. He also discussed the results of a parent survey that was sent out. Of the 197 parent responses, which is roughly 35% of the student body, 29% would like to try in school learning in a part-time remote hybrid format; 42% would like full remote, and 28% would like to be in in-person learning 5 days per week. It was noted that parents like the format the district is currently using and it allows flexibility to adapt for testing in the Spring.

It was advised that both unions agreed to have all staff, besides those with documented and approved reasons, would be required to work from the building 5 days a week beginning on April 12, 2021. Over 50% of the staff have been vaccinated and all have had ample opportunities to receive the vaccine.

The entire board gave Dr. Zotto a thumbs up to move forward with the current schedule that the district is working under for the remainder of this school year.

A question was asked regarding summer school and Dr. Zotto advised that due to the many construction projects planned, he will request that summer school is run remotely.

Executive Session

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Miller, a motion that the Board enter Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1), Section 2(c)(2), and Section 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, and collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(2)(9). Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Time: 7:00 pm

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion that the Board return to regular order of business. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Time: 7:19 pm

Employment

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2021-2022 Employment Agreement with Assistant Principal James Safarik, with an annual salary of \$105,446.36. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2021-2022 Employment Agreement for Assistant Principal Jeanelle Smith, with an annual salary of \$65,436.31. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2021-2022 Employment Agreement with Case Manager Kimberly Nelson, with an annual salary of \$65,436.31. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Miller, a Motion to Approve 2021-2022 Employment Agreement with Principal Alyssa Mostyn, with an annual salary of \$91,000.00. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve Second Amendment to Employment Agreement with Principal Andrew Morgan, for a new term from 2021-2025 and with an annual salary of \$92,701.44 for the 2021-2022 contract year, as the Board finds that Mr. Morgan has met all student performance and academic improvement goals. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Long, a Motion to Approve Second Amendment to Employment Agreement with Assistant Superintendent Tara Lawrence, for a new term from 2021-2025 and with an annual salary of \$114,513.55 for the 2021-2022 contract year, as the Board finds that Ms. Lawrence has met all student performance and academic improvement

goals. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve 2021-2022 Employment Agreement with Director of Student Services Denise McField, with an annual salary of \$95,000.00. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve Amendment to Employment Agreement with Assistant to the Director of Buildings and Grounds Justin Valle, for a new term from 2021-2025 and with an annual salary of \$59,983.29 for the 2021-2022 contract year. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising. Nays; none. Abstain; Miller. Motion carried, 6-0.

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Oberman, a Motion to Approve New Multi-Year Employment Agreement with Superintendent Dr. Joseph Zotto for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026, with an annual salary of \$174,496.83 for the 2021-2022 contract year. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Long, a motion that the Board adjourn. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

TIME: 7:28 pm

Board President

Board Secretary