

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149

MINUTES OF

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 19, 2026

Mrs. Sheryl Tillman, Board Secretary swore in new Board Member, Mrs. Felita Crayton at 6:39 pm

The Board Meeting convened at 6:47 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston (via Zoom), Mrs. King and Mrs. Crayton.

Mr. Crivens arrived at 7:13 pm

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams arrived at 7:58 pm.

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Priscilla Centeno, Attorney McKenna Kohlenberg, Tammy Buckley, Sparkle Tiffith, Latasha Clark, Kimberly Brown, Christal Washington, Karen Slate, Jason Battle, Ernesta Ranson, Tanyelle Hannah, Dr. LaTonya Applewhite, DeWayne Anderson, Robert Bufford, Janice Opitz, Nicole Taylor, Tia Williams, Dr. Nicole Robinson, Daryll Lacey, Crystian Chatman, Dr. Mellodie Brown, Raymond Hladek, Jeff Newberg, Jamar Everett, Janice Kennedy, Len O'Lidge, Lache, Che Crayton, Lachar Crayton, Mason Crayton, Madison Crayton, Hunter Crayton, Brenda Boyd, Mashautala Kidd, Myani Kidd, Mario Kidd, BrieAnna Williams, Candace Talbert, Rael Williams, Adlerwoman Monet Wilson, Alderman Gardner, Naaman Gambill, Dwight Mclizic, John Kreamer, Cherish Pittman, Aurora Medina, Alan Medina, Adaobi Okwudili, Sommachi Okwudili, Khiana Boom, Devonte Smith, Amanda Anderson, and Jazzie Bennett.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Cabinet Reports –

Dr. White reported the following:

- Student Enrollment:
 - Elementary Schools: 1,470 students
 - Middle Schools: 700 students
 - Total District Enrollment: 2,170 students
- Caroline Sibley:
 - During the recent subzero weather event, several pipes burst at Caroline M. Sibley Elementary School. We are currently awaiting the arrival of replacement valves needed to complete repairs to the piping system. The estimated arrival time for the valves is early next week. As a result of the pipe break and resulting water damage, drywall and ceiling repairs are required, totaling \$43,445. The damage has been reported to the district's insurance carrier and is covered under our policy. The district is responsible for a \$10,000 deductible, and we anticipate receiving a partial insurance reimbursement within the next couple of weeks.
 - Dr. White also recognized Caroline Sibley administrators and nurses for coordinating a visit from the mobile dentist program. During this visit, 256 students received dental services, which is an outstanding accomplishment. The remaining schools have their mobile dentist visits scheduled, and we anticipate that even more of our scholars will benefit from these services..
- District-wide attendance initiative:
 - As part of our continued focus on improving student outcomes, the district has implemented a comprehensive attendance plan designed to promote consistent attendance across all schools. Our goal remains for each building to achieve and sustain a 96% daily attendance rate.

- Attendance is directly connected to academic performance and is a contributing factor to our Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) results. It is also an important component of our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).
- Our approach includes schoolwide, classroom, and individual incentives to motivate students and encourage consistent attendance. These incentives help create a culture where attendance is both celebrated and expected.
- Currently, attendance contributes 5% to the district’s IAR accountability measures, making it an important opportunity for improvement. Schools are tracking attendance progress through a district attendance leaderboard, and once a school reaches the designated attendance benchmark, they will receive districtwide incentives.
- At this time, Caroline Sibley is leading the district in attendance, and we commend their efforts. Each school is also implementing its own incentive programs to encourage students to come to school consistently.
- Administrators are also reviewing attendance reports weekly, monitoring call logs, and making daily phone calls to families when students are absent. Our goal is to encourage families that even if they wake up late, students should still come to school because students cannot learn if they are not present.
- Loved Again Swag Shop
 - Through this program at the Middle School, students earn “student bucks” that they can use to shop for gently used and new clothing items, gym shoes, and personal hygiene products. This initiative supports our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework and provides students with a dignified and empowering experience while reinforcing positive behaviors.
 - Staff members have been donating new items, and community members have also contributed gently used clothing and shoes. This effort helps remove barriers for students while ensuring they feel confident, supported, and connected to their school community.

CTE Program Presentation

- Mr. Naaman Gambill presented the Agriculture and Horticulture Program, where students learn about plant science, seed propagation, hydroponic growing systems, and garden design. Students described their work building raised garden beds, maintaining a courtyard garden, and learning how agriculture connects to mathematics, science, and various career pathways.
- Ms. Cherish Pittman presented the Filmmaking Program, which introduces students to visual storytelling and the film production process. Students explained the five stages of filmmaking and shared a short mockumentary they created collaboratively. Dr. White also noted a partnership with Thornton Township High School District 227, allowing students to gain experience using a professional studio.
- Representatives from Nexlore presented the Electronic Game Design Program, which teaches coding fundamentals using Scratch. Students demonstrated games and interactive projects they created, highlighting skills such as problem-solving, coding logic, and creativity.
- Dr. White emphasized the importance of exposing students to career pathways through hands-on learning experiences. Parents of participating students were recognized for their support.

Social Media Litigation Presentation by Attorney Scott Yonover – Mr. Tillman moved this agenda item to Closed Session

Committee Reports – None

Board President Report –

Mr. Tillman reported that recent investigations involving several district administrators had been completed and determined to be unfounded. On behalf of the Board of Education, the President issued formal public apologies to Ms. Jenkins-Alexander, Ms. Jones, and Superintendent Dr. White, acknowledging the professional and personal impact of the investigations and reaffirming the Board’s confidence in their leadership and service to the district. The President also stated that the apology letters would be posted publicly to ensure transparency and to address the prior public announcements regarding the investigations.

Each administrator addressed the Board, expressing appreciation for the acknowledgement and reiterating their commitment to serving the students, staff, and community of School District 149.

Dr. White also thanked the Board and district staff for their support and stated that the district remains focused on continuing the work of improving student outcomes and moving the district forward.

Public Comments –

A parent, Ms. Jazzie Bennett, addressed the Board regarding an incident involving her son, a student at STEM Academy. Ms. Bennett stated that her son was physically assaulted in the school gymnasium and expressed concern that he received disciplinary consequences despite being the reported victim. She indicated that she has video and social media messages related to the incident and has requested clarification regarding the district policy used to apply disciplinary action.

Ms. Bennett also stated that she had previously spoken with the Superintendent and is seeking a written explanation of the policy applied and the findings of the review. She expressed concern about the timeline of the investigation and indicated that she may pursue further action if the matter is not resolved.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve authorizing Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated January 15, 2026, February 6, 2026 and February 19, 2026 consisting of 91 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Education Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,517,473.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operations and Maintenance Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 302,396.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Debt Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 12,547.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 773,808.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Projects</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 587,536.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tort Liability Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 61,646.24</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,255,408.27</td> </tr> </table> <p>ROLL CALL TO VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>	Education Fund	\$1,517,473.14	Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 302,396.97	Debt Services	\$ 12,547.02	Transportation Fund	\$ 773,808.12	Capital Projects	\$ 587,536.78	Tort Liability Fund	<u>\$ 61,646.24</u>		\$3,255,408.27	<p>AGENDA ITEM J</p>
Education Fund	\$1,517,473.14														
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Tort Liability Fund	<u>\$ 61,646.24</u>														
	\$3,255,408.27														
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve consent agenda items K:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of payroll summaries for January 2, 2026, in the amount of \$1,141,632.11 2. Approval of payroll summaries January 16, 2026, in the amount of \$980,779.56 3. Approval of payroll summaries for January 30, 2026, in the amount of \$1,007,788.70 4. Approval of the minutes from the special board meeting held January 13, 2026 5. Approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting held January 15, 2026 6. Personnel Report <p>Resignation:</p>	<p>AGEND ITEM K</p>														

- a. Approval of resignation of Torreon Walker, Truant Officer, at NBLA, effective January 6, 2026
- b. Approval of resignation of Darnell Jones, 6th Grade Special Education Permanent Guest Teacher, at STEM, effective January 28, 2026
- c. Approval of resignation of KoriAnn Carter, Culture & Climate Coach, at SOFA, effective January 30, 2026
- d. Approval of resignation of Jermaine Maxey, Culture & Climate Coach, at NBLA, effective February 2, 2026
- e. Approval of resignation of Annette Mack, Paraprofessional, at STEM, effective February 13, 2026

Retirement:

- f. Approval of Intent to Retire from Yvette Shackelford, Guidance Counselor, at the Middle School, effective the end of 2029-2030 school year
- g. Approval of Intent to Retire from Ja-Mese McGee, 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher, at the STEM, effective the end of 2029-2030 school year
- h. Approval of Intent to Retire from Lisa Gipson, 6th Grade Instructional Coach, at CCA, effective the end of 2029-2030 school year
- i. Approval of Intent to Retire from Vonceile Washington, School Social Worker, at Berger-Vandenberg, effective the end of 2029-2030 school year
- j. Approval of Intent to Retire from Candace Tabor, 6th Grade Teacher, at CCA, effective the end of 2029-2030 school year

Employment:

- k. Approval employment of Terese Burton, Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher, District Wide, effective February 9, 2026
- l. Approval of employment of Alesia McKinley, Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher, District Wide, effective February 17, 2026
- m. Approval of employment of Jacqueline McGee, Assistant Principal, at STEM, effective March 2, 2026
- n. Approval of employment of Katrina Stoutmire, Para/Classroom Health Aide, at NBLA, effective February 23, 2026
- o. Approval of employment of Brittney Davis, Certified Para Educator, at STEM, effective February 16, 2026
- p. Approval of employment of Doreen Jones, Para/Classroom Health Aide, at CMB, effective February 16, 2026

