

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRAIRIE-HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING MAE JEMISON SCHOOL

3450 W. 177th Street

HAZEL CREST, ILLINOIS 60429

MAY 19, 2014

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Sharron Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She then led the Board and audience in the pledge of allegiance.

B. Roll Call

On roll call the following members were present: Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles and Sharron Davis. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Also present were: Superintendent Dr. Kimako Patterson, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Julia A. Veazey, Director of Business Affairs & Human Resource Dr. Alicia Evans, and Director of Student Services Mrs. Carrie Ablin.

C. Public Hearing

Barbara Nettles moved and it was seconded by Juanita R. Jordan to open the public hearing on the intent of the district to issue bonds. On roll call the following members voted aye: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Barbara Nettles, Elaine Walker, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Juanita R. Jordan and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

Al Wright of Hazel Crest had the following questions.

- Did the bond issue come up within the last month?
Mrs. Davis informed him that it had been within the last couple of months.
- Why are there two bonds?
Dr. Evans informed him that the 20 million dollar bond is to refinance the existing bonds and the 8.3 million dollar bond is for the working cash fund.
- Is any part of the bond issuance part of the fee to Chapman and Cutler and Oppenheimer?
Dr. Evans stated that there is a fee and it is included with the bond issuance.
- Are we doing this to avoid a watch status?
Dr. Evans stated that we are in the watch status, and we are attempting to get out of the watch status and return to the warning status.

Isaac Wiseman of Hazel Crest had the following questions.

- How did we get to the watch status?
Dr. Evans informed him that when we built the Junior High we had to borrow money and it was beyond our statutory limit. The district had finish paying for the Junior High so money from the working cash fund was transferred to site construction which reduced the amount of working cash on hand,
- What was the original amount transferred?
Dr. Evans informed him that the original amount was 3 million dollars. Mrs. Davis informed Mr. Wiseman that the district is attempting to borrow \$3,700,000.00.
- How long did we know that we would need to borrow the money?
Dr. Evans informed Mr. Wiseman that the state of Illinois is having problems paying its vendors and school districts are vendors. She stated that they are cutting the general state aid and the district is looking for ways to combat this and borrowing money is one of the options.
- What other options are there?
Dr. Evans informed him that budget cuts were another option; which the district has done, however there is no way for the district to cut \$3,700,000.00.
- How much money will the district owe after the money is borrowed and how long will it take for the district to pay it back?
Dr. Evans informed him that it will be \$48,000,000.00 and it will be paid off in 2032. She stated that this will be an additional 2 years from the original debt.
- Is there still a balance on Mae Jemison?
Mrs. Davis informed him that the debt for Mae Jemison was combined with the debt for the new Junior High.

Ms. Shirley Davis of Hazel Crest stated that she wanted to commend the superintendent, the assistant superintendent and staff. She stated that the superintendent took on a task that she is proud of. She is happy that the students are able to compete globally. She stated that the district needed new equipment. Ms. Davis said that we need to be part of the solution not the problem. She stated that we did not need to be arguing and butting heads. She would like to see us come together to ensure that the children are progressing and positive. She stated that she would like to see everyone continue to do what's best for the children.

She thanked the board and administration for all the help and support provided to her and her children.

Mr. Wiseman stated that he wanted to rebut the comments made by Ms. Davis. He stated that the district has to be fiscally responsible.

Dr. Patterson informed him that when she became the superintendent there was \$3,000,000.00 in deficit spending; on June 30th the district will have a balanced budget. She has cut \$2,500,000.00 from the budget since becoming superintendent in July of 2011 additionally; she has brought in \$ 2,600,000.00 in competitive grant monies.

She stated that she has brought in brand new money and attempted to balance the budget because the district was spending more money than it was bringing in. We are now putting ourselves in a position where we have working cash, because the money was transferred out to complete the construction project. Moving forward the goal is to have a balanced budget and a healthy working cash fund which will move us from the watch list to the warning list. Dr. Patterson stated that in terms of the practices her goal to continue the practices of balancing the budget and bringing in new money. She stated that the district is not going to borrow money, spend it, and then turn around and have to borrow more money.

