

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
 MINUTES OF  
 THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
 May 2, 2025

The Board Meeting convened at 6:01 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Elston. Absent: Mrs. Gray-Everett and Ms. Jemine.

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Frazier, Attorney Odelson, Janene Preston, Dr. Kenneth Scott, Chief Pointer, Stacy Miles, Jamar Everett, Janice Opitz, Nicole Taylor, Dr. Nicole Robinson, Christal Washington, Karen Slate, Ernesta Ransom, Tia Williams, Marian Dowling, LaTasha Clark, Danielle Franklin, Sparkle Tiffith, Shelia Colone, S. Dinnwiddie, Christina Montgomery, Daryll Lacey, DeWayne Anderson, Robert Bufford, Dr. Kenneth Scott, Theresa Smith, LaToyla Jones, Keith McFall, Crystal Montgomery, Gerald Scott, Tanyelle Hannah, Martiae Alexander, Maurio Tillman, Marcus Covington, Felita Crayton, Chris Ill, Karren Matthis, Victgoria Gavin, LaToya Garrett, L. Mobley, Angelique Wilson, Carl Sylvester, Kenisha LeSure, Annette Collins, Jesse Outlaw, K. Brown, Val Williams, Karen Oliver, Stan Brown, Felecia Fisher, Eric Fisher, Stephanie Washington, Cleo Jones, Edward Evans, Curis Conzalez, Myra Gardner, Christina Scruggs, Prince Reed, Deborah Haynes Shegob, Alvin Jefferson, Darlena Davis, Vivian Davis, Jenesia Belt, V. Stubbs, Michele Turner, Joshua Brown, D. Betts, Lakita James, Carol Lloyd, Ramonde Williams and other guests.

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

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated she would like the March 27, 2025 Board of Education Minutes amended to reflect, on page 4, that she asked for details of the contracts and if there was an increase for fiscal year 2026 (agenda items J3-5). In addition, her name was misspelled a little further down on page 4.

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mr. Tillman to approve the amended minutes from the regular board meeting held March 27, 2025  <b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons  <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM D</p>
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated that the waiver is dated April 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Board did not have a meeting, and there is to be information in regards to a Public Hearing and requirements pertaining to posting 14 days and 7 days prior to the hearing. There was nothing in the packet regarding this information, and so what is the Board voting on?

Dr. White replied that the Board is voting on it because there was a Public Hearing, and no one showed up. All items were submitted to the State within the appropriate number of days prior. This information was all included in the previous Board packet, and this was just a reminder in case anyone needed a refresher on what it is.

Mrs. Crisler-Liggons asked if the information was in the last packet. Dr. White confirmed that the information was in the last packet and that it was all posted as well.

<b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve Daily Pupil Attendance Calculation Waiver <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Elston. Abstain: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	AGENDA ITEM E
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Dr. White read the Consolidated General Election results of the election winners. The Cook County Clerk, having completed a canvas of all votes cast for School Board Dolton 149, hereby certifies that the following vote total certify the vote totals. Alicia Burks, 29.22 percent, 2,695 votes. L’Tanya King, 23.31%, 2,150 votes. Sheryl E. Tillman, 26.89%, 2,480 votes. Sonya Irene Williams, 9.10%, 839 votes. Oghemekevwe Jemine, 5.10% 470 votes. Teresa Jemime, 6.38%, 588 votes. A total of voting of 100% and 9,222 total votes. This was signed by Monica Gordon at the Cook County Clerk’s Office.

<b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston for adoption of certified election results from the April 1, 2025 Consolidated General Election and certification of election winners. <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons and Mr. Tillman. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	AGENDA ITEM F
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<b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Jolly, seconded by Mrs. Elston to adjourn the old Board of Education Sine Die. <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Crisler-Liggons. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	AGENDA ITEM G
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Due to not having a quorum of the Board, Mr. Tillman requested to move Agenda Item I before Item H and that Judge Outlaw please come up and swear in the new board members.