Leave of Absence:

- q. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Danelda Archer, 7th Grade Science Teacher, at SOFA, effective January 15, 2026 through May 22, 2026
- r. Approval of FMLA for Umeka Brown, Kindergarten Teacher, at Caroline Sibley, effective January 15, 2026 through May 22, 2026
- s. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Janene Preston, Executive Administrative Assistant, at the District Office, effective February 16, 2026 through June 30, 2026
- t. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Stacey O'Daniel, 4th/5th Grade ELA Teacher, at Carol Moseley Braun, effective February 3, 2026 through May 22, 2026
- u. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Teresa Canchola, PM Custodian, at

Berger-Vandenberg, effective February 4, 2026 through June 30, 2026

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

Adjourn to Closed Session

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Crivens, to adjourn to a Closed session at 8:09 p.m.

- 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)

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

MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA
ITEM L

Adjourn from Closed Session at 10:02 p.m.

Final Action on Closed Session Items

MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve student discipline decisions as discussed in closed session.

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

MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA
ITEM M1

MOTION to approve Termination of Employee A

MOTION TABLED

AGENDA
ITEM M2

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve contract for Jamar Everret, as discussed in closed session, for a contract in the amount of \$105,000.00 for SY 26/27.

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

MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA
ITEM M3

MOTION to approve Administratives' Salaries SY 2026-2027 as discussed in closed session

MOTION TABLED

AGENDA
ITEM M4

MOTION to approve Confidentials' Salaries SY 2026-2027 as discussed in closed session

MOTION TABLED

AGENDA
ITEM M5

MOTION to approve employment contracts as discussed in closed session (if needed)

MOTION TABLED

AGENDA
ITEM M6

Old Business - None

Mr. Crivens informed the Board understood that they can vote no to Agenda Item N1 and remove Dr. Robinson from unpaid leave and back to paid leave.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to ratify Board poll to approve placing Dr. Nicole Robinson, Director of District Services, on unpaid administrative leave, effective date January 28, 2026. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman Nay: Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM N1</p>
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New Business

<p>MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve Press Plus 120. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Crivens, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, Mrs. Tillman and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM O1</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve Johnson Controls to replace the freeze stat for the air handler 2 unit at Carol Moseley Braun in the amount of \$1,913.39. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM O2</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve QMI to for emergency boiler room repairs and cleaning of combustion chamber on boilers 1 and 2 at Carol Moseley Braun in the amount of \$5,736.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM O3</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve Math Professional Development, for Teachers and Principals, through Curriculum and Associates in the amount of \$12,000.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM O4</p>

Mr. Crivens asked if the money for the Superintendent’s Commission Conference comes out of the money the District has for training.

Dr. White answered yes, and further explained that there is also a Parent Conference that the District sends parents to, which comes out of a different fund.

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve Superintendent, Cabinet Members and Principals to attend the Superintendent’s Commission Conference on March 20, 2026, not to exceed the amount of \$6,500.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM O5</p>
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Mrs. King asked whether there had been additional incidents involving the Calumet City security personnel, noting the teachers' union had expressed support for keeping them. She questioned whether the district had gathered more information from staff prior to moving forward.

Dr. White responded that for several years the security personnel, though W-2 district employees and not employees of the City of Calumet City, had repeatedly stated limitations on their responsibilities. According to Dr. White, the officers had communicated that:

- They would not walk the perimeter of the school buildings.
 - They would not check bags.
 - They served only as a "presence" at the front entrance and would not leave that post.
- Dr. White stated the district had been paying for this limited level of service despite multiple attempts to address concerns.

Mrs. Tillman requested clarification that the existing contract was not with the City of Calumet City.

Dr. White confirmed this, stating the officers were district-employed W-2 staff.

Mr. Crivens asked for the job description that the district provided to these employees, emphasizing that as district employees the job responsibilities should not be dictated by the officers themselves.

Dr. White stated that was her point, the officers told the district what they would and would not do.

He then asked what specific incident triggered the recommendation to discontinue their services.

Dr. White stated that the the final prompting incident involved the investigation, when the Board requested that Officer Miro to appear and speak to an incident he witnessed and had provided a statement on, he refused to cooperate.

Mr. Crivens questioned whether this constituted retaliation against the officers collectively and asked whether refusing to participate could be grounds for discipline for that individual officer only.

Attorney Centeno responded that the officer was required to cooperate.

Mr. Crivens then asked how many Calumet City officers the district currently employed.

