

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 5, 2025

The Board Meeting convened at 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, and Mrs. King. Ms. Burks arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Centeno, Lee Smith Janene Preston, Jim Maciejewski, Dr. Natalie Williams-McMahon, Dr. Nakita Cloud, Dr. Mellodie Brown, Dr. Nicole Robinson, Robert Bufford, DeWayne Anderson, Nicole Taylor, Ernesta Ransom, La Toyla Jones, Martiae Jenkins-Alexander, Janice Opitz, Tia Williams, Christal Washington, Marian Dowling, Karen Slate, Daryll Lacey, Jason Battle, Sparkle Tiffith, Danielle Franklin, Tammy Buckley, Crystian Chatman, LaTasha Clark, Renee Carter, Tanyelle Hannah, Chief Pointer, Stacy Miles, Torrean Walker, John Shields, Jamar Everett, and Dr. Wright.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Mr. Tillman gave thanks to the Board for approving the Families Matter events and to the staff for their hard work in making the events successful. Stay tuned for more events to come.

Cabinet Reports-

Dr. White reported that the Back to School Event will be held on August 13, 2025, with Middle School starting at 8:00 a.m. and Elementary Schools at 8:15 a.m., and the community is invited to welcome students with pompoms, clappers, and breakfast refreshments. She shared that, following two job fairs and extensive networking, all assistant principal positions have been filled with the appointments of Tammy Buckley, Renee Carter, and Crystian Chatman, and thanked Danielle Franklin for serving as the sole Middle School AP for two years. Of the 23 certified teacher vacancies, 12 have been filled, with the remaining 11 to be covered by permanent guest teachers; custodian positions are fully staffed. Dr. White also addressed the Board's request to investigate claims of MacBook purchases, confirming that a review of district accounts showed none have been purchased in the past three years.

Attorney Priscilla Centeno reported on the new law regarding parenting opting out of select curriculum. Essentially parents just have to provide notice to the district that they, because of the religious belief, do not want their child to be learning anything with LGBTQ rights or something related to something that's against their religious belief and once they form the district of that, the district will remove the student from learning that and give them an alternative assignment based on the age or grade that they're in.

Jim Maciejewski, JMA, gave a brief report of the current status of the renovations. The construction update covered ongoing and completed work across three schools. At Berger-Vandenberg, final touches are being made to the media center, converted gym offices, and new second-floor offices, with flooring, ceiling, lighting, and plumbing nearly complete; gym updates are done except for pending acoustic panels, and north side renovations are underway with unit ventilator installation planned. Mechanical contractor delays were noted as a concern for future projects. At Diekman, south wing updates—including office clearance, wall

finishes, and bathroom flooring—are set to finish this week. At Caroline Sibley, phase one has begun in the far east wing, with work planned in three phases to minimize impact on students.

Mr. Tillman asked what the timeline is for the completion at Diekman.

Jim Maciejewski answered that the anticipated turnover date is at the end of the winter break.

Mr. Crivens asked if that is the same timeline for every other school except for Caroline Sibley.

Jim Maciejewski answered that Berger-Vandenberg was completed largely over the last school year, and there are just some smaller projects that were added on. In addition, Caroline Sibley is expected to be completed in three phases, with the third phase to be completed right at the beginning of SY 26.

Mr. Crivens asked if all projects were on budget, and Jim answered, Yes.

Dr. Natalie McMahon-Williams with Can & Will Foundation gave a presentation on strategic planning. A strategic plan serves as a blueprint to guide student success, align the superintendent and board's goals, and involve all stakeholders—teachers, parents, students, businesses, and the community—in decision-making. The plan begins with a clear mission and vision, uses data to assess needs, sets priorities, allocates resources effectively, and includes flexibility to adapt to challenges like COVID. Regular monitoring and evaluation, clear communication, and stakeholder engagement ensure goals are met, budgets support student needs, and progress is sustained over time. Ultimately, the plan is about preparing students to become future leaders and contributing community members.

Mr. Tillman stated that the Board just set their committees and asked how critical a strategic plan is in regard to the Board committees.