Java Rogers of Hazel Crest had the following questions.

- How long will it take for the district to get off the watch list?
Dr. Patterson informed her that we should be off the list next year.
- How will it affect the homeowners of the district (will the taxes go up)?
Dr. Patterson informed her that the taxes will be extended from 30 years to 32 years. She was informed that the districts situation should not raise property taxes but there may be other factors that will increase them,

Ms. Susan Pate of Hazel Crest had the following questions.

- How will this affect the ability of the district to meet its financial obligations?
Dr. Evans informed her that it will not affect our ability to operate.
- Will these dollars be used for operation?
Dr. Evans informed her that they will not be used for operation.
- Will the money be placed in an account to give credence to the working cash account?

Mrs. Davis confirmed that the money will be place into the working cash fund. Dr. Patterson informed her that the money is needed by June 30, 2014

for it to impact the districts profile, by taking us off the financial watch list.

- Is there a five year plan?
Dr. Evans informed her that the district has been decreasing its spending. If current year revenue declines spending will be reduced to match the decline. She stated that a plan is in place to maintain a balanced budget.
- When will the plan for reducing spending impact the district where it will have positive dollars (surplus)?
Dr. Evans informed her that it was hard to say because every year at this time we are faced with the possibility of losing general state aid. She stated

that because of the way the educational calendar is we are always working behind. Decisions regarding staffing plans must be made in March, but the budget isn't created or approved until the summer months.

Dr. Patterson informed Ms. Pate that the district will constantly seek competitive dollars to increase revenue and to continue to maintain cuts where we are and decrease where we can. All things being equal that will show us balanced and in some cases a surplus may occur.

Dr. Patterson informed Ms. Pate that the district's five year plan will be uploaded to the website for review.

Stacy Woodson from Hazel Crest requested some examples of what was in place to help our financial situation. She was informed that the examples are in the five year plan which will be uploaded.

Mrs. Davis asked if there were any other questions from the board or audience. There were no other questions or comments on the bond issues.

D. Adjourn Public Hearing

Elaine Walker moved and it was seconded by Juanita R. Jordan to close the Public Hearing. On roll call members voting aye: Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

E. Presentations

- Integrated Technology
Mrs. Davis from Chateaux School presented an interactive division lesson to the board using smart clickers. She demonstrated how the clickers are used.

F. Approval of Minutes

Juanita R. Jordan moved to accept the minutes from the March 26, 2014 Work Session as corrected. On roll call members voting aye: Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

Juanita R. Jordan moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2014 Special Board Meeting. On roll call members voting aye: Barbara Nettles, Juanita R.

Jordan, Dionne Freeman-Cooper and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Abstain: Elaine Walker. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Elaine Walker to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2014 Regular Board Meeting. On roll call members voting aye: Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dionne Freeman-Cooper and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson. Abstain: Elaine Walker. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

G. President's Report

President Davis had no report.

Mrs. Jordan presented to the board the SCOPE report. She asked that the board read the 21 page report that will be sent during the summer to compare it to the 6 page report that she distributed. Additionally she would like the board members to send in any suggestions they would like to see to Ms. Casey. She stated that there will be a meeting in September where a vote is required that will require a 2/3 majority. She also presented the board an article on the school funding formula.

There was a brief discussion regarding funding.

H. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Patterson informed the board that we have just received the Competitive Fruit and Vegetable Grant for another year. She stated that every school except Fieldcrest has received the grant. Fieldcrest did not receive the grant, because of the percentage of free and reduced students.

Dr. Patterson introduced all PTO Officers that were present. She stated that she wanted to acknowledge them and show her appreciation as they faithfully meet with her four times a year.

