Bruce Rauner
Governor

Jesse Montgomery
Acting Director

1112 South Wabash Avenue, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60605
Telephone: (312) 814-3848 / TDD: (800) 526-0844

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2016
Time: 9:35 a.m.
Place: Aftercare Conference Room, 100 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL

IO 1.0 CALL TO ORDER by President Jesse Montgomery at 9:35 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Board Members Present: Jesse Montgomery; Jennifer Vidis; David Green; Candice Smith; Dr. Tresa Dunbar Garrett (9:40 a.m.); Dr. Heather Dalmage (9:43 am); and Patrick Griffin (9:43 am).

1.3 Others present: Samantha Gaddy, Senior Policy Advisor; Gloria Davis, Superintendent of School District; Dr. Sophia Jones-Redmond, Assistant Superintendent of School District; Patrick Keane, Compliance Officer, Vincent Payne, Principal of St. Charles School, Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leischuh, Director of Special Education, and Marron Mahoney, Chief Legal Counsel.

AI 2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Agenda
President Montgomery motioned to move the approval of the agenda. Member Griffin motioned to approve the agenda and Member Vidis seconded.

Voice Vote:
Aye; Unanimous
Nay: None
Motion Carries

2.2 Approval of Minutes for August 5, 2016
President Montgomery motioned to approve the August 5, 2016 minutes. Member Smith moved to approve the August 5, 2016 minutes and Member Griffin seconded to approve the minutes.

Voice Vote:
Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Motion Carries.

3.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Montgomery motioned to move to open the meeting with Public Participation. Member Griffin moved to open the meeting with Public Participation and seconded by Member Vidis.

Voice Vote:
Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Motion Carries.

The Board of Education meeting opened with Public Participation. Ms. Amber Egan, Library Associate with IYC-St. Charles addressed the board. Ms. Egan has serious concerns regarding the ten-year contract the State awarded the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois (LVI). She mentioned that the determination by administration to allow LVI Jump Start Program to remove and keep furniture from the school library and to function outside of their purpose and qualifications is troubling. She further mentioned that the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) reports that the revenue and income of LVI is $803,521.00 and the owner of LVI is listed as the responsible party, while working with LVI on contract. She mentioned that she cannot compete for grant money because she works with the school and that only grant writers can apply for grants. The $147,095 that LVI was awarded would have bought many soft covered books for St. Charles school library. LVI employees are operating a library that loans out adult fiction material to youth, which is not standard practices in school libraries. Ms. Egan is asking that the Board Members consider all that has been spoken about today and act on the information.

3.1 No action or comments were made by the board members.

3.2 Introduce Director of Special Education, Dr. Bambi Bethel-Leischuh

Dr. Bethel mentioned that she has 32 years of background experience as an Educator in Special Education, School Principal, and Assistant Principal and is looking forward to the opportunity as the Director of Special Education with IDJJ School District #428. She mentioned that during her first month with the Department, she have visited all the schools and is currently writing an action plan that will identify a road map with Special Education goals and objectives based on her visits at the schools.

3.3 Introduce Principal of St. Charles, Mr. Vincent Payne

Mr. Payne mentioned that he has 15 years of administrative experience and has served as a Principal, Assistant Principal and Coordinator of Leadership prior to IDJJ – School District. He further mentioned that he served in Chicago Public Schools and Elgin School Districts. He has a Masters of Arts Degree in Educational Leadership from Saint Xavier University and has completed coursework towards his Doctoral Degree in Education Leadership at Roosevelt University and has extensive training in Restorative Justice and Conflict Resolution. He believes in building relationships with the facility, school district staff and having systems in place to help our kids and ultimately address their needs. He looks forward to the opportunity to serve the school as Principal at St. Charles.

3.4 Chief Legal Counsel Marron Mahoney mentioned that Ms. Ester Yahnig started with the Department, today September 20, 2016 and will serve as the Assistant Chief Legal Counsel for IDJJ.

4.0 SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT ACTION ITEM

4.1 Proposed Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2017 – 2018

Superintendent Davis mentioned that the Board of Education calendar is completed for the coming Calendars years of 2017 and 2018 and request a motion to approve the calendar for 2017 and 2018.

President Montgomery recommended to move the approval of the Board of Education Meeting Calendar for 2017 and 2018. Member Smith motioned to approve the Board of Education Meeting Calendar for 2017 and 2018 and the motion was seconded by Member Griffin to approve the calendar.

Voice Vote:
Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Motion Carries.

Superintendent Davis added that perhaps the board may consider meetings in the North and South locations in the future.