Dr. Natalie McMahon-Williams explained that a strategic plan is closely tied to board committees, as each committee should use relevant data to set and address top priorities within the plan. Committees help determine needs, budget allocations, and safety or quality improvements. They also stressed the importance of including all community stakeholders—local officials, businesses, parents, administrators, and especially students—in building the plan. Broad involvement ensures decisions reflect the community's needs, fosters resource sharing, and creates a continuous cycle of improvement benefiting both schools and the community.

Principal Karen Slate and Principal Sparkle Tiffith reported on the recent Leadership Retreat. The leadership retreat brought together principals, district leaders, and administrators for team-building, reflection, and planning. The retreat allowed elementary, middle school, and district office teams to discuss successes, challenges, and improvement needs. A key exercise was developing “elevator speeches” to clearly communicate school achievements and priorities, such as targeted tutoring to address second-grade reading skill gaps. The retreat laid the foundation for a district-wide school improvement plan, with an ongoing process of reviewing, reflecting, and adjusting strategies throughout the year. The 2025–26 theme, TLC – Thrive, Learn, Connect, will guide work, focusing on a few key priorities (“big rocks”) to ensure intentional progress monitoring and measurable impact. Participants returned recharged, aligned, and committed to collaborative leadership for student success.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve authorization to the Township Treasurer to pay invoices June 30, 2025, July 8, 2025, and August 5, 2025, consisting of 107 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Education Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,197,963.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operations and Maintenance Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 150,095.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Debt Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 12,339.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 231,732.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Projects</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 72,218.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tort Immunity Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 740,747.62</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,405,097.94</td> </tr> </table> <p>ROLL CALL TO VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Ms. Burks, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	Education Fund	\$1,197,963.95	Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 150,095.20	Debt Services	\$ 12,339.66	Transportation Fund	\$ 231,732.75	Capital Projects	\$ 72,218.76	Tort Immunity Fund	<u>\$ 740,747.62</u>		\$2,405,097.94	<p>AGENDA ITEM E</p>
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Mr. Crivens requested to remove items F6, 7 & 8 from the consent agenda.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve consent agenda items F1-5:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of payroll summaries for June 5, 2025, in the amount of \$1,052,774.82 2. Approval of payroll summaries for June 18, 2025, in the amount of \$2,857,911.53 3. Approval of payroll summaries for June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$53,075.52 4. Approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting held June 16, 2025 5. Approval of the minutes from the special board meeting held on July 9, 2025 <p>ROLL CALL TO VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F1-5</p>
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Mr. Tillman announced the Board committee assignments and administrator liaisons:

- Technology Committee – Chair: Ms. King, Vice Chair: Mr. Crivens; Admin: Robert Bufford
- Food Service / Transportation Committee – Chair: Ms. Burks, Vice Chair: Mrs. Tillman; Admin: Dr. Brown & Dr. Robinson
- Community Outreach / Parent Teacher Advisory Committee – Chair: Mrs. Tillman, Vice Chair: Mrs. Elston; Admin: Dr. Brown & Dr. Robinson
- Finance / Building & Safety Committee – Chair: Ms. Elston, Vice-Chair: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams; Admin: Business Manager Janice Opitz & DeWayne Anderson
- Policy / Discipline – Chair: Crivens, Vice-Chair: Ms. Burks; Admin: Ernesta Ransom & Nicole Taylor

- Curriculum Committee – Chair: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Vice-Chair Ms. King; Admin: Martiae Jenkins-Alexander & La Toyla Jones

Adjourn to Closed Session

<p>MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to adjourn to a Closed session at 7:27 p.m.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion to convene to a closed session meeting for the purpose of discussing the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel of Dolton School District 149, 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) 2. Motion to adjourn closed session meeting and reconvene open session meeting <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM G</p>
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Adjourn from Closed Session at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Crivens asked about the procurement rules for curriculum purchases, specifically whether they were posted for 10 days, bid out, and whether this renewal qualified as a contract under policy.

Dr. White explained that curriculum is not a service subject to bidding, but a supply of materials. According to state code, curriculum is adopted through a process involving stakeholders—students, teachers, parents, and administrators—who review publisher presentations, vote, and then the superintendent brings the recommendation to the board for approval.

Mr. Crivens asked for clarity that it doesn't fall under procurement, and Dr. White replied, No.

