

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM  
MARCH 29, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting was held via Zoom and the meeting was called to order at 6:48 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. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, 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, Board Attorney, Jill Kolinski, 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, Alfred Thompkins, Sheila Colone, Kim, Jeannie Dryan, Tonya Thomas, Mae Brown, Suzanne Seifert, Yvette Shackelford, Kimberly Khan, William Watson, Maria Liggons, Sharonne Dinnwiddie, Cathleen Mancine, Jennifer Walsh, Ernesta Ransom, Sarah Winbush, Angela Grimes, Felecia Nunley, Nafiseh Vossoughi-Parks, Secrett Stone, Shari Gomez, Ja-Mese McGee, Cherita Smith, Elaine Landrum, Jennifer Portwood, Tracy Gentile-Kelly, Stacey Brugess-Brundige, Ashlee Stanley, Fares Nimri, Ms. Moore, Debor, Attorney Keith L. Spence, Angela Martin, Revens, Denise Kyles, Melissa Skiff, Javida Boddy, Camisha Morris, Mackbook Pro, Amina Giwah, Darius Brady, Amanda, Jordynn, Christopher Johnson, Laura Anderson, Danette Quinn, Monica Lavalais, Suzy Brath, Ms. McGee, Sheryl Lewis, Quiana, Kimberly Whiting, Marion Weisinger, Damien McFarland, Aminat, Resident 149, Kelley's, Corian Franklin, Mrs. Copps, Sanaa Moore, Adwoa Bremang and Lynn Harris.

Convene at 6:48 P.M.

**Discuss and Take Action Regarding Will Tillman-**

Attorney Jill Kolinski from Montana & Welch Law Firm read the Will Tillman letter dated February 19, 2021. Ms. Kolinski discussed which Board Policies were violated by the Tillman letter, including 2.100, 2.105, and Tillman's oath of office. Ms. Kolinski informed the Board that a letter had been sent to all vendors of the district informing them that the Tillman letter was sent without the authorization or knowledge of the Board and that their relationship to the District is not contingent on whether or not they have donated to Tillman's political action committee. Ms. Kolinski also informed the Board that a letter was sent to the Cook County State's Attorney to advise that it was willing to cooperate in any investigation resulting therefrom. Finally, Ms. Kolinski advised that a cease and desist letter had been served upon Will Tillman and Teresa Jemine and ordered that they immediately cease and desist the collection of campaign contributions from vendors, disclose any contributions made, that those contributions be returned, and finally, that they discontinue use of the name "Friends and Residents of 149."

Ms. Kolinski informed the Board they must collectively decide what further action should be taken with regard to Mr. Tillman and advised that removal was warranted under the circumstances.

Ms. Ghani said thank you to Attorney Jill Kolinski. She stated she would like to make a motion to remove Wilbur Tillman from the Board for violation of Board Policy and the way he conducts himself as an elected official.

**New Business**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to remove Wilbur Tillman from the Board for violation of Board Policy and the way he conducts himself as an elected official.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo and Mrs. Gray Everett. Abstain: Attorney Keith L. Spence abstained on behalf of Mr. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>REMOVE WILBUR TILLMAN FROM THE BOARD FOR VIOLATION OF BOARD POLICY AND THE WAY HE CONDUCTS HIMSELF AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL</p>
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**Attorney Keith L. Spence**

**Paraphrasing:**

Mr. Tillman should be allowed to speak. Mr. Tillman has been accused of violating policies of this Board by sending out a letter on behalf of Friends and Residents of 149 seeking contributions. Mr. Tillman is not currently on the ballot seeking re-election. Mr. Tillman did not knowingly and intentionally violate the District’s policy. To date, Mr. Tillman has not deposited any vendor money into any account. Mr. Tillman will disclose any checks received and they will be returned.

Board President Gray Everett respectfully stopped Attorney Keith L. Spence and requested him to send his information and our district attorney will get back to him.

**Public Comments – None**

**Shari Gomez, CTA President**

**Paraphrasing:**

Shari Gomez is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at STEM Academy and is the President of the Classroom Teachers Association. She stated she did hear what Dr. Cunneen said at the last meeting and our hope as the membership that we can continue to work with the current Board as we always support all of you.

**Adjournment**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to Adjourn at 7:13 P.M.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>
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Darlene Gray Everett, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary