

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149

MINUTES OF

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2023

The Board Meeting convened at 6:49 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mr. Tillman, Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Elston and Mrs. Gray-Everett arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Felicia Frazier, Janene Preston, Carmen Canales, Dr. Kenneth Scott, Janice Opitz, DeWayne Anderson, Jamar Everett, Stacy Miles, Chief Pointer, Latricia Lewis, Danielle Franklin, Daryll Lacey, Yolanda Martin, Ernesta Ransom, Dr. Nicole Robinson, Laura Wolf, Sparkle Tiffith, Theresa Smith, Crystal Montgomery, Christina Montgomery, Nicole Taylor, Kyle Janzcewski, LaToyla Jones, Karen Slate, Gerald Scott, Tia Williams, Christal Washington, Lynn McAfee, Martiae Jenkins-Alexander and David Ormsby.

**The Pledge of Allegiance** – Said by all

**Cabinet Reports**

Dr. White reported on the current status of enrollment for a total of 2,219 students. Mrs. Opitz presented the tentative budget at the last board meeting and next Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> will be the public hearing. Dr. White also addressed the board regarding the November and December board meeting dates as they can impact the levy. Dr. White concluded her report by asking SOFA Principal Mrs. Christal Washington to stand and announced that Mrs. Washington would soon be receiving a new kidney and to keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Mrs. Crisler-Liggons asked a question regarding the public hearing and Dr. White answered with clarity.

Mr. Daryll Lacey, CCA Principal, presented a PowerPoint highlighting the daily and weekly happenings going on at CCA.

Mrs. Crisler-Liggons thanked Mr. Lacey for creating a creative way for students and staff to engage.

**Approval authorizing Township Treasurer to pay invoices**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Tillman to approve authorization to the Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated August 28, 2023, September 1, 2023 and September 21, 2023, consisting of 105 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM D</p>
<p>Education Fund \$ 810,219.68</p>	
<p>Operations and Maintenance Fund \$ 158,261.97</p>	
<p>Transportation Fund \$ 183,438.09</p>	
<p>Tort Immunity Fund <u>\$ 69,502.42</u> \$1,221,422.16</p>	
<p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p>	
<p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	

## Consent Agenda

**MOTION** by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve consent agenda items E1-9:

AGENDA  
ITEMS E

1. Approval of payroll summaries for August 4, 2023, in the amount of \$337,444.98
2. Approval of payroll summaries for August 18, 2023, in the amount of \$933,974.53
3. Approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting held August 24, 2023
4. Approval to extend a single-year School Portrait agreement with Lifetouch National School Studios for the 2024-2025 school year
5. Approval of District e-Learning Plan
6. Approval of District Bullying Prevention Policy
7. Approval of MOU with Illinois Action for Children Early Learning Program
8. Approval of transportation agreement with KE Transportation to provide transportation for McKinney Vento students, as needed, during the 23/24 school year
9. Personnel Report

Resignation:

- a. Acceptance of the letter of resignation from Kimberley Thurmon, permanent guest teacher at Diekman, effective, August 30, 2023
- b. Acceptance of resignation from Richard Kemp, custodian at Diekman, effective, September 1, 2023
- c. Acceptance of the letter of resignation from Debra Foster, permanent guest teacher at Diekman, effective, September 14, 2023
- d. Acceptance of the letter of resignation from Sharonda Milton, permanent guest teacher at Berger-Vandenberg, effective, September 22, 2023

Retirement:

- e. Acceptance of letter of intent to retire from Kimberly Woodson, teacher from Caroline Sibley, effective May 2027.

Employment:

- f. Approval of employment of Chardonnay Jones, permanent guest teacher at Diekman, effective August 30, 2023
- g. Approval of employment of LaTasha Freeman, paraprofessional at STEM, effective September 18, 2023
- h. Approval of employment of Helina Konadu Kuffour, Special Education Teacher at Caroline Sibley, effective date to be determined
- i. Approval of employment of Justice Kangah, Teacher at CCA, effective date to be determined

<p>j. Approval of employment of Lorna J James, Teacher at CCA, effective date to be determined</p> <p>Leave of Absence:</p> <p>k. Approval of intermittent FMLA for Danelle Gunn-Thomas, teacher at Diekman for the 2023-2024 school year</p> <p>l. Approval of intermittent FMLA for Dr. Angela Winters, social worker at Caroline Sibley for the 2023-2024 school year</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Elston and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	
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**Attorney Report**

Attorney Felicia Frazier addressed the board regarding memos that will be provided pertaining to the Open Meetings Act and the responsibilities of Board Members. When a member acts singly, they are not protected as a board. It is only when you are a board together collectively in a meeting, that you have your power.