Mr. Crivens asked for clarity that it doesn't fall under contract, and Dr. White replied that it is not a contract.

Attorney Centeno clarified that curriculum purchases are essentially invoices for materials, not contracts as generally understood.

Mrs. King asked if the adoption process only happens when it's a new curriculum, and Dr. White replied, Yes.

Attorney Centeno described the selection process as being extensive, including teacher committees narrowing choices before the recommendation is brought to the superintendent, administrators, and then the board approves it.

Mrs. King noted that, as a member of the curriculum committee, it would be beneficial to conduct an assessment of all curriculum in use across the district. This would help ensure there is no duplication of resources.

Dr. White explained that the Office of Teaching and Learning was intentionally placed on the committee to provide board members with a thorough understanding of existing curriculum resources.

Attorney Centeno recommended using district data and teacher feedback to evaluate curriculum effectiveness, noting that other districts review this regularly to determine whether to make changes.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve Middle School writing curriculum renewals with Sadlier, totaling in the amount of \$34,412.99. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mr. Crivens and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F6</p>
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Dr. White requested that item F7 be tabled due to the contract not being included in the Board packet.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to table the renewal of agreement with JT Sanford Educational Consulting for principal development in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month per principal for 10 months. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Ms. Burks, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION TABLED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F7</p>
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<p>MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve consent agenda item F8a: Approval of resignation from Jerome Elliott, Culture & Climate Coach at Caroline Sibley, effective July 11, 2025 ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F8a</p>
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<p>MOTION by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve consent agenda item F8b: Approval of resignation from Melissa Skiff, Resource Teacher at SOFA, effective July 1, 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, Ms. Burks, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F8b</p>
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<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve consent agenda items F8c-1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of employment of Renee Carter, Assistant Principal at Berger-Vandenberg, effective July 1, 2025 • Approval of employment of Nicole Taylor, Director of Specialized Services at the District Office, effective July 24, 2025 • Approval of employment of Latasha Randle, Assistant Principal at STEM, effective date TBD • Approval of employment of Emanuel Bramlett, Art Teacher at SOFA, effective date TBD • Approval of employment of Anthony Jamerson, Custodian at STEM, effective date TBD • Approval of employment of Phillip Crews II, Custodian at Diekman, effective date TBD • Approval of employment of Tiffany Jones, Administrative Assistant at SOFA, effective date TBD 	<p>AGENDA ITEM F8c-1</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of employment of Shazea Nathan-Robertson, Special Education 6th grade Teacher at CCA, effective date TBD • Approval of employment of Dwenzel Petty, Guest Teacher at TBD, effective date TBD • Approval of employment of Charles Copeland, Guest Music Teacher at CMB, effective date TBD <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mr. Crivens and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve consent agenda items F8m-p:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of intermittent FMLA for Malina Wilson, Administrative Assistant at Berger-Vandenberg, effective July 17, 2025 through June 30, 2026 • Approval of FMLA for Tiffany Blackman, Teacher at Caroline Sibley, effective July 11, 2025 through August 22, 2025 • Approval of intermittent FMLA for Anita Trotter, Administrative Assistant at Carol Moseley Braun, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 • Approval of intermittent FMLA for Jamie Sabodor, Teacher at Caroline Sibley, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F8m-p</p>

Final Action on Closed Session Items

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve the termination of Crystal Montgomery.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mr. Crivens.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM H1</p>
<p>Agenda items H2-3 were tabled</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM H2-3</p>

Old Business

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated that the motion indicates that the 10 days for unused vacation days is annually, and she thought the contract stated it was just up to 10 days. She doesn't recall the Board stating that it would be annually at the retreat. Her response was to use it or lose it.

Dr. White replied that it is not what her contract currently says.

Mrs. Tillman said that what she recalls is that the Board said it would be 10 days, but that they encouraged Dr. White to use her days.

Mr. Crivens stated he read Dr. White's contract and that the 10 days annually are already in her contract.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to allow the Superintendent to annually exchange up to 10 days of unused vacation days for payment at the per diem rate. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Ms. Burks and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM I1</p>
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Mr. Crivens asked if the transportation agreement for McKinney-Vento students qualified as a contract and if so, whether it was subject to procurement rules requiring competitive bidding.