Dr. White stated she could not provide an exact number during the meeting.

Mr. Tillman noted that during the prior meeting, the Board questioned the cost of continuing services given ongoing performance issues. He cited recurring concerns, including:

- Officers parking far from entrances
- Refusal to reposition for door supervision
- Officers refusing to break up fights

Dr. White added that the teachers' union had asked who was expected to intervene during student altercations if security would not.

Mrs. King asked whether the district had performed a competitive bid process and requested cost information for the proposed replacement, Rush Solutions.

Dr. White responded that Mr. Tillman had spoken with Rush Solutions. The provider indicated they were able to offer services. Mr. Tillman and Dr. White, spoke with Attorney Frazier and Attorney Frazier advised that this was not a bid, as the current officers were district employees, not contracted staff.

Mr. Crivens objected, stating that under Illinois procurement requirements, professional services still require:

- A specified dollar amount,
- A number of employees, and
- A formal proposal before Board action.

He stated that without this documentation, the Board risked violating procurement rules and failing to protect district finances.

Dr. White noted that agenda items are prepared based on pre-meeting guidance and stated she had not been directed to include additional detail.

Attorney Centeno clarified that while the number of officers did not need to appear in the agenda, the financial amount should be read aloud into the record.

Mr. Crivens reiterated that the public is entitled to know service costs and staffing levels before any Board vote.

Attorney Centeno stated that the dollar amount can be read in the motion.

Mr. Tillman stated the purpose of the action was only to discontinue the current service and allow the district to ensure continuity before entering a contract with a new provider.

Dr. White explained that current security costs are based on timesheets, making it impossible to provide a fixed total amount.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked whether the district could at least provide the daily rate and number of officers per building.

Dr. White confirmed the hourly rate is \$35 per hour but that total costs vary depending on hours worked.

Mrs. Crayton asked if Dr. White was able to give the Board a number of individuals that are in that position.

Dr. White replied that she would have to pull that information and did not have it on hand.

Mr. Crivens motioned to table both the discontinuation and replacement provider items until complete financial information could be provided.

Mr. Tillman disagreed, arguing that the Board needed to move forward due to ongoing service concerns.

Mrs. King asked whether the Board should determine whether to discontinue existing security before approving a new provider.

Mr. Tillman stated the officers would remain in place through February 28, and the new provider would complete the remainder of the school year. He reiterated that Rush Solutions' quote was below the \$35/hour "not-to-exceed" amount inserted into the motion.

Mr. Crivens emphasized again that no contract, no proposal, and no formal procurement documentation had been provided, and that Board action without such materials was improper.

Mr. Tillman explained that at this time, this is not a contract.

Dr. White explained the Board had instructed her to explore another company and that initial pricing information had been provided by Rush Solutions.

Mr. Crivens interrupted to state that the explanation did not satisfy legal procurement requirements.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to discontinue security services with Calumet City Police Department effective February 28, 2026. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM O6
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Mr. Crivens stated that the motion is insufficient because it's not specifying the number of law officers. It is insufficient, because we don't have a proposal before us to vote on and such. And as agreed, at prior board meetings, that the Board would work under procurement rules and would have proposals before them before they vote.

Mr. Tillman replied that his point was taken.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve Rush Solutions to carry out armed security services for the remainder of the 25/26 school year, for the amount per officer not to exceed \$35.00 per hour. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM O7
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Mr. Crivens again raised concerns regarding the procurement process. He stated that the Board was “violating rules of procurement” and not adhering to what had been agreed to at the previous board meeting. He emphasized that the Board had voted previously that proposals would be brought forward before any vote on security services, and that decisions should not be made without written documentation before the Board.

Mrs. Crayton attempted to make a comment, however was interrupted by Mr. Crivens, again reiterating the Procurement Rule 105.

Mrs. Crayton noted that her comments were not directed at procurement rules themselves but were meant to clarify the issue for the Board. She stated that the attorney made a suggestion that the rate “not exceed \$35 per hour.”

Mr. Tillman confirmed that this amount was consistent with what the district was currently paying.

Mrs. Crayton noted that the officers currently serving the district did not have a formal contract on record.

Attorney Centeno clarified the current hourly compensation, stating that the officers’ rate was \$35 per hour.

Mr. Crivens stated that he did not believe the new services should automatically match the same rate, explaining that sworn police officers carry additional training and technical qualifications and should be held to a higher professional standard than non-sworn security personnel. He stated that compensation should reflect those differences.

Mr. Tillman responded that the proposed provider would be supplying actual officers, not general security guards, and therefore, the comparison was appropriate.

Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Crivens, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to adjourn the board meeting at 10:27 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: ALL IN FAVOR MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM L
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Wilbur Tillman, President

Sheryl Tillman, Secretary