

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2026

The Board Meeting convened at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Crayton. Mrs. Elston arrived at 6:34 pm via Zoom.

Also in attendance: Dr. Mellodie Brown, Attorney Mckenna Kolenberg, Janene Preston, Dr. Robert Grossi, Dr. Cloud, Shayna Cole, Tamisha Bufford, Dr. Jenkins-Alexander, Sparkle Tiffith, Robert Bufford, Ernesta Ransom, Candice People, Kim Owens, Kim Wright, Danielle Franklin, Latasha Clark, Marilyn Barnes, Renee Carter, Crystian Chatman, Tammy Buckley, Tia Williams, Jason, Battle, Karen Slate, Jamar Everett, Jacqueline McGee, Christal Washington, Nicole Taylor, DeWayne Anderson, Officer Perez, Rev. Williams, Phillip Bradely, Chirstopher Newson, Kimberly Eldridge, Tomika Halsey, Dr. Garth-young, Hanatu Williams, Andrea Parker, Anna Karrison, Amanda Bekes, Jenna Kostanksi, Twila Jones, April Muszynski, Brooke Jacob, Nafishe Vossoughi, Stephanie Wasserman, Tiffany Blackman, Sharri Sanders, Dr. Graham, Angela Martin, Makiah Brooks, Dakeeda Williams, Audrey Sherman, Gail Blow, Tonya Thomas, Yvette Shackelford, Michelle Smith, Lisa Gipson, J. Smith, Tankeka Boyce, Monica Lavalais, Yvonne Jackson, Jorie Watson, Denise Kyles, Bobby Young, and Sheryl Lewis.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Cabinet Reports –

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Brown welcomed the Board of Education, administrators, staff, and community members and reported that the District was in the seventh day of the 2026–2027 school year. She expressed the District's excitement about having students back in school and emphasized the importance of recognizing the potential of every student, the purpose of every educator, and each school day as an opportunity for growth and achievement. Dr. Brown connected these goals to the District's theme, "Every Student Counts, Every Moment Matters."

Dr. Brown reported a current District enrollment of 1,793 students, consisting of 91 Pre-K students, 1,075 elementary school students, and 627 middle school students.

Dr. Brown provided an update regarding Diekman students and the newly renovated space, stating that students were adjusting well to the renovated environment. She stated that the improvements had created excitement and pride among students and provided a warm and welcoming environment. Dr. Brown discussed the importance of the physical school environment and stated that improved learning environments can positively influence student academic performance, behavior, health, and overall well-

being by reducing distractions and supporting concentration, critical thinking, engagement, and academic achievement.

Dr. Brown also reported that the District was preparing for beginning-of-the-year assessments using i-Ready and NWEA. She announced that the District's "Party in the Zoom Room" would be coming soon. Dr. Brown stated that the assessment data would provide administrators and teachers with detailed information to support the academic achievement of individual students, identify skills and concepts requiring attention, and help build students' confidence as learners.

Presentation by Rev. Anthony Williams:

Reverend Williams and Mr. Philip Bradley presented information regarding civility, violence prevention, and the CHANGE program. Reverend Williams discussed the recognition of August as Civility Month and described ongoing efforts through South Suburban College to promote civility as a means of addressing the effects of violence within schools and communities. He discussed the impact that exposure to violence and various forms of stress can have on children and emphasized the role schools can play in promoting positive alternatives.

Mr. Bradley introduced CHANGE, which he identified as "Creating Healthy Alternatives to Non-Violence, Guidance, and Education." He explained that the program focuses on helping students recognize and unlearn negative learned behaviors, learn healthier behaviors and responses, and apply those skills in their daily lives. He discussed the importance of addressing factors that may contribute to student pain, disengagement, and behavioral concerns while strengthening students' connections to education, school, and family.

Mr. Bradley stated that CHANGE is a 40-hour curriculum that has previously been implemented in Chicago and discussed prior work with students who were disengaged from school and family life. He encouraged District 149 to consider piloting the program to determine whether it could assist students, particularly those who may be struggling with engagement, behavior, or the effects of violence.