Dr. White explained that the service is not considered a contract because it falls under McKinney-Vento requirements, which serve the district's homeless population as well as diverse learners who are severely or profoundly disabled and medically fragile. She noted that the number of students needing transportation is unknown at the outset and may range widely, making it an as-needed service rather than a fixed contractual arrangement.

Mr. Crivens stated that it's a good service for the population that Dr. White referenced; however, he thinks it falls under the contract era because we are asking for service to be paid to a vendor, and did we get three responsible bidders? Did we put it out to bid? Did we allow the bid to be opened before the public under those procurement rules?

Attorney Centeno noted the service is highly specialized with few providers, and would have to look at the contract before confirming.

Mr. Tillman recalled past issues when a provider couldn't meet a wheelchair-bound student's needs, emphasizing the importance of the right fit.

Dr. White questioned how to determine the lowest responsible bid when the number of students needing the service varies.

Attorney Centeno clarified that the service is typically billed on an as-needed basis and will confirm if it's exempt from bidding rules.

Mr. Crivens cited Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21) requiring procurement compliance, including at least three bidders, unless exempt.

Attorney Centeno reiterated that she believes the service is exempt but will provide legal analysis.

Mr. Crivens made a motion to table Agenda item J1.

Dr. White stressed the urgency, questioning if delaying the action would mean telling special needs students they couldn't attend school until the next board meeting.

Attorney Centeno stated that if there were no second, the motion to table would fail.

There was not a second to motion, and the motion to table Agenda item J1 failed.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve agreement with Strive for Greatness Transportation LLC for transportation services during the 2025-2026 school year. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, and Mrs. King. Nay: Ms. Burks, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J1</p>
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Mr. Crivens noted that the agreement amount for the Can & Will Foundation was missing from the board packet and questioned whether it should be treated as a contract requiring competitive opportunities for vendors.

Mrs. King suggested the Board might create its own strategic plan without outside help, citing examples from the outcome of the retreat.

Mr. Tillman stressed that a professionally built plan requires community partners, parents, businesses, elected officials, and administrators, and past in-house efforts were ineffective.

Mr. Crivens pushed for transparency and knowing costs before committing, warning against approving without financial details.

Mr. Tillman explained that there is no dollar amount because we don't know exactly what we are doing at this time.

Mri Crivens stated that, for transparency, we have to put things out there. See how many vendors are out there that meet that service. We have to give the same opportunity to other vendors that we have given to others.

Attorney Centeno clarified that professional services are exempt from bidding, but that the district is more than welcome to gather more proposals if desired.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated that the board has the capability to develop its own strategic plan without hiring an outside consultant, citing examples of other districts where the superintendent and their staff of choice created multi-year plans internally

Dr. White distinguished between the Board's strategic plan and the district's academic/learning strategic plan. They emphasized that while the board sets its vision and priorities, the superintendent and staff develop the district's plan based on that guidance.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams argued there shouldn't be a disconnect between the two and felt that involving an outside consultant was unnecessary because the district already has the capacity to handle the work internally.

Mrs. Tillman acknowledged that the Board has tried in-house strategic planning before, but stressed that effective leadership requires using all available resources, including outside experts. She argued that a professional can ensure all critical components are addressed, and suggested hiring a consultant for at least the first year, especially given the number of new board members, with the option to later adapt and add the board's own vision..

Ms. Burks agreed with the value of professional help if certain conditions are met. She suggested clarifying the consultant’s payment terms and contract length, and possibly doing a six-month trial to assess effectiveness. If no progress is seen, the Board could then take on the planning themselves.

Attorney Centeno recommended having a formal agreement detailing rates, terms, and termination clauses.

MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Ms. Burks, to table the agreement with Can & Will Help Foundation for the development of the District’s Strategic Plan. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Crivens, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION TABLED	AGENDA ITEM J2
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Mr. Crivens asked if there is a cost associated with the Press Plus Policy 118.

Attorney Centeno explained there was no additional cost because it was already covered under the district’s existing PRESS policy membership, which includes periodic board policy updates per state law.

Ms. Burks expressed the necessity of a timeframe, prior to the board meeting, for questions regarding items on the agenda, because all of the stopping for questions is disrupting the flow of the meeting. She suggested establishing a clear timeframe for submitting questions.