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. Elston to adjourn to a Closed session at 7:11 p.m.</p> <p>1. Motion to convene to a closed session meeting for the purpose of discussing the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of Dolton School District 149. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)</li> <li>• Student Disciplinary Cases 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9)</li> </ul> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM G1</p>
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**Adjourn from Closed Session**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to adjourn closed session and reconvene open session meeting at 7:47 p.m.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM G2</p>
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**Roll Call:** Present: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mr. Tillman.

**Final Action on Closed Session Items**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Elston to approve student discipline decision as discussed in closed session.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Ms. Jemine and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM H1</p>
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<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the Superintendent’s goals as discussed in closed session.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-William, Mrs. Gray-Everett and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM H2
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Gray-Everett, seconded by Ms. Jolly to approve the retirement request from Rosalind Lewis.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mr. Tillman, Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Elston and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM H3
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Ms. Jemine to table the retirement request from Kathleen Randell-Homere.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Ms. Jemine, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM H3

**Old Business**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. Jolly to approve the first reading of Press Policy Issues 108, 109, 110, 111 &amp; 112.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mrs., Jolly, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p>Nay: Mrs. Gray-Everett.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM I
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**New Business**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams to approve the Board of Education and designees to attend the NSBA 2024 Annual Conference in New Orleans, April 6 – 8, 2024.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM J1
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mr. Tillman to approve a resolution authorizing the installation of a new fire alarm system to be installed on an emergency basis for Berger-Vandenberg in the amount of \$144,700 plus contingency costs.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mrs. Elston and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM J2
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. Jolly complete and sign, by Board President and Superintendent, the application for a building permit for fire alarm system installation at Berger-Vandenberg.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Ms. Jemine, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Gray-Everett, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Elston.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM J3

**Meeting Open for Public Comments:**

Ms. Jemine addressed the board stating that the board is not on the same page. Issues must be brought to the board collectively. There needs to be protocols and respect. The goal is to make sure that the Superintendent has what she needs to get her staff what they need to get these kids scores up.

Mrs. Jolly advised to get to know people yourself. Don't listen to what anyone else tells you. She also stated that the chain of command needs to be followed.

Mrs. Crisler-Liggons stated that the board is here for a purpose and has to work together. We will not allow this board to be torn apart. We are here for three reasons; the children, the taxpayers and the education. Anything else beyond that, leave it outside the door.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams added that it seems like tug of war when she is inquiring about something or bringing something to the Superintendent or to the President. When nothing is answered or she is denied something, when she comes back, she has something in black and white. She does not have a hidden agenda and is just trying to do what is right by the board. She is here for the community. She is here for the taxpayers.

Dr. White addressed the board stating that she is here for seven people. What she cannot do is have a phone call from seven people giving different directives. She cannot run a district like that. She needs to get orders from one person. She does not intend for anyone to feel like this is tug of war. What she needs is for members to talk to Mrs. Liggins. Mrs. Liggins tells her what to do, and then she will give all what the president directs her to do.

Mrs. Gray-Everett stated it is unfair to put the Superintendent in that position. We are one individual with one vote. That's why it's one voice, which is your president. There is nothing wrong with questions and getting your answers. But there is a thing about learning because violating the Open Meetings Act can have you somewhere that you don't want to be. We need to collectively, as a board, work to together.

Mrs. Crisler-Liggons thanked everyone for their comments.

**Adjournment**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Ms. Jemine, seconded by Mrs. Gray-Everett to adjourn the board meeting at 8:07 p.m.  <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: All in favor said "Aye".  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM L</p>
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Lolita Crisler-Liggons, President

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Bertha Jolly, Secretary