Reverend Williams also invited the District to a Civility Celebration scheduled for August 28 at South Suburban College and encouraged the District to consider how civility and education could be used to support students and the school community.

Tentative Budget presented by Dr. Robert Grossi:

Dr. Robert Gross presented the FY 2026–2027 Tentative Budget and stated that the Board will be asked to approve the final budget following the September Board meeting. He noted that some figures may change before the final budget is presented but stated that the District's overall financial outlook is expected to remain substantially the same.

Dr. Gross reported that overall revenues are projected to decrease approximately 5%, primarily due to the expiration of federal COVID-relief/ESSER funding. Federal revenues, which had increased significantly during the COVID-relief period, are returning to pre-COVID levels of approximately \$4.5 million to \$5 million. He also reported that the District is expected to receive approximately \$600,000 to \$700,000 in additional Evidence-Based Funding and a modest increase in real estate tax revenues.

District expenditures are projected to increase approximately 4%. Dr. Gross stated that the District has done a good job of keeping expenditure growth relatively low compared with other school districts. Total

revenues are currently projected at approximately \$55.8 million, with expenditures of approximately \$56.3 million; however, he noted that expenditures include one-time capital projects.

Dr. Gross emphasized that the District continues to maintain a structural operating surplus, with ongoing operating revenues projected to exceed ongoing operating expenditures by approximately \$1.2 million. He stated that maintaining a balanced budget or operating surplus and avoiding deficit spending should remain an ongoing financial objective.

Dr. Gross reported that the Tentative Budget currently includes approximately \$2.3 million in capital expenditures. Following a recent discussion with the District's architect, that amount is expected to increase to approximately \$4.5 million to complete identified projects. He stated that the adjustment will be reflected in the final budget and does not change the District's structural operating surplus.

The District is projected to end the fiscal year with approximately \$46 million in operating and special fund balances, representing approximately 300 days of reserves. Dr. Gross noted that the State recommends at least 180 days of reserves for the highest financial profile score and stated that the District's current reserve level places it in a strong financial position, particularly given uncertainties related to Cook County property tax revenues and State and federal funding.

Dr. Gross characterized the District's overall financial condition as healthy, with a structural surplus and strong fund balances, and credited financial decisions made by the Board over the years. He encouraged the Board to continue making financial decisions that the District can afford.

Dr. Gross stated that following completion of the District's audit, he will prepare five-year financial projections under various scenarios to assist the District in evaluating its longer-term financial outlook.

Committee Reports – None

Board President Report –

Mr. Tillman welcomed District staff back for the 2026–2027 school year and expressed confidence in the District's staff and in the year ahead. He stated that he looked forward to continued meaningful learning for students, stronger family engagement, and continued outreach to the community. He also thanked Dr. Gross and his team for the financial presentation and the information provided to the Board.

Mr. Tillman recognized Reverend Anthony Williams for his work promoting civility and acknowledged his service as a community advocate and South Suburban College trustee. Referencing Illinois' recognition of August 2026 as Civility Month through House Resolution 924, Mr. Tillman emphasized respectful dialogue, civic engagement, inclusion, and community building. He stated that civility does not require agreement and that Board members should be able to ask difficult questions, challenge decisions, hold one another accountable, and disagree while continuing to treat one another with dignity and respect. He emphasized the Board's responsibility to model that behavior for students, staff, families, and the community throughout the year.

Mr. Tillman then addressed infrastructure and operational concerns identified following recent tornadoes and severe windstorms. He reported that the District experienced disruptions to telephone and internet services and stated that the loss of power or communications at one location, specifically Deakman, should not be able to disrupt operations throughout the District. He stated that he would ask the Superintendent to have JMA provide pricing for a backup generator solution to assist with continuity of District operations during future power outages. Once pricing is obtained, the Board will be able to evaluate the cost and determine an appropriate course of action.

Mr. Tillman also discussed the impact of a power outage at the District Office, which he referred to as the District's "command center." He stated that operations slowed significantly and employees were asked to work from home while some were also experiencing power outages at their residences. He further reported that the District Office sewer pumps were without power and that flooding occurred, causing damage in an area occupied by administrative staff. He characterized these issues as operational vulnerabilities that should be addressed.

