

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149

MINUTES OF

THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

November 3, 2022

The Special Board Meeting was held in the library at the Dirksen Middle School, the meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M. by Mr. Wilbur Tillman, Board President.

Roll Call: Present: Members: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggon, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mr. Tillman, Ms. Jemine, and Mr. Castillo.

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Jim Ciesel, Attorney Katie Ngo, Cindy Pavesich Good, Janene Preston, David Ormsby, Danielle Franklin, Tia Williams, Christal Washington, Laura Wolf, Christina Montgomery, Dr. Twyla Harris, Dr. Vedia Page, Ernesta Ransom, Karen Slate, Janice Opitz, Latricia Lewis, Sparkle Tiffith, Nafiseh Vossoughi, Lynn McAfee, Jorie Watson, Ruby Nelson, Kim Knight Anderson, Dennis Willis, Ramonde, Kim, Lemi.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Meeting Open to the Public for Comments - None

Public Hearing regarding Charges of Misconduct and Negligence Against Board Member Rayya Ghani

1. Charge One – Board Member Rayya Ghani inappropriately directed that District employee A.B. receive a 6% pay increase despite knowing the Board did not approve such a raise.
2. Charge Two – Board Member Rayya Ghani sought out Board Member Zacarias Castillo at his House in order to harass and bully him regarding his vote at the February 19, 2022, Board Meeting, and made discriminatory comments about Board Member Castillo based on his race and nationality.
3. Charge Three - After Board Member Rayya Ghani was removed from the position of Board President by a majority of the Board, she continued to refer to herself as Board President verbally and in writing on multiple occasions, and presented herself as such to the District, to the detriment of the business of educating the District's students.
4. Charge Four - Board Member Rayya Ghani inappropriately yelled, demeaned, and harassed former Business Manager C. L. on several occasions.
5. Charge Five - Board Member Rayya Ghani on at least three occasions failed to timely include items on the Board Agenda or relegated them to non-voting status when requested by Board Members.
6. Charge Six - Board Member Rayya Ghani on more than two occasions failed to act in an appropriate manner and decorum of someone in her position, reflecting poorly on the Board and the District.

Adjourn to Closed Session

Closed Session

<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to adjourn to a Closed session at 8:54 p.m.</p> <p>1. Motion to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss matters related to the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, and Mr. Castillo.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F1</p>
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Reconvene to Open Session

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to reconvene Open session at 9:34 p.m.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Jolly, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mr. Castillo, and Ms. Jemine</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM H</p>
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Actions as a result of Closed Session, if necessary

Agenda Items J-V as discussed in closed session.

<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve conviction of Board Member Rayya Ghani for violations of including but not limited to Board Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5 Oath of Office and 735 ILCS 5/11-301 <i>et. seq.</i> Disbursement of Public Moneys, subjecting the District to potential liability, and 720 ILCS 5/33-3 Official Misconduct due to inappropriately directing that District employee A.B. receive a 6% pay raise knowing the Board had not approved such a raise.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Jolly.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J-1</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Gray-Everett to approve conviction of Board Member Rayya Ghani for violations of including but not limited to Board Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, Board Policy 2:80-E Exhibit – Board Member Code of Conduct, 720 ILCS 5/33-3 Official Misconduct and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5 Oath of Office when she went to Board Member Zacarias Castillo’s house in order to harass and bully him following a Board vote, and Board Member Rayya Ghani made discriminatory comments about Board Member Castillo based on his race and nationality.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Ms. Jemine and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Jolly.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J-2</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Gray-Everett to approve conviction of Board Member Rayya Ghani for violations of including but not limited to Board Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, 720 ILCS 5/33-3 Official Misconduct and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5 Oath of Office as after Board Member Rayya Ghani was removed from the position of Board President by a majority of the Board, she continued to refer to</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J-3</p>

<p>herself as Board President verbally and in writing, and presented herself as such to the District, to the detriment of the business of educating the District’s students. ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Ms. Jemine and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Jolly. MOTION CARRIED</p>	
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve conviction of Board Member Rayya Ghani for violations of including but not limited to Board Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, Board Policy 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited, 720 ILCS 5/33-3 Official Misconduct and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5 Oath of Office for inappropriately yelling, demeaning and harassing former Business Manager C. L. ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J-4</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve of conviction of Board Member Rayya Ghani for violation of including but not limited to Board Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, Board Policy 2:80-E Exhibit – Board Member Code of Conduct, Board Policy 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure and 720 ILCS 5/33-3 Official Misconduct for failing to timely include items on the Board Agenda or relegated them to non-voting status when requested by Board Members ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J-5</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to Approve of conviction of Board Member Rayya Ghani for violations of including but not limited to Board Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, Board Policy 2:80-E Exhibit – Board Member Code of Conduct, Board Policy 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure, and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5 Oath of Office by failing to act in an appropriate manner and decorum of someone in her position, reflecting poorly on the Board and the District. ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J-6</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to confirm removal from the office of Board President for Board Member Rayya Ghani due to conviction of charges. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM K</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to censure Board Member Rayya Ghani because Board Member Rayya Ghani inappropriately direct the district employee A.B. receive a 6% pay raise despite knowing the Board did not approve such a raise. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM L</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Jemine for approval to direct Superintendent to take all actions necessary to recoup any loss funds due to the invalid raise. ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Mr. Castillo, Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Jolly. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM M</p>

<p>MOTION by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Jemine to censure Board Member Rayya Ghani because Board Member Rayya Ghani went to Board Member Zacarias Castillo's house in order to harass and intimidate him following a Board vote, and Board Member Rayya Ghani made discriminatory comments about Board Member Castillo based on his race and nationality.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Gray-Everett, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mrs. Jolly.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM N</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Gray-Everett to censure Board Member Rayya Ghani because after Board Member Rayya Ghani was removed from the position of Board President by a majority of the Board, she continued to refer to herself as Board President verbally and in writing, and presented herself as such to the District, to the detriment of the business of educating the District's students.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Ms. Jemine and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM O</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to censure Board Member Rayya Ghani because Board Member Rayya Ghani inappropriately yelled, demeaned, and harassed former Business Manager C.L.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM P</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Tillman to censure Board Member Rayya Ghani because Board Member Rayya Ghani failed to timely include items on the Board Agenda or relegated them to non-voting status when requested by Board Members.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Castillo, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Gray-Everett, and Ms. Jemine. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM Q</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to censure Board Member Rayya Ghani because Board Member Rayya Ghani failed to act in an appropriate manner and decorum of someone in her position, reflecting poorly on the Board and the District.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM R</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve Resolution and Bill of Particulars and declare Board President Rayya Ghani's seat vacant due to her convictions.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM S</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo for the approval to report Resolution and Bill of Particulars of Board Member Rayya Ghani's convictions for violations of Board Policies and statutory provisions to South Cook Intermediate Service Center</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM T</p>
<p>MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve action to move forward with procedures to fill vacancy on the Board.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM U</p>

MOTION CARRIED	
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Adjournment

MOTION by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to adjourn the board meeting at 9:52 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE : Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM V
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Wilbur Tillman, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary