

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM
MARCH 8, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting was held via Zoom and the meeting was called to order at 7:36 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, Board President.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

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

Also in attendance were: Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Dr. Twyla Harris, Cedric Lewis, Dr. Brigitte Garth-Young, April Brown, Carmen Canales, Dr. James Cunneen, Board Attorney, James Vasselli, Board Attorney, Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski, David Ormsby, Carolyn Franklin, Dr. Vedia Page, Laura Wolf, Dellnora Winters, Jamie Hayes, Dr. Nicole Robinson, BeNita Parker, Karen Slate, ZaRita Beal, Renata Patterson, April Davis, Christal Washington, John Johnson, Gabrielle Herndon, Latricia Lewis, Jamar Everett, John Shields, John Smida, Sheila Colone, Kim, Jeannie Dryan, Tonya Thomas, Mae Brown, Suzanne Seifert, Yvette Shackelford, Kimberly Khan, William Watson, Maria Liggons, Sharonne Dinnwiddie, Jennifer Walsh, Ernesta Ransom, Sarah Winbush, Angela Grimes, Felecia Nunley, Nafiseh Vossoughi-Parks, Secrett Stone, JaMese McGee, Jessica Skores, Cherita Smith, Elaine Landrum, Jennifer Portwood, Ashlee Stanley and Fares Nimri.

New Business

1. Discuss and Take Final Action Regarding the Will Tillman Campaign Solicitation Letter Dated February 19, 2021.

Board Attorney, James Vasselli, asked the Board of Education has anyone seen the letter. We will circulate it around. Board Attorney, James Vasselli read the letter in its entirety.

The Board Attorney, James Vasselli stated he represents all the Board members and did not feel comfortable handling this matter. He asked to be recused in this matter due to a conflict of interest. Vasselli indicated that as the Board Attorney his representation includes Member Tillman and his firm would also be considered a “valued vendor” and the Tillman letter may have been directed to his firm. He recommended the Board appoint Montana & Welch as outside counsel to investigate the Tillman letter.

Board Members Rayya Ghani, Pamela Eldridge, Lolita Crisler-Liggons and Bertha Jolly stated the letter Board Member Will Tillman sent out to the vendors was illegal, deceiving and misleading. Mr. Tillman responded by stating the D2’s in 2017 the Board received thousands of dollars from vendors.

New Business

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to direct staff to circulate the letter that was read into the record to the members of the Board of Education. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani and Mr. Castillo. Abstain: Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>DIRECT STAFF TO CIRCULATE THE LETTER THAT WAS READ INTO THE RECORD TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION</p>
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- 2. Discuss and Take Final Action Regarding Possible Policy Violations (e.g., BOE Policy 2:100) Regarding the Will Tillman Campaign Solicitation Letter Dated February 19, 2021.

New Business

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Ms. Ghani to retain outside Counsel with the law firm of Montana & Welch at the same rates as the district counsel to review the legalities of the letter; action taken both for Board Policy and the Illinois Compiled Statues as well as any other rules and or regulations. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly and Mr. Castillo. Nay: Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>RETAIN OUTSIDE COUNSEL WITH THE LAW FIRM OF MONTANA & WELCH AT THE SAME RATES AS THE DISTRICT COUNSEL TO REVIEW THE LEGALITIES OF THE LETTER; ACTION TAKEN BOTH FOR BOARD POLICY AND THE ILLINOIS COMPILED STATUES AS WELL AS ANY OTHER RULES AND OR REGULATIONS</p>
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Any further question or comments from the board - NONE

Public Comments – There was no public comments.

Adjournment

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons Adjourn at 8:01 P.M. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>
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