Mr. Tillman additionally reported water intrusion at Caroline Sibley Elementary School related to a roof issue that had been brought to the District's attention the previous month. He emphasized the need to address the issue promptly in light of the significant construction work recently completed and still underway at the school and expressed concern about preventing water damage to the District's recent investments.

Mr. Tillman stated that identifying these concerns was not intended as a negative assessment of the District but as part of the Board's responsibility to identify problems, understand risks, and take action before issues become larger and more costly. He noted the progress made throughout the District and emphasized the importance of proactively protecting that progress.

Mr. Tillman concluded by encouraging continued academic improvement, stronger relationships with District families and the community, responsible operations, and respectful treatment of one another. He thanked those present for their continued commitment to School District 149 and its students.

Public Comments –

Stephanie Wasserman identified herself as President of the Classroom Teachers Association (CTA) and introduced the Association's Negotiations Chair. The CTA Negotiations Chair welcomed Dr. Brown and the District's new leadership on behalf of the teachers of School District 149 and stated that the teachers look forward to working collaboratively with the new administration. She expressed pride in the work of District 149 teachers and their commitment to providing students with a quality educational experience.

She also addressed ongoing collective bargaining negotiations, stating that the CTA is eager to return to the bargaining table and remains committed to reaching an agreement that respects educators, supports students, and strengthens the District. She expressed the Association's desire to move forward with mutual respect, open communication, and collaboration, complete the bargaining process, and focus its attention on providing District 149 students with the education they deserve.

Tiffany Blackman, a District 149 teacher, questioned the agenda item proposing that Dr. White continue to serve on the District bargaining team. She referenced Dr. White's separation from the District and the financial terms associated with that separation and questioned why she would continue participating in negotiations if her separation was related to differences in organizational fit and the future direction of the District.

Ms. Blackman stated that, from her perspective as a teacher and CTA member, employees should be negotiating with individuals who continue to have a direct connection to the District. She acknowledged that the Board may have additional information regarding the matter but asked Board members to consider whether it was appropriate for Dr. White to remain on the bargaining team after leaving the District.

Christopher Newson, a District 149 parent and SIS/System Administrator for another school district, expressed concerns regarding the District's returning-student registration process. He characterized the process as antiquated and questioned why returning families are required to complete registration in person, submit multiple paper forms, and provide an original birth certificate that had previously been provided to the District. Based on his professional experience with student information systems, Mr. Newson encouraged the District to consider a digital registration process that would allow parents to

upload required documentation electronically, reducing the burden on working families and the amount of paperwork required.

Kimberly Eldridge, a District 149 parent and employee, responded to the registration concerns. She acknowledged the frustration associated with the paperwork and lack of an electronic process but explained that, in her experience, staff conducting registration do not always have access to the student’s complete file and use the original birth certificate to verify that the individual registering the student is the appropriate parent or legal guardian. Ms. Eldridge stated that she viewed this requirement as a safety measure for students and families. She agreed that the amount of paperwork required for returning students could be reduced while maintaining appropriate identity and guardianship verification.

Agenda Items

MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve authorizing Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated July 29, 2026, July 30, 2026, and August 13, 2026 chargeable to the following accounts: <table> <tr> <td>Education Fund</td> <td>\$ 692,473.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operations and Maintenance Fund</td> <td>\$ 211,842.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Debt Services</td> <td>\$ 7,695.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation</td> <td>\$ 142,865.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Projects</td> <td>\$ 399,001.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tort Immunity</td> <td><u>\$ 46,919.38</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$1,500,798.94</td> </tr> </table> ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	Education Fund	\$ 692,473.55	Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 211,842.79	Debt Services	\$ 7,695.57	Transportation	\$ 142,865.86	Capital Projects	\$ 399,001.79	Tort Immunity	<u>\$ 46,919.38</u>		\$1,500,798.94	AGENDA ITEM H
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams removed items #I1-4, 10, 12, 14, 15 & 22s from the consent agenda.

Mr. Crivens removed items I8, 9 & 21 from the consent agenda.

MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve consent agenda items I5, 7, 11, 13, 16-20, 22a-r & t-gg: - Approval of the minutes from the special board meeting held July 30, 2026 - Approval of acceptance of \$1,000.00 donation from JMA Architects for back- to-school supplies - Approval of SY 2026-27 Tentative Budget - Approval of purchase of subdomains for Venture Prep and Early Childhood programs, through FinalSite, in the amount of \$3,000. - Approval of renewal of agreement with Sentinel for SY 26/27 network management in the amount of \$6,674.96 per month - Approval of renewal of MOU with community partner, Children’s Home Center - Approval of renewal of MOU with community partner, Grandma Jones Daycare Center - Approval of renewal of MOU with community partner, Nurturing Development & Learning Academy II - Approval of renewal of MOU with community partner, Neighborhood Housing - Approval of renewal of MOU with community partner, Calumet City Library - Personal Report	AGEND ITEM I5- 7, 11, 13, 16-20, 22a-r & t- gg
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Resignation:

- a. Approval of resignation of Vander Green, P.E. Teacher at CCA, effective July 16, 2026
- b. Approval of resignation of Bernice Owusu, SPED Resource Teacher at CCA, effective July 16, 2026
- c. Approval of resignation of Marquis Burks, Culture and Climate Coach at STEM, effective July 16, 2026
- d. Approval of resignation of Terence Lee, District Case Manager, effective July 24, 2026
- e. Approval of resignation of Rachel Armour, Permanent Guest Teacher at Berger-Vandenberg, effective August 3, 2026
- f. Approval of resignation of Norah Aoga, GEC Teacher at NBLA, effective August 3, 2026
- g. Approval of resignation of Navinka Williams, Culture and Climate Coach at Caroline Sibley, effective August 7, 2026
- h. Approval of resignation of Sydney Carroll, 1st Grade Teacher at Diekman, effective August 7, 2026
- i. Approval of resignation of Lana Mason, Music Teacher at CCA, effective August 7, 2026
- j. Approval of resignation of Kimberly Carlos, Music Teacher at Berger-Vandenberg, effective August 8, 2026
- k. Approval of resignation of Deborah Baldauf, SPED Teacher at CCA, effective August 11, 2026
- l. Approval of resignation of Danelda Craig, Permanent Guest Teacher at SOFA, effective August 14, 2026
- m. Approval of resignation of Melissa Thompson, Payroll Specialist at District Office, effective August 24, 2026

Employment:

- n. Approval of employment of Kristine Carra, 2nd grade teacher at Carol Moseley Braun, effective August 10, 2026
- o. Approval of employment of Aja Fields, Assistant Principal at Carol Moseley Braun and NBLA, effective date TBD
- p. Approval of employment of Jackqueline Russell, SPED Teacher at TBD, effective August 10, 2026
- q. Approval of employment of Bethany Nycz, 2nd Grade Teacher at Caroline Sibley, effective August 10, 2026
- r. Approval of employment of Vivivan Nash, 5th Grade Teacher at Diekman, effective August 17, 2026
- t. Approval of employment of Stacey Holmes, Permanent Guest Teacher at Carol Moseley Braun, effective August 10, 2026
- u. Approval of employment of Kyndell Lindsey, Permanent Guest Teacher at Caroline Sibley, effective August 10, 2026
- v. Approval of employment of Needra Williams, Permanent Guest Teacher at Caroline Sibley, effective August 10, 2026
- w. Approval of employment of Danny Lee, Permanent Guest Teacher at SOFA, effective August 10, 2026
- x. Approval of employment of Charmaine Lando, Permanent Guest Teacher at Caroline Sibley, effective August 10, 2026
- y. Approval of employment of Kamora Owens, Permanent Guest Teacher at SOFA, effective date TBD
- z. Approval of employment of Brittany Norwood, Paraprofessional at Diekman,

effective date TBD aa. Approval of employment of Janiya Lanier, Paraprofessional at Diekman, effective date TBD bb. Approval of employment of Shawniece Griffin, Custodian at NBLA, effective date TBD cc. Approval of employment of Latanya Lewis, Paraprofessional at Diekman, effective date TBD Leave of Absence: dd. Approval of FMLA for Deborah Witcher-Delaney, Administrative Assistant at NBLA, effective May 26, 2026 through August 18, 2026 ee. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Sheryl Lewis, Teacher at STEM, effective August 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027 ff. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Sheria Robinson, Confidential Secretary at District Office, effective August 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027 gg. Approval of Intermittent FMLA for Latanya Howell, Paraprofessional at SOFA, effective August 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027 ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	
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Adjourn to Closed Session

MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. King, to adjourn to a closed session at 7:22 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) ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM J
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Adjourn from Closed Session at 7:51 p.m.

Consent Agenda Items

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams questioned the payroll amounts presented for July 16, July 27, and July 31, 2026, stating that the amounts appeared significantly higher than normal. She referenced discussion at the previous meeting in which increased payroll expenses had been attributed to retirements and related payouts and asked for clarification regarding what was included in the payroll amounts for each of the three dates. She also noted that she did not see payments reflected for the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) or THIS and requested clarification regarding those payments.

Dr. Brown explained that the July 27 payroll included Dr. White's separation/retirement payout.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked whether the amount represented Dr. White's full payout or a partial payment.

Dr. Brown confirmed that it was the full amount.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams questioned whether the payout was based on Dr. White’s salary for the 2024–2025 school year, noting that her understanding from previous discussions was that the matter would be returned to the attorneys and that the Board had not subsequently received confirmation of the final payout amount.

Dr. Brown stated that, to her understanding, the payment was based upon the separation agreement previously approved by the Board.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams then requested clarification regarding the higher payroll amounts for July 16 and July 31.

Dr. Brown explained that summer school payments and payments associated with the summer institute also contributed to the increased payroll amounts.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams reiterated her request for information regarding the TRS and THIS payments and specifically asked whether those deductions had been taken from Dr. White’s separation payout.

Dr. Brown indicated that she would obtain additional information regarding the retirement-related payments.

Mr. Tillman stated that the Board had previously been provided with the final amount of Dr. White’s separation payout and that the Board was aware of the amount, although he would need to refer back to the previous meetings for the specific discussion. He also referenced recent Board training and encouraged Board members to provide questions requiring detailed financial or administrative information to the Superintendent in advance of meetings when possible. He stated that doing so would allow the Superintendent an opportunity to research the matter and have the requested information available at the meeting rather than having to obtain the information afterward.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to approve payroll summaries for July 16, 2026, in the amount of \$341,281.08. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I1
MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve payroll summaries for July 27, 2026, in the amount of \$313,470.36. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I2
MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve payroll summaries for July 31, 2026, in the amount of \$406,812.58. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I3

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams questioned why the July 16 minutes did not reflect the discussion regarding Ms. Barnes and the Director of District Services position, including Mrs. King’s statement that information regarding the position had been presented at a Special Board Meeting. She also noted that the Board had not received the minutes from that Special Board Meeting.

Mrs. Tillman stated that Ms. Barnes had accepted the position and signed the contract.

Mr. Tillman asked for clarification regarding whether the concern involved the July 16 Regular Board Meeting minutes or the Special Board Meeting minutes.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams reiterated that the July 16 minutes did not reflect the information presented regarding Ms. Barnes and the position.

Mr. Crivens summarized the concern by stating that Mrs. De Vasher-Williams was indicating that information was missing from the minutes.

Mr. Tillman acknowledged that the information being referenced was not included in the minutes as presented.

Janene Preston stated that she would have to go back and review, but she believes that conversation was during closed session.

Mr. Tillman stated that the Board would table approval of the July 16, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes so that the minutes could be reviewed and corrected.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held July 16, 2026. MOTION TABLED	AGENDA ITEM I4
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Mr. Crivens asked for the cost associated with attending the IASA conference.

Dr. Brown stated that the registration fee is \$469 and that the remaining costs would include hotel accommodations and meal reimbursement. She explained that housing arrangements would be addressed following Board approval of her attendance.

Mr. Tillman requested that the final total cost be provided to the entire Board once the remaining expenses were determined.