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT INFORMATIONAL ONLY

5.1 New Staff Position Plan for School District #428

Superintendent Davis mentioned that as part of the Federal Consent Decree, the Department is required to secure additional educator's positions in our schools. The school district has recently implemented a position plan to be executed this fiscal year and will continue until the goal of hiring all critical positions outlined

in the consent Decree are met. The plan includes an approved request to hire all positions as full-time rather than some being part-time as initially stated in the Consent Decree. Each of the five schools will have one (1) Special Education Resource Coordinator; each school with have (1) School Counselor with the exception of St. Charles will have (2) due to the volume of youth; each school with the exception of Harrisburg and Chicago (Chicago due to lack of space) will have (1) Career and Technical Educator at Pere Marquette and Warrenville and (2) at St. Charles due to volume of youth.

In addition, the Special Education Resource Coordinators will work directly with the teachers in the classroom in completing IEPs on the youth. They are certified teachers and will assist in helping the youth's teacher improve. In addition, they are considered the lead teacher in the Special Education process. The Director of Special Education, Dr. Bethel would supervise the Special Education Resource Coordinators. The Department will also be hiring a Director of Career and Technical; the selected candidate will supervise the Career and Technical Educators in the schools. The School Counselors will help in the release of the youth from our schools into the Aftercare program.

Superintendent Davis mentioned that IYC Chicago does not have adequate space for the vocational education program. The Aftercare facility has the space but getting the youth from the School to the Aftercare facility is the issue.

President Montgomery mentioned that changing the status of the youth and classification similar to Warrenville and Harrisburg is an issue. Once we get use to the culture and shift the thought process, we will be better familiar with the youth moving across the parking lot. The facility/school must be a lower restraint facility in order to move youth around.

5.2 New Frontier 21st Century Contract – Dr. Anthony Muhammad

Superintendent Davis mentioned that the School District is pleased to announce a new comprehensive professional development program that has been established for educational staff and students. The Department completed a contract with Dr. Anthony Muhammad founder of New Frontier 21st Century. Dr. Muhammad is an outstanding presenter and helps to transform cultures and youth that have been disenfranchised in the system. He will be bringing this information to all the teachers, principals and students in the School District. Superintendent Davis mentioned that in order for the School District to ensure and change what we do – we have to give our staff and youth the resources to get there. The Board of Education members are invited to attend the meeting in Springfield, November 29, 2016 at 9:30 am to hear his presentation to the Principals and Administrative Staff. The location of the meeting is to be announced later.

5.3 Lake Land College Update

Superintendent Davis mentioned that the contract is signed and the School District is moving forward. Lake Land has posted their positions for IYC Harrisburg and IYC St. Charles. The two schools will have 3 courses in place with college instruction and the courses are dual credit courses. The post-secondary youth can now obtain college credit and a certification in a field for employment. This opportunity can prove useful for youth obtaining employment in a career they choose and this information is available to all the youth does not require minimal reading level. The Lake Land College courses are considered college credit and if the youth leaves our schools they are able to pick up where they left off to continue their certification.

5.4 July and August Special Education Monitoring Reports

Superintendent Davis mentioned that the number of IEP's out-of-compliance have been reduced tremendously in our schools. Dr. Jones-Redmond mentioned that the main focus with the Special Education program is to get IEPs back in compliance. We are no longer waiting 30 days for the youth record in order to complete the IEP; with SPED manuals in place and development of SPED training this have improved the process in the School District.

Dr. Bethel mentioned that it is important that all our schools are at 100% compliance and this can be accomplished with strong case management and monitoring process. She have visited most of the schools to see how each school handles the IEP process and SPED program. Five percent of the IDEA grant is for the purpose of training and development with justified goals as well. Professional development is important for the staff because they are learning a process. The SPED education program is an important program in our schools and as the youth transitions out through aftercare they will be better equipped for the community. They will have received the resources they need to succeed. The SPED Resource Coordinators that are soon to be hired will help in the transition portion of the process along with Lake Land College, which will promote the success of the student.

5.5 July and August Principal and Education Data Reports

Superintendent Davis mentioned that St. Charles school is down 11 teachers and we are moving quickly as possible to get these positions posted and filled. The totals on the report indicate partial school and not full-day closures. The teacher-pupil ratios are averaging about 7 for General Education Student to Teacher Ratios and Special Education Student to Teacher Ratios are at 5.2

The school district's goal is 100% and our participation is fluid as we are working the process as quickly as possible. August Principal and Education Data Reports are about the same.

DI 6.0 BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Nothing to discuss.

AI 7.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Montgomery motioned to close the meeting. Member Dunbar Garrett moved to close the meeting and Member Green seconded to close the meeting.

Voice Vote:
Aye; Unanimous
Nay: None
Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.