<b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston to elect Mr. Wilbur Tillman as President Pro Tem for Purpose of the Election of Board Officers. <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Ms. King, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Tillman and Mr. Tillman. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	AGENDA ITEM I
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**Agenda Item H: School Board Election**

**1. Proclamation of Results**

**A. The Board of Education proclaims the following results of the April 1st, 2025 elections:**

**That the following individuals were selected to a four-year term on the Board of Education:  
Alicia Burks, L’Tanya King, Sheryl Tillman.**

**2. Oath of Office of the New Board Members**

**Swearing-in new Board Members by Honorable Jesse Outlaw, Circuit Judge**

**Agenda Item J: Nomination and Election of:**

**1. Board President – Mrs. De Vasher-Williams nominates Mr. Tillman**

**2. Board Vice President – Mr. Tillman nominates Mrs. De Vasher-Williams**

**3. Board Secretary = Mrs. Elston nominates Mrs. Tillman**

**All in favor said “Aye”.**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston to terminate the services of Del Galdo Law Group as attorneys for the District.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Ms. Burks, Mr. Tillman, Ms. King and Mrs. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM K
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve the appointment of OMFM Law Offices as new attorneys for the District.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Ms. King, Ms. Burks, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM L
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve the appointment of High Society Management as Public Relations Consultant for one year at a rate of \$3,000.00/month beginning July 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Ms. King, Ms. Burks, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM M
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to terminate the services of David Ormsby, Inc., effective June 2, 2025.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Ms. Burks, Mr. Tillman, Ms. King and Mrs. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM N
<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve School Board Meeting schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at District Offices located at 292 Torrence avenue, Calumet City, Illinois as the regularly scheduled Board meetings for District 149 for Fiscal Year 2025 beginning July 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL TO VOTE:</b> Aye: Mrs. Elson, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Ms. Burks, Ms. King and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	AGENDA ITEM O

**Public Comments –**

Ms. Janet Roberts, Chairman of the Illinois Association of School Boards and Harvey School Board Member, welcomed the Board. Ms. Roberts announced that Mr. Tillman is the Resolution Chairman of the Illinois Association of School Boards. She invited all to attend a meeting next month and requested that all School Board members stand. She stated to the Board that they all want to say “Hi” and congratulate everyone.

Mr. Crayton, long-time resident and first African American PTA President in District 149, welcomed and congratulated the new Board. She read to the Board, “Leadership is not about a title or a destination. It’s about impact, influence, and inspiration.”

**Board Comments –**

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams - First, give praise and honor to God for the ability to be here in the presence of all of you. On this day, it's glorious to welcome three new faces to this board. I look forward to working with you all. I am so blessed and pleased that we will come together, we will join forces, and we will unite as one, in order to get things done with our superintendent, with our board president, and with the community, the stakeholders, and our scholars. That's who we are here for. Thank you all and God bless.

Mrs. Elston - I would just like to welcome the ladies on board to the School Board. We're looking forward to working with you. Congratulations on your election.

Ms. King – Thank you for the welcoming gestures that everyone has done since we started this journey. Thank you to my family and friends that are supporting me. I can’t wait to get started. I’m excited.

Ms. Burks – First and foremost, I would like to give thanks to God. I do it every day, every morning, every hour, every day. Of course, my mother, my children, for my main support, my family. I'm excited and I'm ready to take on a new role.

Mrs. Tillman - First of all, I'll always start off with saying, in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. That's what I live my life by. This is truly an honor, and I'm so humbled, and I am so grateful. Many of you who know me know I always stay in the atmosphere of gratefulness, because I understand that every opportunity given to us is from God. I thank God that he allowed me to serve in this district for 14 years. Thank you, Miss Crayton because she was the first PTA president of Berger Vandenberg. I was the second PTA President of Caroline Sibley. So we've been involved with education for many, many years. We formed road trips to the state, asking for funding to be equitable between our districts. And I always said that we always pattern ourselves on other districts. How about creating standards where other districts pattern themselves on us? 149. That's my goal, that's my vision, that we create an atmosphere where other districts in our community say, what are they doing differently over there? Why are these teachers getting these Golden Globe awards? Why are their students excelling to the point that every student is being accepted at a college level with none payment to them at the scholarship level? And so that's what we are seeking to achieve. We know we can do it, it's re-imagined. And I'm so grateful. I am so humbled and I am glad to be back. Thank you all so much.

