



# Board of Education

Office of the Board  
1 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 950  
Chicago, IL 60602

## Board Report

25-0227-AR9

Agenda Date: 2/27/2025

**APPROVE PAYMENT OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT REGARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES FOR ASIA GAINES, FOR HERSELF AND AS NEXT FRIEND OF MINOR CHILD, J.C. v. BOARD, et al., CASE NO. 19 CV 775**

**THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

**DESCRIPTION:** Subject to Board approval, the Board and Plaintiff, Asia Gaines, for herself and as next friend of her minor child, J.C., have reached an agreement to accept the court's settlement recommendation resolving Plaintiff's anticipated petition to recover her attorneys' fees and costs in Case No. 19 CV 775, filed on or about February 7, 2019, in the Northern District of Illinois. The General Counsel recommends approval of the settlement, which includes the payment of two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000.00) to Gaines and her attorneys to resolve all of Gaines' claims for attorneys' fees and costs to which she is entitled pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, as a result of the jury verdict in her favor rendered on September 18, 2024.

**LSC REVIEW:** LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS:** None.

**FINANCIAL:** Charge a total of \$2,700,000.00 as described above to the Law Department.  
Budget Classification Fiscal year 2025.....12460-210

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the General Counsel to execute the Settlement Agreement and all ancillary documents related thereto, including an agreement regarding how to effectuate the disbursement of the judgment award.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

**Inspector General -** Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

**Conflicts -** The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

**Indebtedness -** The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

**Ethics -** The Board's Ethics Code adopted August 24, 2023 (23-0824-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

**Contingent Liability -** The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

APPROVED,

DocuSigned by:  
*Ruchi Verma* Initial  
56BFB2E0FF544C9  
RUCHI VERMA  
General Counsel