

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for the School District of the City of River Rouge, Wayne County, Michigan was held in the said offices of the Board of Education on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at 6:02 p.m.

The President, William White, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Cornelius Cooper, Marcella Cora, Francis Krupinski,
William White and Ingrid Wilson-Johnson
Members Absent: Sam Arapakis and William Watson

Member Cora offered a motion, seconded by Member Krupinski, to approve this evening's consent agenda.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None
Motion Carried.

At this time President White introduced Mr. Paul Bryant from Plante Moran who has completed our annual 2008-2009 Audit Report. He addressed, explained and answered questions from both the board members and the audience.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None
Motion Carried.

Superintendent Lopez stated that at this time he will not be doing his scheduled presentation.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora that the board enters into a closed session for the purpose of contract negotiations and agreements.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None
Motion Carried.

President White called the board meeting to resume from closed session at 7:39 p.m.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None
Motion Carried.

Communications/Correspondence

There were no communications or correspondence

Comments from the Board

Member Cooper stated that the Building & Grounds Committee had met and discussed the heating situation at CB Sabbath School and were proceeding forward with it. He stated that Mark Pruneau and Phil Campbell were overseeing the purchase orders and will have heat in the building.

President White questioned the marketing payment process and if the bills were prepaid or paid as they are invoiced. Superintendent Lopez said they are being paid as they are submitted.

Member Cooper also stated that he has been in contact with Karl Laub with the city discussing the Buck Weeber being turned into a YMCA and the work needed to be done to update

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Superintendent Lopez stated that he would give Member Cooper the name of his contact with the Red River Project and YArts who is active with the Detroit YMCA.

Attorney Update

Attorney Joseph McCarroll stated there was nothing at this time.

Old Business

Under old business, Member Cora stated there were four grievances from Local 2555 that the committee heard on Friday, September 18, 2009.

Grievance #14-08-09 (ANNIE JACKSON)

Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Cooper that a committee of the board heard the grievance at a meeting held on Friday, September 18, 2009. That the recommendation of the Board of Education committee is granted in part and denied in part: **Granted In Part:** (Article IX, Section 1h): Reimbursement for any fringe benefits which the individual paid during the months in which she worked at least 20 days. Grievant will need to provide the Superintendent of Schools with documentation of paid receipts for services that would have normally been covered under the plan in which she had previously been enrolled in for herself and any dependents that were previously covered under the district's insurance at the time when the individual was employed by the district. Employee has one month from the date of October 21, 2009 to submit documentation for reimbursement.

Denied In Part: The grievant will be made whole for all losses. Denying vacation days, sick days, etc. Grievant was called in to sub for another employee who was/is currently off on worker's Compensation. She was not called into sub for herself.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Grievance #15-08-09 (MARIE STAR ALLEN)

Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Cooper that a committee of the board heard the grievance at a meeting held on Friday, September 18, 2009. That the recommendation of the Board of Education committee is denied:

Denied: The grievance is denied based on the fact that it was not submitted timely. She retired from the River Rouge School District as of April 30, 2009 and filed the grievance on June 12, 2009.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

16-08-09 (ANDRA MAJOR)

Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Cooper that a committee of the board heard the grievance at a meeting held on Friday, September 18, 2009. That the recommendation of the Board of Education committee is granted in part and denied in part:

Granted: (Article IX, Section 1 h): Reimbursement for any fringe benefits which the individual paid during the months in which he worked at least 20 days. Grievant will need to provide the Superintendent of Schools with documentation of paid receipts for services that would have normally been covered under the plan in which he had previously been enrolled in for himself and any dependents that were previously covered under the district's insurance at the time

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when the individual was employed by the district. Employee has one month from the date of October 21, 2009 to submit documentation for reimbursement.

Employee will be made whole for all losses however, returning him to a full time position will not be granted due to the financial crisis of the school district and the fact that the maintenance department has been reduced to one staff member.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

01-09-10 (MONA MAYO)

Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Cooper that a committee of the board heard the grievance at a meeting held on Friday, September 18, 2009. That the recommendation of the Board of Education committee is granted in part and denied in part:

Granted In Part: (Article IX, Section 1h): Reimbursement for any fringe benefits which the individual paid during the months in which she worked at least 20 days. Grievant will need to provide the Superintendent of Schools with documentation of paid receipts for services that would have normally been covered under the plan in which she had previously been enrolled in for herself and any dependents that were previously covered under the district's insurance at the time when the individual was employed by the district. Employee has one month from the date of October 21, 2009 to submit documentation for reimbursement.

