BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 18, 2026

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

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

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Felicia Frazier, Janene Preston, Robert Grossi, Dr. Cloud, Jamar Everett, Dr. Mellodie Brown, Tamisha Bufford, Dr. Martiae Jenkins-Alexander, De Wayne Anderson, Tanyelle Hannah, Jaqueline McGee, Crystian Chatman, Tammy Buckley, Gerald Scott, Jason Battle, Tia Williams, Danielle Franklin, Chief Pointer, Chief White, Officer Perez, Kyle Riley, and Darryl Watkins.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Cabinet Reports –

Dr. White reported the following:

Dr. White reported that there was no student enrollment update for the month of June. She stated that summer school would be held from June 29 through July 24, with an anticipated enrollment of 366 students in grades 1–7 and 52 students in Pre-K through Kindergarten, for a total of 418 students.

Dr. White informed the Board that school improvement plans for the designated schools were included in the Board packet. She noted that the plans would be revised following completion of the Board's five-year strategic plan to ensure alignment between school and district goals.

Dr. White discussed the district's ongoing staffing shortages and stated that she would share a recruitment idea during closed session.

Dr. White reported continued flooding in the basement of the administration building. She stated that a plumber had been engaged to determine the cause of the issue and that Dr. Brown would provide updates to the Board as additional information became available.

As this was her final Board meeting as Superintendent, Dr. White reflected on her four years of service to the District. She stated that she accepted the position with the goal of leaving the District better than she found it and expressed her belief that, through the collective efforts of the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, support staff, students, families, and community partners, that goal had been achieved. She highlighted the completion of full renovations of three school buildings, reported a 24% increase in reading proficiency and a 6% increase in mathematics proficiency, and recognized the implementation of two core curriculum programs and a comprehensive principal development program. She also highlighted the launch of the District's Career and Technical Education program, the creation of the Venture Alternative School to provide in-district educational opportunities while reducing out-of-district tuition costs, the installation of a district-wide security camera system and time and attendance system, district-wide academic bowl competitions, the creation of the Swag Shop to provide students with clothing and essential items, and the anticipated delivery of a new district vehicle to support operational needs. Dr. White concluded by thanking the Board of Education, district administrators,

staff, students, families, and community members for their trust, support, and partnership throughout her tenure. She stated that she was proud of the progress made, the foundation established for the future, and the opportunity to serve Dolton School District 149.

Committee Reports – None

Board President Report –

Board President Tillman welcomed the Board, administration, staff, parents, and guests. He noted that t he meeting marked the final regular Board meeting of the 2025–2026 school year and Dr. Maureen White's final Board meeting prior to her retirement.

President Tillman reflected on Dr. White's four years of service, recognizing her leadership in improving the District's culture, increasing student achievement, strengthening academic programming, and enhancing organizational effectiveness. He commended her ability to recruit and develop strong leaders, establish high expectations, and build a collaborative leadership team committed to the Board's vision.

President Tillman highlighted the District's continued academic growth, noting increases in student achievement and standardized assessment performance during Dr. White's tenure. He also recognized her commitment to strengthening instruction through curriculum leadership and her role in maintaining the District's financial stability through responsible stewardship of resources.

President Tillman stated that Dr. White faithfully executed the Board's vision and directives with professionalism, integrity, and dedication. He expressed appreciation for their collaborative working relationship and acknowledged her commitment to addressing challenges and advancing the District's goals.

President Tillman further stated that Dr. White leaves the District academically stronger, financially stable, operationally sound, and well-positioned for continued success. He recognized the leadership team she assembled and expressed confidence in the District's future.

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Tillman thanked Dr. White for her four years of service, leadership, dedication, and commitment to the students, staff, families, and community of Dolton School District 149. He extended his best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.

Public Comments –

Board Member Felita Crayton extended Father's Day greetings to all fathers in attendance. She expressed her appreciation for the important role fathers play in the lives of their families and acknowledged that they are often not recognized to the same extent as mothers. She offered personal Father's Day wishes to the fathers serving on the Board and thanked them for their contributions and dedication. Board Member Crayton concluded by expressing her gratitude to all fathers and wishing them a Happy Father's Day.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams inquired whether the District would incur a penalty when an employee retires and receives a retirement payout in excess of the allowable salary increase.

Dr. White initially responded that the District would not incur a penalty and then referred the question to Mr. Grossi for confirmation.

Mr. Grossi requested clarification regarding the type of retirement plan being referenced.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams clarified that she was referring to an administrator, teacher, or other employee who retires before completing the four-year period associated with the 6% salary limitation and receives a payout that causes the employee's compensation to exceed that limitation.

Mr. Grossi responded that, under those circumstances, the District would incur a penalty.

Dr. White stated that there was a caveat to the response and that additional details were needed to fully answer the question. She recommended that the matter be discussed further during closed session.

President Tillman tabled the item and stated that the discussion would resume following closed session.

