

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WEST HARVEY-DIXMOOR SCHOOL DISTRICT 147  
September 13, 2021**

The Board of Education of West Harvey-Dixmoor School District 147, Cook County, Illinois, was called to order, by Board President Michael Smith, on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:01 P.M

**I. ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members:

Hazel Bowman  
Mable Chapman  
Kenneth Henderson  
Bonnie Rateree  
Helen Randall  
Michael Smith

Absent: Margie Hudson-Walker

Administration: Johnnetta Miller, Superintendent  
Dr. Deborah Hill, Assistant Superintendent

**APPROVAL OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Action for approval for nurse

**MOTION TO GO TO CLOSED SESSION**

Member Rateree moved to go to closed session for the purpose as permitted by provisions of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2 et seq, it is expected that the Board will recess to closed session to consider information regarding: (1)the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; (2)collective negotiation matters of deliberation of salary schedules; (3)imminent or probable litigation; (4)evidence or testimony presented in a closed hearing; and (5) student disciplinary matters. Member Henderson seconded to go to the closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE-6 (Hazel Bowman, Kenneth Henderson, Bonnie Rateree, Mable Chapman, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT-1 ( Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion was carried 6-0 to go to closed session.**

**CITIZEN'S INQUIRY**

1. Kimberly Ravazee(President of the teacher's union) has concerns about the building and the safety in it; She has been in touch with Superintendent Miller and Dr. Hill but some teachers still have some concern
2. Jackie Collins (Teacher union representative); in the 3rd and 4th grade bathrooms, there are 3 stalls with no doors, in the girls bathroom there is only 1 door that closes, there is no soap to wash hands and there is a total of 1 and a half working sinks
3. Linda Allen (Teacher at Parks) has numerous concerns. PPE we were given has expired, we were given small bottles of sanitizers, I have 26 students in my classroom that are not 3ft apart, in the lunchroom the students are not 3ft apart, restrooms for

staff and students are not cleaned throughout the day, there is no soap in the bathrooms, teachers do not have shields on their desks for them, today kids received water but that is not the norm

4. Jerrilyn Parker (Case Manager for the district); there was a small child that was hit by a car in district 152. As a district are we taking up a fund or doing something for the family? She wasn't one of ours but we all are affected so it happens to all of us
5. Deondra Keys (Parent); I have been at the last couple of meetings. Has the board tried to connect with the community? I am a diverse member of the community and I have not seen any connections. How was the money allocated that was given to the school to connect with the community? There was also a special education director hired, now they are gone. What happened? There is also suppose to be 1 social worker for every 15 kids and there is suppose to be a resource person as well. Some of this money is going to have to be spent on special education. Parents need explanation on what is going on and what is going to be done to follow the law. The laws are not being followed right now. I just want to know what is going to be done. These are the questions I need answered
6. Bonnie Rateree (Board member). After the last meeting, I have tried it all. I have talked to my fellow board members but I see that I am talking to the wrong people. I do not know why they do not want to hire the qualified person who applied. You are right, the community is not involved and the board is not connected. I want to thank you for coming and speaking with us. I am in fact going to get out back to the community, knock on some doors and get people involved. This is important and I get it. I agree with you.
7. Michael Smith (Board President). Let me address this cause you keep bringing it up
8. Mable Chapman (Secretary of the Board of Education). Let her finish
9. Bonnie Rateree (Board member). I support the teachers, I support the community and I support the parents and I have listened. I want everyone to feel comfortable with coming and talking to us and not have fear of what will happen. I promise you are going to see more of me. Some members forget why they are here.
10. Michael Smith (Board President); Thank you Ms. Rateree. Now, Let's go back to the retreat. I am not going to keep dealing with this. What you are saying is inaccurate. At the retreat, did you not threaten me?
11. Bonnie Rateree (Board member); No I did not
12. Michael Smith (Board President); Yes you did. You approached me right after lunch. I was trying not to say anything but you keep bringing all this up
13. Mable Chapman (Board Secretary); You know what, this is the most embarrassing conversation. I would like to act like we learned something when we go to board retreats. Please, I beseech my fellow board members to act accordingly in public.
14. Michael Smith (Board President); Thank you. No more attacks or I will bring that up cause you did attack me
15. Bonnie Rateree (Board Member); No I did not
16. Micheal Smith (Board President); Yes you did and I did not get an apology either

KENNETH HENDERSON WALKED OUT AT 7:57 P.M.