Dr. Brown confirmed that the information would be sent to the Board.

MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve the Superintendent to attend IASA conference in Springfield, Illinois, September 30 - October 2, 2026. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I8
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Mr. Crivens stated that he had initially believed this representation for the Resolution was covered under the contract. He noted, however, that it had been explained that a resolution was required in order to provide representation before the identified Cook County and State bodies. Based on that clarification, Mr. Crivens stated that he was fine with the resolution.

MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mr. Crivens, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Interventions in All Proceedings Before the Cook County Board of Review, The Circuit Court of Cook County, and the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. King, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I9
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked what the Generation Genius program provides for the K–5 science curriculum. She stated that information provided for another item contained more detail regarding what the program entailed, while several of the other invoices or quotes provided to the Board included primarily a quantity, date, and dollar amount. She stated that her question applied to the majority of the vendor items presented and that she wanted more specific information regarding what the Board was being asked to approve.

Dr. Brown explained that Generation Genius Science is a program the District has utilized for more than four years and consists of a collection of science videos and activities used by K–5 teachers in the classroom.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked for additional clarification regarding the videos, including whether they are interactive and what students are expected to do in connection with them.

Dr. Brown responded that the program is a curriculum in which videos are used to present the content being taught and students then engage in activities related to that content.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams then questioned why the agenda item was identified as approval of a “purchase” rather than a “renewal” if the District had already been utilizing the program for several years. Dr. Brown stated that she could not speak to the previous four years but that, to her understanding, the item was a renewal.

Mrs. King asked whether teachers participate in decisions regarding the renewal of the curricula.

Dr. Brown responded that, to her understanding, the directors had informed her that teachers wanted to continue utilizing the program until the District adopts a science curriculum.

Mrs. King also asked whether the District uses any metrics to measure usage of the applications. She stated that Dr. Brown did not need to provide an immediate answer and suggested that the District consider measuring usage.

Dr. Brown agreed that this could be considered.

Mr. Tillman stated that measuring usage was a very good idea.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve the purchase of Generation Genius K-5 Science Curriculum for SY 26/27 through Newsela, in the amount of \$8,077.50. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I10
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated that her concern was similar to the previous agenda item regarding the information provided to the Board. She noted that the item appeared to involve a three-year contract but that the materials submitted did not provide detailed information regarding the product or service being considered.

Dr. Brown explained that Clever automates the secure transfer of student rosters to authorized applications to ensure that learning programs have updated information. She stated that the District also uses Clever to provide single sign-on access for students and teachers through the Clever portal.

Dr. Brown further explained that Clever’s core features are currently provided to the District at no cost and that the requested \$4,175 is for the Clever Identity Management add-on. The add-on is needed to sync, manage, and create student and staff accounts between Skyward and the District’s Active Directory/Google systems.

Dr. Brown stated that, to her understanding, the Technology Department is currently creating these accounts manually. The Identity Management add-on would allow the systems to sync so that accounts can be created and managed when students are registered.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve the purchase of identity management add-on, to sync with Skyward, through Clever, in the amount of \$4,175.00. 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 I12
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked whether aquariums are currently in place at the preschool.

Dr. Brown confirmed that there are aquariums in each Pre-K classroom and explained that the service includes more than the aquariums themselves. She stated that it is an educational program in which the provider comes to the school and brings live animals for the students to experience. Students also watch videos about the animals being presented and learn related vocabulary and other information as part of the program.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked how many classrooms participate in the program.

Dr. Brown stated that the program is in every Pre-K classroom. She noted that there are currently approximately 91 Pre-K students and referenced a student-to-classroom ratio of approximately 20.

Mr. Tillman stated that he believed he had seen approximately eight classrooms at the preschool.

Dr. Brown later clarified that the number of Pre-K classrooms is six.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mr. Tillman, to approve the renewal of service and educational package for SY 26/27 for the Pre-K aquariums through Ocean City Aquariums, in the amount of \$7,500.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I14
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked for clarification regarding the information and quantities listed on the Teaching Strategies quote, stating that she was unsure what some of the items represented.