Mr. Tillman - I really thank God for being here. I mean, his word says in Psalms 75, it is him who takes one person down and elevates another. So there is no one that's sitting at this seat right now that was not supposed to be here. And all the other electives, same thing for you as well. But I am absolutely thrilled to welcome our new board members. And not just as colleagues, but true partners in building a stronger, smarter, and more connected future for our schools and our communities. Your fresh ideas, your energy, and commitment brings a powerful momentum. That we're ready to put in motion. We have envisioned to go ahead, and reaching them would take all of us. The key, and everybody know I've been saying this for a while, is collaboration. We goping to work together at every level. We'll work side by side, not just as a board, but with the entire team, every administrator, every teacher, every staff member, who shows up every day to change lives. We're gonna work with them. Our strength is in our shared purpose and our open communication, but we're thinking even bigger. We will deepen our intergovernmental partnerships for all four of our municipalities. Those are Calumet City, Dolton, South Holland, and Burnham. We'll work with our park and library boards. Absolutely, we're partnering. We're going to do this. And of course Thornton Township will be a vital ally. And let's not overlook the state level. With strong advocates like Thaddeus Jones and Will Davis, in 149 we have both of them now. As well as Senator Harris on our side, we had real opportunities to push forward the resources our students need. Especially as federal support remains uncertain. In fact, just a little caveat, I had about a 15 minute conversation with the Senator today. And I was talking about our funding because the feds right now has put our funding on hold. So I was telling them already, we're going to work on this thing. We're going work with our partners. Together, we were building a support system that extends far beyond the classroom. I want to thank every single board member that was at the table before me. I mean, they're gone, they are out of here. But I want thank them. I learned something from each one of them and it made me a better board member because of that. Now before I close, I want to be transparent about something. I really do. Because there's a little bit of an elephant in the room and I just want to clear it up. There are two Tillmans sitting at this table. And I've already heard some of the chatter about voting, oh yeah he has two votes and you know all that sort of little thing. Let me be very clear, April 2nd, my lovely wife, she told me “Will, I wanna let you know something”. She said, “I hope you don't think that just because you said it, I'm gonna vote for what you say”. She basically said, “I'm not a rubber stamp”. And what I told her was, I don't expect you to do that. I said, including myself, we have seven thought partners. People that we can collaborate with, talk to, we can all talk together. We can come up with the best decision, and then we move forward. But what else I did tell her was that, but one thing we're not gonna do, like we've seen in communities, we're not gonna get out here at 149 and be an embarrassment to the community. We're not going to do that. If we got to fight, we're gonna fight behind closed doors, but when we come out, we're gonna do our job. I'm ready to do this thing, and I know they're ready to give it a try. You know my good friend said, “If you want to go fast, you can go by yourself. If you want to go far, you go with a team”. That's what she says. And I'm going to add... And if you want to change the world of education, go with L'Tanya King, Alicia Burks, Sheryl Tillman, Shonda

De Vasher-Williams, and Cassandra Elston, because we're going to change this world. I forgot to say one thing, I forgot to thank my family. Will my family please stand up? That includes all my family. Thank you all so much for coming. And I am truly humbled, and I'm grateful. We thank you for all of our families here, all of our friends who are here. We wanted to say thank you, and we're grateful, and we are ready to serve you. Thanks.

**Adjournment**

<p><b>MOTION</b> by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston to adjourn the board meeting at 6:45 p.m. <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Ms. Burks, Ms. King, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Tillman. <b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM L</p>
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Wilbur Tillman, President

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Sheryl Tillman, Secretary