Dr. White noted that while some questions can be answered immediately, receiving a large batch late in the evening, before the meeting, requires additional preparation the next morning.

Ms. Burks proposed that a 48-hour window would be sufficient for submitting questions, emphasizing end-of-business deadlines (5 p.m.) to account for practical review time.

Mr. Crivens stated that he is not going to agree to that. It takes time to go through the packet, and certain items could be addressed on the agenda, such as “no-cost” items, to speed up the process.

Ms. Burks explained that the intent was to make the process manageable for everyone. She highlighted that last-minute questions create extra workload and that the 48-hour deadline balances courtesy to staff with efficiency for board members.

Mr. Crivens agreed with the 48-hour policy but clarified that it does not prevent board members from asking questions during the meeting itself.

MOTION by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve Press Plus Policy 118. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Ms. Burks, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM J3
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Mr. Tillman addressed Agenda items J4 & 5, which relate to the possibility of establishing a board resource library at the district office. He noted that this topic had been mentioned at the board retreat, but that it was unclear whether the current “bundle pack” being discussed was the same concept. He explained that depending on the Board’s decision, they could approve one, both, or neither of the proposals. He emphasized that he was open to whichever approach the Board preferred, whether creating a shared library or providing individual books for board members.

Mrs. King stated that she would like a book and that if there were a resource library, she would likely not utilize it and would just purchase her own book.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve a Board Resource Library at the District Office. ROLL CALL VOTE: Nay: Mrs. King, Mr. Tillman, Mr. Crivens, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION DID NOT CARRY</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J4</p>
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Attorney Centeno asked about the cost of the bundle pack from IASB and suggested that the amount be added to the motion.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams inquired about reimbursement for any board member who may have purchased the bundle.

Attorney Centeno recommended adding a motion to the next board meeting if reimbursement was needed.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve the purchase of the IASB bundle packet for New Members at the cost of \$99.00 per bundle. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Ms. Burks, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mr. Tillman, and Mrs. Elston. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J5</p>
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked for clarification on what exactly a “toolbox” refers to, noting that the district seems to be purchasing toolboxes for different components.

Dr. White explained that in this context, a toolbox contains all of the teachers’ resources related to the i-Ready curriculum. This includes teaching strategies, instructional materials, and student assessments. The toolbox essentially encompasses everything needed to implement i-Ready effectively. Dr White also mentioned that the diagnostic data used in i-Ready comes from these materials once the program is started.

Mr. Crivens inquired whether i-Ready is the only vendor providing this service.

Dr. White confirmed that i-Ready is the sole provider for its curriculum and resources, emphasizing that no other vendors can sell or replicate their proprietary materials. She clarified that her statement was not meant to be facetious but simply to explain that i-Ready resources are only available directly from i-Ready.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve the purchase of ELA iReady Toolbox and Diagnostic Testing with Curriculum Associates in the amount of \$81,206.00</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>Present: Mr. Crivens.</p> <p>Abstain: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J6</p>
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams raised a question about ongoing requests for coaching services for administrators and instructional coaches in the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL). They noted that these services have been provided year after year and wanted to understand why they were still needed.

Dr. White explained that the state’s Illinois Empower program designates certain schools as requiring targeted support, which mandates coaching. As a result, the district is obligated to provide professional development and coaching for these designated schools.

Mr. Crivens asked if BrightMorning was the only vendor that provides these coaching services.

Dr. White responded that the state provides a list of approved vendors for designated schools, and the district selects from that list. If a vendor has been used before and proven effective, the district prefers to continue with them rather than start over with a new provider. She reminded the Board that Bright Morning had appeared on the previous agenda because some staff members had already attended their sessions. The current request was for those who had not yet participated.

Mr. Crivens clarified that no bids had been solicited for these services and questioned whether the district had explored other vendors to find potentially lower costs.

Dr. White stated that the district does not go out for bids in this case because Illinois Empower specifies which vendors can be used. There are multiple vendors on the approved list, but the district selects the one it believes will be most beneficial.

Mr. Crivens asked if Bright Morning’s price was the most cost-effective among the options.

