

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 148

DOLTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

The **MINUTES** of the **Special Meeting** of the Board of Education, District No. 148, Dolton, Cook County, Illinois held at the Administrative Offices, 114 West 144th Street, Riverdale, Illinois, in said school district at 7:00 p.m., on the **5th day of May 2015**.

ROLL CALL

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the President, Joyce Jackson, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and directed the Board Secretary to call the roll. Upon the roll being called the following members answered present: Pam Gibson, Larry Lawrence, Kim Adkins, Faith Gunter, James Bendell, Ernesto Mickens, and Joyce Jackson. Also present were: Margaret Kostopulos, Attorney, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer P.C., Superintendent Dr. Jayne Purcell, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Patricia Moore, Principals Dr. Dell McFarlane and Ms. Shalonda Randle and Board Secretary Mrs. Theresa Sevier were also present.

VISITORS

Joan Carreon, Lisa Davis-Smith, Lamarr Miller, Michelle Carley, S. Dailey, Anthony Michaels, Constant Lewis, David Jennings, Kathy Cherry, Gail Jilek, Carton Johnson, Frank Jackson, Commissioner Jaisyn Passmorre, Nathan Collins, William Taylor, Lawanda Woods, Dr. Sandra Mickles, Demetrius Prince, and Dr. Maureen White.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sandra Coulter asked whether BOE members receive background checks. President Jackson stated that we do. Ms. Coulter also asked about the last meeting where there were certain employees that received employment agreements and why these employees received these. President Jackson said the Board chose to approve the agreements.

Ms. Michelle Carley asked why these individuals needed another contract if they already had one. President Jackson explained that their contracts were due to expire at the end of this school year.

CANVASS OF VOTES FROM COOK COUNTY

Member Jackson moved and Member Adkins seconded the motion that the Board of Education, Dolton West School District 148, accept the results of the April 7, 2015 Consolidated General Election canvass of votes from Cook County.

April 07, 2015 Consolidated General Election

Candidate	Party	Total Votes
School Board Member, Dolton Number 148, 4yr.	3	4,122
Faith E. Gunter	NON	835
Larry Lawrence	NON	790
James E. Bendell	NON	576
Charles William Lloyd	NON	472
William Taylor	NON	431
Kathy Cherry	NON	431
Lisa Davis-Smith	NON	587

On individual roll call, the following vote was taken:

Ayes: Gibson, Lawrence, Adkins, Gunter, Bendell, Mickens, Jackson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

PROCLAMATION OF WINNERS

Member Adkins moved and Member Jackson seconded the motion that the Board of Education, Dolton West School District 148, declares the following winners of four-year terms: Lisa Davis-Smith, Faith E. Gunter, and Larry Lawrence.

On individual roll call, the following vote was taken:

Ayes: Gibson, Lawrence, Adkins, Gunter, Bendell, Mickens, Jackson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

President Jackson said that this Board of Education has worked diligently to ensure that the children of District 148 reach their highest level of performance and have a safe, clean learning environment.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Member Jackson moved and Member Bendell seconded the motion that the Board of Education adjourn sine die.

On individual roll call the following vote was taken:

Ayes: Gibson, Lawrence, Adkins, Gunter, Bendell, Mickens, Jackson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered by the Board President Joyce Jackson to the following Board members "I, Lisa Davis-Smith, Faith Gunter, Larry Lawrence do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Dolton West School District 148, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability. "I further swear (or affirm) that: "I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district's assets; "I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees; "I shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting; and "I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels."

ROLL CALL

The Board President directed the roll to be called. Upon the roll being called the following members answered present: Kim Adkins, Lisa Davis-Smith, Pamela Gibson, Faith Gunter, Joyce Jackson, Larry Lawrence, Ernesto Mickens.

Ms. Jackson said that Mrs. Sevier, Board Secretary would serve as Recording Secretary until the Board elects a new Board Secretary.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Member Lawrence nominated Kim Adkins as Board President but Member Adkins respectfully declined the nomination. Member Adkins nominated Ernesto Mickens and Member Gibson seconded the motion. Member Lawrence opened discussion and cited Policy number 2:110, stating that Member Mickens is not allowed to accept an officer position because he is not in good standing. There was also discussion about Member Mickens owing \$2,526.00 to the District for expenses including cell phone bills and workshops that he was registered for but did not attend. Member Mickens asked for details about the debt and believes the claim is untrue. Member Jackson said that Member Mickens was repeatedly sent letters in an attempt to collect the debt and that there was no response from Member Mickens. Member Jackson said that when Policy 2:110 was up forth it was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Member Adkins rescinded her nomination of Member Mickens for President and she said she would like to accept Member Lawrence's nomination of her for President.

Member Davis-Smith seconded the motion to nominate Kim Adkins as President.

Ayes for Adkins showed Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, Gunter, Jackson, Lawrence
Abstains for Adkins showed Mickens.
Motion Carried

Kim Adkins was elected to the office of President of the Board of Education of School District 148, such election being for a 2-year term as of this date, or until a successor is elected.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Member Jackson nominated Faith Gunter as Board Vice President. Member Lawrence seconded the motion. Member Gibson nominated Lisa Davis-Smith as Board Vice President. Member Adkins seconded the motion.