I. Board of Education – Action Reports

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to place items I1, I2, I10, I11, I13 and I14 on consent agenda. On roll call members voting aye: Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to approve the items placed on consent agenda. On roll call members voting aye: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Barbara Nettles, Elaine Walker, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Juanita R. Jordan and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to table items I3, I4, I5, I9, and K1. On roll call members voting aye: Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

Barbara Nettles Moved and it was seconded by Elaine Walker to un-table items I3, I4, I5, I9 and K1. On roll call members voting aye: Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**I1. Approval of Policies
Consent****I2. Approval to Post
Consent****I3. Superintendent' Contract
Tabled**

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Elaine Walker to approve the Superintendent Contract. On roll call members voting aye: Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dionne Freeman-Cooper and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**I4. Superintendent 2014 Compensation
Tabled**

Elaine Walker moved and it was seconded by Juanita R. Jordan to approve 2014/2015 compensation for the superintendent. On roll call members voting aye: Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson and Dionne Freeman-Cooper. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**15. Administrative and Non-Union Raise Recommendations
Tabled**

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Elaine Walker to approve the administrative and non - union raises. On roll call members voting aye: Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Elaine Walker and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson and Dionne Freeman-Cooper. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**16. Administrative Retreat**

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Barbara Nettles to approve the Administrative Retreat. On roll call members voting aye: Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson and Dionne Freeman-Cooper. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**17. RFP for Attorney Services**

Dr. Jackson stated that he would like to see more clarity in item 7.1E which says "best interest of the district". He stated that we need to clarify that statement. Dr. Patterson informed him that the change would be made.

Mrs. Freeman-Cooper asked what the procedure was for interviewing potential law firms. The board discussed possible dates for the interviews. They discussed work sessions or meetings of the whole. President Davis stated that once we see how many firms apply the decision can be made on when to complete the interviews. She additionally stated that interviews can be completed at the board meeting if the agenda is not long. Ms. Nettles stated that she did not feel interviews should be conducted during the work session she suggested a special meeting. The board stated that they would see who applied and the administration could make the decision on whether or not to hold a special meeting. Ms. Walker suggested that a time limit be set on how long they would be allowed to speak.

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dionne Freeman-Cooper to approve the RFP for attorney services with corrections to item 7.1E. On roll call members voting aye: Elaine Walker, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper and Sharron Davis. Nays: Barbara Nettles and Juanita R. Jordan. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**18. Resolution to approve guaranteed energy**

Dr. Jackson asked if the attorney had reviewed the contract. Dr. Evans stated that they have reviewed the contract and made changes. The contract has now been sent to ESG for review.

Dr. Jackson stated that he did not want to approve the contract until changes were made.

Mrs. Nettles asked if the students needed to be out of the building for the project to be completed. Dr. Evans stated that the contractors can work in the evening but typically it is done in the summer months.

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Elaine Walker to approve to resolution for the contract for ESG. After discussion Juanita R. Jordan moved to rescind the motion to approve the resolution for the contract for ESG and it was seconded by Elaine Walker. On roll call members voting aye: Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker and Sharron Davis.

Motion Carried**19. Addendum to Junior High Principal Contract Table****110. Memorandum of Understanding for the Psychologist Consent****111. Approve Renewals for preferred meals Consent****112. Approve PTAB Settlement for Castrogiovanni**

Dr. Jackson asked how this PTAB will affect next year's taxes. Dr. Evans informed him that each year is handled separately.

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to approve the PTAB settlement for Castrogiovanni. On roll call members voting aye: Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

**I13. Approve Milk Bid
Consent****I14. Sick Day Donation
Consent****J. Audience Participation**

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to open audience participation. On roll call members voting aye: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Barbara Nettles, Elaine Walker, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Juanita R. Jordan and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

Mr. Al Wright inquired of the board about how much each percentage or share of the tax abatement. He inquired about what a 1% share of the tax abatement would mean for the district. Dr. Patterson informed Mr. Wright that a 50% share from Walmart would represent \$200,000.00.

There was a brief discussion about abatements and how much money it would represent for the district.

Mr. Wiseman inquired if the district would take a hardline on abatements. Mrs. Freeman-Cooper stated that they would have administration take a hardline on abatements so that they favor the district. Mr. Wiseman also asked if the district was on the warning list. Dr. Patterson indicated that the district is on financial watch. Mrs. Davis informed him that the district plans to go up the ladder and that the goal is to spend less than what is brought in.