Dr. White explained that because we're an Illinois Empowered partner, they tell us who we have to choose and that pricing is not the deciding factor in Illinois Empower’s selection process.

Mr. Crivens pointed out that even with multiple vendors on the approved list, each has different pricing, and asked if BrightMorning is the most responsible price on the list.

Dr. White clarified that there are indeed several vendors on the list; however, there is no price listed. Illinois Empower has vetted them for quality, and the district chose Bright Morning again because of prior positive experience and results.

Mr. Crivens restated that his concern was whether more than one vendor offers the same service.

Dr. White summarized that the reason for selecting Bright Morning over other approved vendors is that they have previously provided valuable and effective coaching for the district.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve agreement with Bright Morning for The Art of Transformation Coaching for OTL, School Administrators, and Instructional Coaches in the amount of \$6,255.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Ms. Burks, and Mrs. King. Nay: Mr. Crivens and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM J7
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MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve agreement with Bright Morning for Coach Learning Library and PLC for OTL, School Administrators, and Instructional Coaches in the amount of \$19,080.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Ms. Burks, and Mrs. King. Nay: Mr. Crivens and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM J8
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Ms. Burks asked if the Skyward for Future Scheduling Training was for administrators, and Dr. White explained that this training was for students to do their block scheduling.

Mrs. King asked for clarification if this was just for training and not the application, and Dr. White confirmed.

MOTION by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve agreement with Skyward for Future Scheduling Training in the amount of \$4,500.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. King, Mr. Tillman, Mr. Crivens, Ms. Burks, Mrs. Elston, and Mrs. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM J9
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Mrs. Elston left the meeting at 9:43 pm

Public Comments –

Dr. Wright, Executive Director of the Advocates of Change non-profit organization, came to appeal to the Board to support their upcoming fall event in October. Dr. Wright passed out flyers to the Board with more details.

Dr. White requested clarification on administrators attending professional development conferences. She explained that state and federal funds are designated for PD, and unused funds must be returned.

Additionally, when administrators attend conferences with the Board, accountability is built in through debriefing sessions. She also reminded the Board that the administrators' contracts include PD attendance. PD attendees are chosen based on conference offerings, with the expectation of bringing back information to the district. The upcoming September CUBE Conference would be covered by grant funds if possible. The state's approval is still pending since the funds are from a prior fiscal year.

Mr. Tillman stated that there was nothing to vote on because the Board voted on this earlier; however, there was a question about administrators attending. Therefore the Board

Mrs. Tillman thanked Dr. White for the clarity because she believed that what was needed was that it was grant money being used and not taxpayer funds.

Mr. Crivens asked how much money is in the grant fund.

Dr. White responded that it was \$329,000.00 for this past school year, and approximately \$125,000.00 remains.

Mr. Crivens asked if the CUBE Conference would fall under this school year.

Dr. White clarified that because the Board had not yet made a decision, she petitioned the State to allow the district to use last year's grant funds to pay for the upcoming CUBE Conference. She shared that the State initially responded that the funds must be used within the fiscal year they were allocated, but later indicated they would review the request and follow up. Dr. White noted that the district has a precedent for this type of expenditure, citing the Triple I Conference, where payment is made in June using the previous year's budget to secure reservations for the November event. She stated that she has not yet received a final response from the State and is awaiting confirmation.

A consensus was reached by board members saying the approve administrators attending PD using grant money.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams suggested adding a discussion about crossing guards to the next board meeting agenda, noting that the topic was raised during a recent town hall at Calumet City Hall. While President Tillman had previously stated that 100% of students are bus riders, the presentation at the town hall indicated there are walkers and that a grant, at no cost to the city or district, could fund crossing guards.

Ms. Burks expressed support for discussing the crossing guard proposal, citing concerns about community safety and not wanting to receive more reports about suspicious vehicles or potential threats to students. She stated that having crossing guards could help address these issues.

Mr. Tillman agreed to place the crossing guard discussion on the next meeting agenda, noting that the word "free" was a strong selling point. He recalled the prior mention of the program, expressed no objection to it, and supported gathering additional information before the Board's consideration.

Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Ms. Burks, to adjourn the board meeting at 9:48 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: ALL IN FAVOR MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM L
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Wilbur Tillman, President

Sheryl Tillman, Secretary