Ayes for Gunter showed Gunter, Jackson, Lawrence.
Nays for Gunter showed Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, Mickens.
Motion Failed

Ayes for Davis-Smith showed Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, Mickens
Nays for Davis-Smith showed Gunter, Jackson and Lawrence.
Motion Carried

Lisa Davis-Smith was elected to the office of Vice President of the Board of Education of School District 148, such election being for a 2-year term as of this date, or until a successor is elected.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Member Gunter nominated Larry Lawrence as Secretary. Member Jackson seconded the motion. Member Adkins nominated Joyce Jackson as Secretary. Member Gibson seconded the motion.

Ayes for Lawrence showed Gunter, Jackson and Lawrence.
Nays for Lawrence showed Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, and Mickens.
Motion Failed

Ayes for Jackson showed Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, and Mickens
Nays for Jackson showed Gunter, Jackson, and Lawrence
Motion Carried

Joyce Jackson was elected to the office of Secretary of the Board of Education of School District 148, such election being for a 2-year term as of this date, or until a successor is elected.

SET DAY AND TIME FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Member Adkins moved and Member Mickens seconded the motion that the Regular Meetings of the Board of Education, District 148, be set for the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Board Meeting Room, 114 West 144th Street, Riverdale, Illinois 60827, effective at the start of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2015.

On individual roll call, the following vote was taken:
Ayes: Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, and Mickens
Nays: Gunter, Jackson, Lawrence
Motion Carried

APPOINT BOARD COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

President Adkins motioned and Member Gibson seconded to table the appointment of Board Committees and Representatives.

On individual roll call, the following vote was taken:
Ayes: Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, Gunter, Jackson, Lawrence, Mickens
Nays: None
Motion Carried

REVIEW AND SIGN CODE OF CONDUCT/ BOARD AGREEMENTS SET FORTH BY IASB

President Adkins reviewed the Code of Conduct and Board Agreements set forth by IASB and directed all members to sign. Member Lawrence read aloud the Code of Conduct and President Adkins read aloud the Board's mission statement.

Code of Conduct for members of school boards

As a member of my local school board, I will do my utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to the following standards and principles:

1. I will represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
2. I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and will not use my board membership for personal gain or publicity.
3. I will recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting.
4. I will take no private action that might compromise the board or administration and will respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
5. I will abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
6. I will encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and will participate in board discussions in an open, honest and respectful manner, honoring differences of opinion or perspective.
7. I will prepare for, attend and actively participate in school board meetings.

8. I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the board, and remain reasonably knowledgeable about local, state, national, and global education issues.
9. I will respectfully listen to those who communicate with the board, seeking to understand their views, while recognizing my responsibility to represent the interests of the entire community.
10. I will strive for a positive working relationship with the superintendent, respecting the superintendent's authority to advise the board, implement board policy, and administer the district.
11. I will model continuous learning and work to ensure good governance by taking advantage of board member development opportunities, such as those sponsored by my state and national school board associations, and encourage my fellow board members to do the same.
12. I will strive to keep my board focused on its primary work of clarifying the district purpose, direction and goals, and monitoring district performance..

**Dolton West School District 148
Board Agreements**

May 5, 2015

***Our mission is to challenge and support all students
to reach their highest level of performance.***

1. The Board will focus first on the primary work of the Board, which is to clarify District purpose, direction and goals to enable and support student learning.
2. The Board established a Strategic Plan and will monitor progress toward its goals and compliance.
3. The Board has one employee – the Superintendent. The Board and Superintendent work together to fulfill their mutually complementary roles. Trust combined with open and honest communication is our intent. The Board does not provide direction or oversight of other School District Staff.
4. The Board will focus on the ends and the Staff will focus on the means. The Board will support Staff decisions that are in compliance with District Policy and that support the District's Strategic Plan.
5. The Board commits itself individually and collectively to stand by its code of conduct, to "speak with one voice," to maintain a positive culture and orderly decision-making processes, with mutual respect. The Board will do its work openly.
6. As trustee for the community, the Board is committed to an on-going, two-way conversation with constituents about their aspirations for the education of the District's Students.

Agreed May 5, 2015

Mrs. Kim Adkins, Member
 Dr. Davis-Smith, Member
 Ms. Pamela L. Gibson, Member
 Mrs. Faith Gunter, Member
 Mrs. Joyce J. Jackson, Member
 Mr. Larry Lawrence, Member
 Mr. Ernesto E. Mickens, Jr., Member

MANDATORY TRAINING FOR NEWLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

State law requires any school board member either appointed or elected after June 13, 2011 to complete the four-hour Professional Development Leadership Training within the first year of his or her first term. This training is required to cover the topics of educational and labor law, financial oversight and accountability and fiduciary responsibility.

In addition, a board member is required to complete training on the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) in order to vote on whether to retain or dismiss a teacher.

Each board member taking office must also complete the Open Meetings Act training within 90 days after taking the oath of office.

President Adkins read the mandatory training for newly-elected school board members.

CLOSED SESSION

It was determined that there was no need for Closed Session.

MISCELLANEOUS

Member Jackson congratulated everyone on a smooth transition.

President Adkins read an excerpt from a book by Stephen Covey which states in part ... "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." She is excited that this board has a member that can share an educational prospective.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Adkins moved and Member Mickens seconded the motion that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Meeting held on May 5, 2015 at 8:20 p.m.

On roll call, the following vote was taken:

Ayes: Adkins, Davis-Smith, Gibson, Gunter, Jackson, Lawrence, Mickens

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Joyce J. Jackson, President

James Bendell, Secretary

Kim Adkins, President

Joyce J. Jackson, Secretary