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Elaine Walker to close audience participation. On roll call members voting aye: Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**K. Administration – Action Reports****1. Approve Personnel Recommendations
Tabled**

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Elaine Walker to approve personnel recommendations. On roll call members voting aye: Juanita R. Jordan, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson and Dionne Freeman-Cooper. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**2. Approved Outside Contract Agreement**

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to approve outside contracts for Allied Health Professionals. On roll call members voting aye: Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried**3. Approve Professional Assignment Request(s)**

None

4. Approve May Invoices

Dr. Gregory Jackson moved and it was seconded by Juanita R. Jordan to approve the May Invoices. On Roll call members voting aye: Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper (Except Attorney Bills) and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

MOTION CARRIED

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5-19-14	Education	\$437,663.39
5-19-14	Operation & Maintenance	\$86,364.75
5-19-14	Transportation	\$13,842.56
Total:		<u>\$537,870.70</u>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4-29-14	Education	\$6,307.80
4-29-14	Operations & Maintenance	\$4,630.80
Total:		<u>\$10,938.60</u>

5. Approve May Payroll

Dr. Gregory Jackson moved and it was seconded by Juanita R. Jordan to approve the May invoices. On roll call members voting aye: Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

MOTION CARRIED

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4-15-14	Education	\$429,861.69
4-15-14	Liabilities	\$402,708.11
	Total:	<u>\$832,570.00</u>
4-30-14	Education	\$429,053.00
4-30-14	Liabilities	\$399,998.55
	Total:	<u>\$829,051.55</u>
4-30-14	Education	\$1,481.57
4-30-14	Transportation	\$1,328.00
	Total:	<u>\$2,809.57</u>
4-30-14	Education	\$250,313.65
	Total:	\$250,313.65

L. Administration – Information Reports**1. Curriculum and Instruction**

Mrs. Veazey informed the board that the district is hosting 5th grade step up day. The day will begin with a presentation; there will be two sessions 9:30 and 11:30 and the eighth grade teachers will facilitate the event.

She stated that the Summer Scholars 2nd grade section will have to increase the number of classes due to demand. There are currently 2 sections for each grade 6th and 7th grade classes are filled. Teachers have been interviewed May 25th is the date they will find out if they were hired for the Summer Scholars Program. The academies for the Summer Scholars Program are... Reading, Math, African American Studies, Art, Music, STEM, Cadence Skill Academy, Chorus and Computer.

She stated that Professional Development will be the focus for next year. Mrs. Veazey is looking at writing for next year with extensive Professional Development for writing and math.

Mrs. Veazey informed the board that she is monitoring Subscriptions. She stated that some programs are used more than others. She stated that she will only pay for what's being used. If companies will not let her pay for what's being used, she will not renew their subscriptions.

2. Special Education Update

As presented.

Mrs. Freeman-Cooper inquired about the lucky lottery. Mrs. Ablin informed her that 10% of the students were randomly selected to complete a paper registration and prove residency.

3. Business Affairs

As presented.

M. New Business

Dr. Patterson informed the board that there needed to be an expulsion hearing. She wanted to know if it was ok to have the hearing on June 2, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. The board agreed that meeting could be held at 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Veazey asked that the board attend the art department's Visual Voices presentation.

N. Executive Session

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to go into executive session. On roll call members voting aye: Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried 9:20 p.m.

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Gregory Jackson to come out of executive session. On roll call members voting aye: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Barbara Nettles, Elaine Walker, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Juanita R. Jordan, and Sharron Davis. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried 10:00 p.m.

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Barbara Nettles to approve the executive minutes from the March 26, 2014 work session. On roll call members voting aye: Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles, Juanita R. Jordan and Sharron Davis. Nays: Dr. Gregory Jackson. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

Motion Carried

O. Adjournment

Dr. Gregory Jackson moved and it was seconded by Juanita R. Jordan to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote all members present voted aye. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Becky Adams.

MOTION CARRIED 10:10 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharron Davis, President



Margarita McCarty, Secretary