17. Bonnie Rateree (Board Member); I do not know what you are talking about
18. Johnnetta Miller (Superintendent); I would like to address the issues that have been brought up
19. Michael Smith (Board President); You are not going to keep bringing this up, we can talk in private
20. Bonnie Rateree (Board Member); Why? You already threatened me
21. Michael Smith (Board President); I did not threaten you, that was no threat. You threatened me though. What you did to me was a threat wasn't it.
22. Mable Chapman (Board Secretary); Micael, please stop, let Ms. Miller address the issues here

23. Bonnie Rateree (Board Member); I don't know what you are talking about
24. Michael Smith (Board President); Oh really. You told me that you would bring the state's attorney out and I better not fuck this shit up. Remember that?
25. Bonnie Rateree (Board Member); how can you say that?
26. Mable Chapman (Board Secretary); Michael, Michael
27. Michael Smith (Board President); I told you it was coming out, I'm just telling what you told me
28. Bonnie Rateree (Board Member); I did not say that. You are the one who threatened me in front of people
29. Mable Chapman (Board Secretary); can we please move on
30. Michael Smith (Board President); Yes, let's move on. I'm not going to keep being attacked
31. Johnnetta Miller (Superintendent) It is always my goal to keep children first, always, no matter what is going on up here and through this board my goal is put out students first. Now to the staff. As you know me and Dr. Hill walked all the buildings. I have had discipline meetings from day 1. We've spent hundreds and thousands of dollars on PPE, making sure we had everything that we needed, setting up a plan for repairs to be done and they weren't. Because I have staff, custodial staff, that are not doing what they are supposed to do. I cannot be everywhere, in every building at every moment and still work in the district too like I have been trying to do. But I have walkthroughs, I have lists, I have building administrators in place, I have directives in place so that we don't have to do this. Because we are trying to educate students. Your safety is a priority I have said from day 1. I made decisions based on IDPH guidelines. So many things you don't agree with on close contact. I can assure you that I follow IDPH and the CDC (so much I have the woman's number in my phone) guidelines. I call them before any decisions are made. I tell them, this is what has happened, this is what we are going to do, is it correct? And she says, yes, do that. For the shields, I have ordered 1500 shields. You all know that we don't have 1500 kids here. I don't know where they walked up and went to. But when we walked around we saw that half the classes had shields in them. We ordered PPE, we ordered tons of PPE, wipes, gloves, masks, tape. I even ordered the suits because I said if someone was not comfortable sitting in a classroom I want to be sure they have a suit to put on. So understand your desks not having shields is unacceptable. We were walking through buildings and everything that I saw that was broken or something not done, I said it was unacceptable. You saw I had Mr. Lee walked with me. So first I want to apologize because my goal is to always figure out what could happen and prepare for it. That's how I make decisions. You guys should not have to experience some of what you are going through. But we do, but I have to stop and deal with mess on any given day and it is draining. So I would hope and I would say to my board, please let us get back on track with what we need to be doing. I have had contractors telling me that they do not have to talk to the Superintendent and all kind of stuff. It's ridiculous. So we are here trying to do what we need to do for you all and I won't stop as long as I'm sitting here. So everything you have said has not fallen on deaf ears. When I found out about the water in the buildings, I went and ordered thousands of dollars of water to make sure water would be ongoing. So the perimeters are put in place. I tell you all, tell me what's going on. Because if you don't then I don't know. So please don't think if you don't hear it being addressed or I tell you that I will get back to you that it is not being addressed because I am.
32. Mable Chapman (Board Secretary); I will say that you gave comprehensive answers here and to Ms. Ravazee's letter. I want to say this, there are more than fun fests here. We do have greater attendance from our Hispanic population then our others. We have put out things and offered gift cards to get more people out. Any suggestions that you may have to get more people out will be a big help. I have been to the buildings already this year and will continue to do so and continue to communicate with Ms. Miller. Answers were given today and follow through was

given. I did not know that PPE can expire but I see that it was taken care of. Bathroom issues will have to be taken care of. We can say that Ms. Miller, Dr. Hill, Dr. Willette, Mr. Williams, Dr. Hartzol, Dr. Midlock, Mrs. Neal and Mr. Lee will go through their buildings and make sure that these things are addressed and taken care of. As a board member, I take personal responsibility and I apologize for this and that is all I have to say on that.