Denied In Part: The grievant to be made whole for all losses. Denying vacation days, sick days, etc. Grievant was called in to sub for another employee who was/is currently off on worker's Compensation. She was not called into sub for herself.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

New Business

President White stated there was no new business at this time.

Recall RREA Teacher

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora that in order to fill a teaching position that is available in the River Rouge Middle College High School and in the best interest of the school district, Lisa LaForest, be recalled to a full time teaching position for the 2009-2010 school year and be placed on the appropriate step of the salary schedule receiving the benefits associated with the position effective, Thursday, September 24, 2009.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: White

Motion Carried.

Recall RREA Teacher

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora that in order to fill a teaching position that is available in the River Rouge Middle College High School Academy and in the best interest of the school district, Beverly Franklin, be recalled to a full time teaching position for the 2009-2010 school year and be

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placed on the appropriate step of the salary schedule receiving the benefits associated with the position effective, Thursday, September 24, 2009.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: White

Motion Carried.

Recall RREA Teachers-Special Education

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Wilson-Johnson made a motion seconded by Member Cora that in order to be in compliance with the Special Education guidelines and in the best interest of the students of River Rouge, with the authorization given to the Superintendent of Schools at the regularly scheduled board meeting held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, the following Special Education teachers be recalled to full time positions at the building and effective dates indicated below for the 2009-2010 school year and be placed on the appropriate step of the salary schedule receiving the benefits associated with the position.

Teacher	Building	Date Effective
Joel Newman	Ann Visger	Thursday, September 24, 2009
Kimberly Irons	CB Sabbath	Thursday, September 24, 2009
Ed Hejka	RRMCHS	Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: White

Motion Carried.

Decline of Director of Special Education (3/5th Position)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that at the regular board meeting held on Wednesday, September, 16, 2009, Ms. Nancy Lee was officially offered the position of Director of Special Education 3/5th Position with a pro-rated salary and no benefits. Ms. Lee declined the position and the board of education will accept the declination of the position from Ms. Lee.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Director of Special Education (3/5th Position)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that based upon the decline of the Director of Special Education (3/5th Position) by Ms. Nancy Lee who was approved at the September 16, 2009 regular Board of Education meeting and upon the recommendation of the interview committee the 3/5's position of Director of Special Education will be offered to Ms. Diane Zedan, the next qualified candidate that was interviewed. This position will remain as posted with no benefits, a pro-rated salary of \$50,000 and a probationary contract for the 2009-2010 school year ending June 30, 2010; this will allow her contract to be consistent with other Level 1 Administrators. This will be effective Monday, October 6, 2009 and contingent upon the successful completion of all of the required paperwork and results of the physical, drug screen, 1230 B responses and criminal records check that are required to be an employee of the school district.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: None

RREA Instructional Staff Reduction/Transfer

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that due to economic necessity and in order to meet our financial obligations to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) as required by the Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP), a reduction of 1.0 FTE high school counselor. The least senior counselor, Ken Konarska, will be transferred from the position of high school counselor to high school math teacher, full time. This reduction/transfer will be in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the Master Agreement between the River Rouge Board of Education and RREA and will be report to his new assignment on Thursday, November 5, 2009.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Letter of Resignation-Local 2555

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora that a copy of the letter of resignation for retirement purposes from Local 2555, Ruben Jasso was received and that the Board of Education resolved to accept Mr. Jasso's letter of resignation for retirement purposes as an employee of the School District of the City of River Rouge, effective at the end of the day, Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Reduction in Work Force

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that due to economic necessity and in order to meet our financial obligations to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) as required by the Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP), the board of education resolved not to replace the current custodial position that is vacant through Mr. Jasso's retirement.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Coaching Positions – Non RREA Bargaining Unit Members

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Cora that in order to fill the positions of Coach and based upon Ms. McCrary-Maine's recommendation, the Board of Education resolved to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to contract with Temporary School Staff, Inc. to provide coaches for the following positions contingent upon the successful completion of all of the required paperwork and results of the physical and drug screen necessary for employment. These positions are also contingent providing there is sufficient student participation to fill the teams, otherwise the teams will be dissolved and no stipend will be paid.

