

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 18, 2025

The Board Meeting convened at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Felicia Frazier, Dr. Mellodie Brown, Sparkle Tiffith, Tammy Buckley, Crystian Chatman, Latasha Clark, Danielle Franklin, Ernesta Ransom, Janice Opitz, Tia Williams, Christal Washington, DeWayne Anderson, Martiae Jenkins-Alexander, Jason Battle, Marian Dowling, Renee Carter, La Toyla Jones, Daryll Lacey, Karen Slate, Robert Bufford, Jamar Everett, Angela Pruitt, Gerald Scott, Treanna Jenkins, Kenneth Jenkins Sr., Kenneth Jenkins Jr. and M. Sanni.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Cabinet Reports-

Dr. White reported the following:

- Student Enrollment:
 - Elementary Schools: 1,466 students
 - Middle Schools: 692 students
 - Total District Enrollment: 2,158 students
- Facilities Update:
 - The coil for pipe at BV was replaced and the affected classroom is fully heated.
 - Damaged rugs and books will be replaced.
- Technology Grant Award:
 - The district was awarded a state-funded Security Licenses grant totaling:
 - 285 device licenses
 - 9 server licenses
 - The grant represents a savings of over \$45,000 in licensing costs.
 - The solution will allow the IT department to monitor, detect, and isolate cybersecurity threats within 24–48 hours, significantly improving response time.
- Donation:
 - Coca-Cola donated 40 cases of Mr. Pibb (20 regular, 20 diet).
 - Board members and guests were invited to take a case.
- Reminder:
 - The District Holiday Party will be held at Francois Frankie's.
 - Holiday well wishes were extended to all.

Principal Sparkle Tiffith of Carol Moseley-Braun Elementary School, presented the District Spelling Bee report.

District Spelling Bee Winners:

- Primary Division: Tyler Stevenson – Diekman Elementary School
- Intermediate Division: Azeeza Sanni – Carol Moseley-Braun School

- Middle School Division: Kenneth Jenkins – School of Fine Arts

All winners will advance to regional competitions.

Board members and Dr. White congratulated the students and families for their achievement and commitment to academic excellence.

Mrs. Tillman reported on the Breakfast with Santa event held on December 6, 2025:

- Over 500 attendees
- More than 600 care packages distributed
- Community partners included:
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters
 - Boys & Girls Club of South Chicago
 - Sister Strong
 - Walkie Talkies
- Special thanks were extended to Ms. Brenda Boyd and supporting volunteers.

Mr. Tillman gave additional recognition to Dr. Cloud for assisting with the donation of approximately 2,000 boxes, which expanded support for district families.

Public Comments –

Gerald Scott, Assistant Principal at NBLA, shared an alumni update regarding his son, a former district student and University of Illinois graduate, who is now playing football and competing in the Nashville Music City Bowl on December 30, 2025. He’s been an academic All-American for the last four years.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve authorizing Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated December 10, 2025, and December 18, 2025, consisting of 63 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Education Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,585,103.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operations and Maintenance Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 87,571.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Debt Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 455,748.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Projects</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 299,749.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tort Liability Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 79,454.81</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$2,507,627.16</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>ROLL CALL TO VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	Education Fund	\$1,585,103.27	Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 87,571.49	Debt Services	\$ -	Transportation Fund	\$ 455,748.29	Capital Projects	\$ 299,749.30	Tort Liability Fund	<u>\$ 79,454.81</u>		<u>\$2,507,627.16</u>	<p>AGENDA ITEM F</p>
Education Fund	\$1,585,103.27														
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<p>MOTION by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve consent agenda items G#1-6:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of payroll summaries for November 7, 2025, in the amount of \$1,028,995.21 2. Approval of payroll summaries for November 21, 2025, in the amount of \$1,045,103.22 3. Approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting November 24, 2025 4. Renewal of MOU with community partner, Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago 	<p>AGEND ITEM G1- 6</p>														

5. Renewal of MOU with community partner, Dolton Park District

6. Personnel Report

Resignation:

- a. Approval of resignation of Courtney Grayson, Paraprofessional/Classroom Health Aide, at NBLA, effective November 18, 2025
- b. Approval of resignation of Laura Wolf, Case Manager, at NBLA, effective November 24, 2025
- c. Approval of resignation of LaToya Wade, Paraprofessional, at Diekman, effective November 24, 2025
- d. Approval of resignation of Stacy Miles, Truancy Officer, at Carol Moseley Braun, effective December 10, 2025

Termination:

- e. Approval of termination of LaTasha Randle, Assistant Principal, at STEM, effective November 24, 2025

Retirement:

- f. Approval of Intent to Retire from Tiffany Blackman, 1st Grade Teacher, at Caroline Sibley, effective the end of the 2028-2029 school year

Employment:

- g. Approval of employment of Ashae Johnson, 12-Month Administrative Assistant, at Diekman, effective date TBD
- h. Approval of employment of Quintia McClain, Paraprofessional/Classroom Health Aide, at Diekman, effective date TBD
- i. Approval of employment of Alicia Burks, Accounts Payable Administrative Assistant, District Office, effective date December 15, 2025
- j. Approval of employment of Terrence Lee, Case Manager, at NBLA, effective date January 5, 2026
- k. Approval of employment of Darice Dorsey, Day-to-Day Substitute, District Wide, effective date TBD

Leave of absence:

- l. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Melissa Gronendyke, Teacher, at Berger-Vandenberg/Diekman effective December 1, 2025 through May 22, 2026
- m. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Jennifer Walsh, Pre School for All Teacher, at Diekman, effective November 21, 2025 through May 22, 2026
- n. Approval of FMLA Magdalene Bawa, Teacher, at Caroline Sibley, effective January 7, 2025 through April 1, 2026

ROLL CALL TO VOTE: Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, and Mr. Tillman.

MOTION CARRIED

Adjourn to Closed Session

<p>MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to adjourn to a Closed session at 6:53 p.m.</p> <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)• Student Disciplinary Cases 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9)• Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Tillman, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	AGENDA ITEM H1
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Adjourn from Closed Session at 7:52 p.m.

Final Action on Closed Session Items

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, to approve student discipline decisions as discussed in closed session.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	AGENDA ITEM I
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Janice Opitz, Business Manager, presented three tax levy options for consideration:

- 2.9% – CPI only
- 3.2% – CPI plus approximately one first-year teacher salary (~\$51,000)
- 3.4% – CPI plus approximately two first-year teacher salaries (~\$85,000)

It was noted that failure to pass a tax levy could result in the loss of significant grant funding totaling approximately \$31 million, including EBF, Title I, Title II, Title IV, Preschool, After School, and other grants—representing nearly half of the district’s operating budget.

Board members discussed fiscal responsibility, community impact, anticipated reductions in state and federal grant funding, and upcoming collective bargaining considerations.

Old Business

<p>MOTION by Mr. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, approve the final Tax Levy for 3.2% for calendar year 2025 payable in calendar year 2026 and filing of the Certificate of Levy with the Cook County Clerk.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Elston. Nay: Mr. Crivens and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	AGENDA ITEM J1
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<p>MOTION by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston to strike items J2 and J3 from the agenda.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Tillman, and Mrs. Elston.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM J2 & J3</p>
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New Business

<p>MOTION by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mr. Crivens, to approve 8th Grade Graduation date of Wednesday, May 20, 2026.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mrs. Tillman, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM K1</p>
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Adjournment

<p>MOTION by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:13 p.m.</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: ALL IN FAVOR</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM L</p>
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Wilbur Tillman, President

Sheryl Tillman, Secretary