MOTION by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve authorizing Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated June 9, 2026 and June 18, 2026, chargeable to the following accounts: Education Fund $1,489,925.00 Operations and Maintenance Fund $ 146,892.53 Debt Services $ 5,444.94 Transportation Fund $ 40,805.94 Capital Projects $ 241,775.78 Tort Liability Fund $ 677,025.08 $2,601,869.32 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM H

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams removed item #I5 from the consent agenda.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, to approve consent agenda items I 1-4 & 6-8: 1. Approval of payroll summaries for May 22, 2026, in the amount of $1,616,780.59 2. Approval of payroll summaries for June 5, 2026, in the amount of $950,479.02 3. Approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting held May 21, 2026 4. Approval of the minutes from the special board meeting held May 27, 2026Approval of the first reading of Press Plus Policy 121 6. Approval to renew agreement with Committee for Children for Second Step SEL curriculum for SY 26/27, in the amount of $24,312.40 7. Approval to set the Lotta Palooza Back-to-School Event on Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at New Beginnings Learning Academy 8. Personal Report Resignation: a. Approval of resignation of Dr. LaTonya Applewhite, Director of Human Resources, at the District Office, effective May 27, 2026 b. Approval of resignation of Marian Dowling, Principal, at Berger-Vandenbery, effective May 22, 2026 Employment: c. Approval of employment of Kimberly Wright, Principal, at TBD, effective date TBD	AGEND ITEM I 1-4 & 6-8

d. d. Approval of employment of Dasianelle Cotton, Teacher, at TBD, effective date TBD Leave of Absence: r. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Robert Bufford Jr., 21st Century Learning Director, at the District Office, effective May 21, 2026 through November 21, 2026 **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams noted that some of the plans in Agenda Item I5, appeared to reference the 2023–2024 school year and questioned whether the dates were typographical errors.

Dr. White responded that the dates may be correct depending on the school's phase within the State's school improvement designation process and explained that schools designated in prior years may reference earlier planning years as part of the multi-year improvement cycle.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams specifically referenced Carol Moseley Braun School, indicating that the report card year reflected 2023.

Dr. White stated that she would review the plans to verify the dates and make any necessary corrections prior to submitting the plans to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams also inquired about differences in the formatting of the plans.

Dr. White explained that some plans reflected the State's format while others were developed at the school level by the principals.

President Tillman encouraged Board members to submit questions regarding agenda items prior to Board meetings whenever possible so that staff could review potential errors or typographical corrections in advance, allowing meetings to proceed more efficiently.

Mr. Crivens asked whether the Board would be approving the School Improvement Plans with the understanding that Dr. White would make any necessary date corrections before submission.

Dr. White responded that the Board's consideration should focus on the content of the School Improvement Plans, explaining that any date discrepancies could be corrected prior to submission to ISBE without affecting the substance of the plans.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve all School Improvement Plans. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM I5

Adjourn to Closed Session

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to adjourn to a Closed session at 7:04 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, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM J

Adjourn from Closed Session at 7:42 p.m.

Final Action on Closed Session Items

MOTION by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Crivens, to approve student discipline decisions as discussed in closed session. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM K1

Old Business

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve the Board's response to PRESS Plus Issue 119, Policy 2:80, Board Member Oath and Conduct. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM L1
MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve the Board's response to PRESS Plus Issue 120, Policy 6:60, Curriculum Content. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM L2
MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve the Board's response to PRESS Plus Issue 120, Policy 6:210, Instructional Materials. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM L3

New Business

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve Press Plus Policy 121. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M1
MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, to approve the Board's response to PRESS Plus Issue 121, Policy 2:200, Types of School Board Meetings. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M2

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams questioned why the Board was being asked to approve the policy, stating that she believed newly presented policy revisions were required to remain before the Board for 30 days before a vote could be taken.

Dr. White asked Janene Preston to confirm whether Press Plus Policy 121 had previously received its first reading.

Mrs. Preston confirmed that the policy received its first reading at the May 21, 2026, regular Board meeting.

Dr. White explained that Board policy revisions are presented for a first reading, after which Board members are expected to review the proposed changes prior to the next meeting, at which time the policy is brought back for Board action.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated that she was unsure whether any additional language had been added to the policy since the first reading because the policy had been included again in the Board packet.

Dr. White responded that the policy had been redistributed because there had not been an expectation that Board members still had the previous copy available. She explained that it was included again to provide Board members another opportunity to review the policy prior to taking action.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve the Board's response to PRESS Plus Issue 121, Policy 2:220, School Board Meeting Procedure. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, and Mr. Tillman. Abstain: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M3
MOTION by Mrs. King, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve the Board's response to PRESS Plus Issue 121, Policy 5:250, Leaves of Absence. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. King, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M4
MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve hiring The Terry Group to do the OPEB Valuation for the audit in the amount of $20,000.00. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M5

MOTION by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve agreement with Savvas for My World Social Studies curriculum for SY 26/27, in the amount of $124,127.63. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M6
MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve agreement with Savvas for My View and My Perspective for ELA curriculum for SY 26/27, in amount of $194,487.48. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. Crayton. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M7
MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve agreement with Engage 2 Empower, LLC for Leadership Retreat Team-Building SEL Workshop, in the amount of $3,500.00. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M8
MOTION by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve agreement with Engage 2 Empower, LLC for Staff Institute Training SEL Workshop, in the amount of $4,000.00.. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM M9

Adjournment

MOTION by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:16 p.m. **ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: ALL IN FAVOR **MOTION CARRIED**	AGENDA ITEM O

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Wilbur Tillman, President Sheryl Tillman, Secretary