

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF
THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
May 27, 2026
Amended

The Board Meeting convened at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Crayton. Mrs. Elston arrived at 5:39 p.m.

Absent: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams and Mr. Crivens.

Also in attendance: Dr. Maureen White, Attorney Mckenna Kohlenberg, Dr. Mellodie Brown, Dr. Natalie Williams-McMahon, Dr. La Toyla Jones, Candice People, Jamar Everett, Chief Pointer, Officer White and Officer Perez.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Public Comments – None

Mr. Tillman moved to table Agenda item E and proceeded directly to Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

MOTION by Mr. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to adjourn to a Closed session at 5:25 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) ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM F1
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Adjourn from Closed Session at 5:52 p.m.

Final Action on Closed Session Items

MOTION to approve discipline and/or termination of Employee A, as discussed in closed session. ROLL CALL VOTE: MOTION NOT NEEDED	AGENDA ITEM G1
MOTION by Mr. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve the employment contract for Sparkle Tiffith, as Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, as discussed in closed session. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM G2
MOTION by Mr. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve employment contract for Dr. La Toyla Jones, as Assistant Superintendent, as discussed in closed session.	AGENDA ITEM G3

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	
MOTION by Mr. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve employment contract for Dr. Mellodie Brown, as Superintendent, as discussed in closed session. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM G4

The Board returned to Agenda Item E: Strategic Planning Framework discussion.

Strategic Planning Presentation

Dr. Natalie Williams-McMahon facilitated a discussion with the Board regarding development of a five-year strategic plan. The session included review and refinement of preliminary data and draft materials, including:

- District demographics and municipal composition
- Academic performance data and gap analysis
- Facility and capital improvement information
- Financial overview and fund balance
- SWOT analysis (strengths, challenges, opportunities, threats)
- Early childhood programming, including pre-K services
- Technology infrastructure and future innovation planning
- Special education services and student support systems

Key Discussion Themes

Dr. Williams-McMahon guided discussion toward identifying strategic priorities, including:

- Improving academic achievement and closing performance gaps
- Expanding technology integration and preparing for AI in education
- Strengthening teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development
- Enhancing parent and community engagement
- Expanding early childhood and special education supports
- Addressing funding sustainability and long-range financial planning

The Board emphasized the importance of:

- Phased implementation of initiatives
- Measurable outcomes and use of assessment data (NWEA, state assessments, etc.)
- Balanced focus on “top priorities” to ensure strategic clarity

Discussion also included governance structure for implementation. The Board and Dr. Williams-McMahon agreed on a Committee of the Whole model for strategic planning work, with board members participating in assigned focus areas such as technology, facilities, academics, and community engagement.

Implementation Planning

Dr. Williams-McMahon outlined next steps, including:

- Formation of committees
- Distribution of stakeholder surveys
- Collection and analysis of community input data
- Refinement of strategic goals and priorities
- Development of measurable milestones and evaluation tools

Dr. Williams-McMahon noted the work would proceed in phases and emphasized alignment between strategic planning, superintendent evaluation, and district performance measures.

Vision and Core Values Discussion

The Board reviewed the district’s current vision statement and core values. Members discussed clarity of language and alignment with district priorities. Dr. Williams-McMahon noted that vision and values may be revised based on stakeholder input and strategic plan development.

Next Steps

Dr. Williams-McMahon will provide:

- A formal service agreement
- Updated presentation materials reflecting corrections
- Survey instruments for stakeholder input

The Board will review the agreement and coordinate scheduling for the next strategic planning session, which will focus on committee formation and initial implementation steps.

Adjournment

MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to adjourn the board meeting at 6:55 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: ALL IN FAVOR MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM H
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Wilbur Tillman, President

Sheryl Tillman, Secretary