KENNETH HENDERSON WALKED BACK IN AT 8:01 P.M.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Approve minutes for August 9 and 17th regular and special board meetings.

### **MOTION**

Member Chapman moved to approve the minutes as presented, Member Rateree seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE-6 (Mable Chapman, Bonnie Rateree, Hazel Bowman, Kenneth Henderson, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT (Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion carried 6-0 to approve the minutes of the board meetings as presented.**

### **APPROVAL AUGUST ACCOUNTS PAYABLES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$792,371.22**

### **MOTION**

Member Chapman moved to approve the August payables, Member Rateree seconded to approve August payables as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE-6 (Bonnie Rateree, Hazel Bowman, Kenneth Henderson, Mable Chapman, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT (Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion carried 6-0 to approve August payables in the amount of \$792,371.22.**

### **APPROVAL OF AUGUST PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,544.31**

### **MOTION**

Member Chapman moved to accept August payroll, Member Rateree seconded to approve August payroll as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE-6 (Mable Chapman, Bonnie Rateree, Hazel Bowman, Kenneth Henderson, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT (Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion carried 4-0 to approve the August payroll in the amount of \$350,544.31.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S SPOTLIGHT**

1. I want to thank all that came out to the back to school fest in the 100 degree plus weather
2. All concerns that were brought up will be addressed expeditiously

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. TO APPROVE:**

1. Erate Consultants
2. Schools Of Illinois Public Cooperative
3. MOA for Staff Vaccinations
4. Contract for Margo E. Brown/Educational Health Resource (Nurse)

### **MOTION**

Member Chapman moved to approve the items listed. Member Rateree seconded the motion to approve the listed items as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote

was: AYE-6 (Hazel Bowman, Mable Chapman, Bonnie Rateree, Kenneth Henderson, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT (Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion carried 6-0 to approve the items listed.**

## **B. APPROVE THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET**

### **MOTION**

Member Chapman moved to approve the 2021-2022 School Budget. Member Rateree seconded the motion to approve the 2021-2022 School Budget. Upon a roll call vote being taken the vote was: AYE-6 (Bonnie Rateree, Hazel Bowman, Mable Chapman, Kenneth Henderson, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT (Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion carried 6-0 to approve the 2021-2022 School Budget.**

## **C. APPROVE PERSONNEL REPORT TO INCLUDE EMPLOYMENT, RESIGNATION, RETIREMENT, AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE, CERTIFIED, CLASSIFIED, AND NON-UNION STAFF (ACTION)**

*(Policy 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria; Policy 5:210 Resignations and Retirements; Policy 5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity)*

### **Approve Retirement, Resignation and Employment for the following:**

1. Approve employment for Yarithza Munoz, 3rd grade bilingual, King Elementary, effective September 14, 2021
2. Approve employment for Maria Vengas, Food Service, effective September 14, 2021
3. Approve employment for Maria Coronado, Food Service, effective September 14, 2021
4. Approve Marvin Eaves retirement, effective, June 30, 2026
5. Approve the resignation for Becky Cortesi, effective September 7, 2021

### **MOTION**

Member Chapman moved to approve the retirement, resignation and employment of those listed. Member Rateree seconded the motion to approve the retirement, resignation and employment of those listed as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE-6 (Mable Chapman, Bonnie Rateree, Hazel Bowman, Kenneth Henderson, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT (Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion carried 6-0 to approve retirement, resignations and employment of those listed.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Dixmoor Vikings Field Usage (This will be brought back once paperwork has been completed and received)

## **CONFERENCE REQUESTS**

1. Approve membership fee for Superintendent Miller's 2021-2022 Superintendent's Roundtable of Northern Illinois
2. Approve attendance to the 57th Annual IASA Conference September 29, 2021, through October 1, 2021, for Superintendent Miller.

### **MOTION**

Member Chapman moved to approve the conference requests listed. Member Rateree seconded the motion to approve the conferences as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE-6 (Mable Chapman, Bonnie Rateree, Hazel Bowman, Kenneth Henderson, Helen Randall, Michael Smith); NAY-0; ABSTAIN-0; ABSENT (Margie Hudson-Walker). **The motion carried 6-0 to approve the conference requests listed.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Chapman moved and Member Rateree seconded to adjourn the meeting of West Harvey-Dixmoor 147 Board of Education. Upon a voice call being taken, all were in favor and the motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

---

**Michael Smith, President**

---

**Mable Chapman, Secretary**