BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF
THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
July 30, 2026

The Board Meeting convened at 7:40 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. King, Mrs. Crayton, and Mr. Crivens (via Zoom). Mrs. Elston arrived at 7:44 pm
Absent: Mrs. Tillman

Also in attendance: Dr. Mellodie Brown, Attorney Felicia Frazier, Janene Preston, Candice Peoples, Dr. Cloud, John Shields, Chief Pointer, Officer Perez, Officer White, Jori Watson, Tiffany Blackman, and Anna Karrison.

**MOTION** by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. King, to allow Board Member Crivens, for stated reasons, to participate via Zoom.
**ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. King, Mr. Tillman, and Mrs. Crayton.
**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**Meeting Open for Public Comments** - None

Mr. Crivens asked under which specific exception the Board was entering closed session, stating that the exact exception should be identified for the record rather than generally referencing multiple permissible closed-session matters.

Attorney Felicia Frazier responded that the applicable exception was collective negotiating matters**.**

Mr. Crivens then asked whether entering closed session under the collective negotiating matters exception meant the Board's discussion would be limited to matters pertaining to collective bargaining, including contract negotiations and strategy, and would not include unrelated matters such as vendor contracts.

Attorney Frazier explained that while the Board was specifically entering closed session for collective negotiating matters, if another topic arose that independently qualified for discussion in closed session, the Board could discuss that matter while in closed session. She further explained that the distinction would arise if the Board intended to take action after returning to open session. In that circumstance, the matter upon which action was to be taken would need to appear on the agenda.

Mr. Crivens stated that he wanted the record to reflect his understanding that the collective bargaining exception concerned collective bargaining strategy, contract matters, and review of actions regarding union proposals. He then asked about the date and substance of the poll used to call the special meeting, including who was contacted and the result of the poll.

Attorney Frazier advised that there was already a motion pending on the floor and that the question concerning the poll was not appropriate to address while that motion was pending. She noted that Mr. Crivens had requested clarification regarding the reason for entering closed session, that the reason had been identified, and that the Board should proceed with the pending motion.

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MOTION** by Mrs. King, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to convene a closed session at 7:52 p.m.<br>• Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees of Dolton School District 149, 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)<br>**ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. King, Mrs. Crayton, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman.<br>**MOTION CARRIED** | AGENDA ITEM E1 |

Adjourn from Closed Session at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Crivens requested a copy of the resolution to be considered under final action.

Mr. Tillman stated that a copy would be provided, and Janene Preston confirmed it would be sent to him.

Mr. Tillman addressed the Board regarding the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations. He stated that he wanted his position to be heard directly from him rather than through rumors, social media, or political interpretation. Mr. Tillman expressed his support for the District's teachers, stating that they deserve respect, appreciation, and a fair contract that recognizes the work they perform for students.

Mr. Tillman emphasized, however, that his responsibility as an elected Board member extends beyond any one group and includes the District's students, homeowners, senior citizens on fixed incomes, working families, and taxpayers. He stated that the Board has a duty to negotiate a contract that is both fair to employees and financially sustainable for the community, allowing the District to appropriately compensate educators without placing an unreasonable financial burden on taxpayers.

Mr. Tillman then addressed reports that confidential information concerning the Board's closed-session negotiations had been shared outside of the Board. He expressed serious concern that, if the reports were accurate, such disclosures would violate the confidence of the Board and the taxpayers who entrusted the Board to negotiate in good faith. He stated that unauthorized disclosure of confidential negotiating information could weaken the District's negotiating position and potentially have financial consequences for taxpayers.

Mr. Tillman further stated that elected officials have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the District rather than in the interests of friends, political allies, or special interests. He expressed his belief that undermining the Board's negotiating position places public funds, the future of the District's schools, and taxpayers at risk. He stated that if such actions ultimately result in increased costs to taxpayers, the public deserves to understand why.

Mr. Tillman concluded by reiterating that supporting teachers and protecting taxpayers are not competing responsibilities. He stated that both deserve honest representation and emphasized his commitment to the District's teachers, taxpayers, students and families, and to maintaining integrity throughout the negotiation process.

**Final Action on Closed Session Items**

Attorney Frazier recommended changing the word "spokesperson" to "spokespersons" and striking the language identifying the Board's chief negotiator and/or Board President as the "only" individuals authorized to communicate on behalf of the Board regarding contract negotiations.

Attorney Frazier explained that the change was necessary because negotiations do not involve only one individual speaking on behalf of each side. Multiple authorized participants at the bargaining table may communicate during the negotiation process, and the existing use of the word “only” could make the provision unnecessarily restrictive or confusing.

Mr. Crivens asked for clarification regarding who would qualify as a designated Board spokesperson under the amended language. Specifically, he questioned whether the amendment would give authority to appoint an individual who had not previously been authorized or approved by the Board to speak on its behalf.

Attorney Frazier explained that the District currently had authorized individuals participating in negotiations, including the Superintendent, legal counsel, and others serving in the negotiation process. She explained that the amendment was intended to recognize that more than one authorized person may speak during negotiations rather than limiting communications to a single spokesperson.

Mr. Crivens sought further clarification and specifically asked whether the amendment granted anyone authority to designate a person who had not been authorized by the Board to serve as a spokesperson.

Attorney Frazier confirmed that it did not.

Mr. Crivens further asked whether the amendment would provide authority for someone discussed in closed session to become a spokesperson without Board authorization.

Attorney Frazier again confirmed that it would not.

Mr. Tillman stated that the intent of the amendment was simply to recognize that multiple authorized individuals may speak during the negotiation process.

Attorney Frazier added that retaining the word “only” could create confusion because multiple participants on both sides of the bargaining table communicate during negotiations. She clarified that the vote before the Board at that point was solely on the proposed amendment to the resolution.

Mr. Crivens again confirmed for the record that the amended language did not authorize the designation of a spokesperson who had not been approved by the Board.

Attorney Frazier confirmed that his understanding was correct.

| |
|---|
| **MOTION** by Mr. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to amend Section 2 of Resolution 2026-07-1 by changing “spokesperson” to “spokespersons” and striking the referenced “only” language.<br>**ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams.<br>**MOTION CARRIED** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **MOTION** by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, to adopt Board Resolution #2026-07-1 Reaffirming Negotiations Protocols.<br>**ROLL CALL VOTE**: Aye: Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Crayton, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, and Mr. Tillman,<br>**MOTION CARRIED** | AGENDA ITEM F1 |

**Adjournment**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MOTION** by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:32 p.m.<br>**ROLL CALL TO VOTE**: Aye: ALL IN FAVOR<br>**MOTION CARRIED** | AGENDA ITEM G |

_____ _____

Wilbur Tillman, President Sheryl Tillman, Secretary