<u>Position/Sport</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
JV Girls Basketball	Percy Pierce	\$1,960.95
7 th Grade Boys Basketball	Bart Amores	\$1,153.00

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

Elimination of Athletic Insurance

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that due to economic necessity and in order to meet our financial obligations to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) as required by the Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP), the elimination of the Athletic Insurance that we currently have which is additional to our existing insurance policy.

Under discussion the amount of savings for this cancellation would be \$23,000. At this time, due to the unemployment rate and the amount of students that do not have any family medical insurance as well as Ms. McCrary-Maine, Athletic Directors statement that there have been many athletic accidents with students with no insurance, the board has decided to continue to look into other options to cover insurance issues.

Yeas: Members: Krupinski
Nays: Members: Cooper, Cora, White and Wilson-Johnson

Motion Failed.

Additional High School Credits-Special Education Students

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson the board of education resolved that in order to allow students to receive credits for graduation, they will adopt the necessary policy language that will allow special education students to enroll in transitional work-related, co-op and/or entrepreneurship placements for high school credits.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Additional High School Credits-High School Students

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora the board of education resolved that in order to allow students to receive credits for graduation, they will adopt the necessary policy language that will allow high school students to enroll in and receive credits for private classes, athletics, art, drama, work-related experiences, credit by examination, home study programs, correspondence, on-line experiences (computers, internet, and television) and performance-based programs.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: Krupinski

Motion Carried.

Board Minutes

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that the board resolved that in an effort to be transparent and for information to be accessible to the community, that the board approved that the minutes of the regular and special board meetings as well as the check register be posted on the River Rouge School District website at www.rrouge.k12.mi.us. Once approved, this will be effective, starting with the minutes from the board meeting held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. The minutes will be available after they have been approved at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

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Under discussion the check register will have personal information redacted per the FERPA law.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Financial Circumstance Resolution

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora that due to economic necessity and in order to meet our financial obligations to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) as required by the Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP), the board resolved to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of River Rouge is experiencing serious financial circumstances based on a projected \$3.8 Million dollar ending deficit fund balance for the 2009-2010 school year; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has taken, and continues to review, all available means to reduce and ultimately eliminate said deficit.

RESOLVED, that this Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to immediately send a request to the RREA/MEA to voluntarily commence negotiations to reduce salaries, wages and benefits in order to meaningfully reduce the projected deficit and secure an approved Deficit Elimination Plan from the Michigan Department of Education.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Thrun Law Firm Retainer

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora mad a motion seconded by Member Cooper that in the best interest of the district, the board has resolved to agree to put Thrun Law Firm on retainer for the 2009-2010 school year at an annual cost of \$1,100.00 for the first year.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: White

Motion Carried.

MASB Delegate

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that as a board, they will designate 2 voting delegates that will be certified to vote at the MASB conferences and represent the River Rouge School District. The second delegate will be the alternate. The board will vote on the 2 delegates at the meeting in November, 2009.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Summer Residential Camp - Village

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International program through building global friendships has requested and will be allowed to operate their Summer Residential Camp at River Rouge Middle College High School Academy for four (4) weeks from June 24 through July 23, 2009. The 72 people (48 students-from different countries) will use these facilities as living quarters and the program emphasizes cooperative global and intercultural living. They have requested a waiver from the rental fees but will be responsible for any additional custodial and security fees as well as providing the required insurance certificate.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Board Committee Reports

Member Wilson-Johnson gave an update on the meeting of the Educational Quality Committee that was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. She also stated that we must always remember the reason that we are here – for the children. The next Educational Quality Meeting will be held on November 9, 2009.

Comments from the Audience

President White asked and received many comments from the audience regarding the audit presentation, the cost of the retainer fees from Thrun Law Firm as well as a parent with concerns regarding her son who is attending CB Sabbath K-8 Preparatory Academy.

At 8:26 p.m. President White stated for the good of the order and the meeting was concluded and roll call was taken.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 with the study session beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcella Cora, Secretary
Board of Education
MC/mb