Dr. Brown noted that the Board materials contained two copies of the same quote. She explained that the quote includes six licenses corresponding with the six Pre-K classrooms. Dr. Brown stated that she was unsure what one of the product codes represented and indicated that it may be a code used by the vendor.

Dr. Brown further explained that the quote includes assessment portfolios and referenced an estimated enrollment of approximately 120 students. She stated that the assessment portfolios are for the online assessment.

MOTION by Mrs. Elston, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve Pre-K curriculum renewal with Teaching Strategies, in the amount of \$4,828.14. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I15
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MOTION to approve the First Reading of Press Plus Policy 122. MOTION TABLED	AGENDA ITEM I21
MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, to approve employment of Tiara Granger, Permanent Guest Teacher at Diekman, effective August 10, 2026. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM I22s

Final Action on Closed Session Items

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve student discipline decisions, as discussed in closed session. 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 K1
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Old Business

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to ratify Board poll at the June 18, 2026 board meeting to approve agreement with Court Vision LLC for Basketball Training & Skills Camp, in the amount of \$4,000.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM L1
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked what specifically was being amended in the minutes.

Mr. Crivens also asked where the amendment was located and what position was being referenced, noting that he did not have a copy of the information.

Dr. Brown referenced a Special Board Meeting and identified herself, Brown, Jones, and Tiffith in connection with the discussion.

Mr. Tillman stated that he believed the referenced meeting was the one involving a position but questioned whether the necessary information was included in the materials.

Mrs. Tillman stated that the names were not included and the minutes were to be amended to include that information.

Mr. Tillman then questioned whether the information regarding the proposed amendment had been included in the Board packet. After determining that the amendment information was not in the packet, Mr. Tillman stated that the Board needed to clarify the matter before taking action.

MOTION to amend the May 27, 2026 Board meeting minutes. MOTION TABLED	AGENDA ITEM L2
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams questioned whether the item represented a new purchase or was related to the Palisade Technology purchase previously presented to the Board. She stated that, although she did not have the previous

minutes in front of her, she recalled that the earlier Palisade Technology item involved CCA and STEM and was presented for a lesser amount.

Dr. Brown responded that the current documents were new quotes. She stated that the amount was the same but had now been broken down by school.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated that she recalled the previous CCA information differently. She referenced her recollection that an earlier quote was for either 12 or 14 Chromebook carts and that the carts may have been divided between buildings. She questioned whether the 14 carts currently being presented were additional to those previously approved or whether the current item represented a breakdown of the original purchase. She also referenced her previous questions concerning a Palisade Technology quote, including the dollar amount and information regarding the company.

Mrs. Tillman recalled that one of the previous Palisade Technology items had been held because Mrs. De Vasher-Williams had requested additional information. She specifically referenced questions that had been raised regarding the logo appearing on the contract and other information contained in the documentation.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams clarified that those concerns related to the second Palisade Technology item and stated that the Board had voted on the first item.

Jamar Everett clarified the history of the Palisade Technology quotes. He stated that there were originally two quotes and that buildings had initially been grouped together on the documentation, referencing the middle school, CCA, and STEM. He stated that a separate quote involving Caroline Sibley School had been questioned because additional information regarding particulars of the quote had been requested. Jamar Everett further explained that a new quote was subsequently obtained and that the amounts were broken down by individual school building so the costs could be identified by building.

MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. King, to approve purchase of 14 chromebook carts for CCA, through Palisade Technology, in the amount of \$25,900.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Tillman, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mr. Crivens and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM L3
MOTION by Mrs. Crayton, seconded by Mrs. Tillman, to approve purchase of 14 chromebook carts for STEM, through Palisade Technology, in the amount of \$25,900.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. King, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mr. Crivens and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM L4

New Business

MOTION by Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, seconded by Mrs. Elston, authorizing Intergovernmental Agreement Between Dolton School District 149 and Dolton Library for the Shared Use of Facilities. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Tillman, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM M1
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Mrs. De Vasher-Williams stated that the Board had previously requested that information be presented for its review and that, although the matter had gone between the attorneys for discussion, the information had not been presented to the Board for review prior to the current meeting. She also noted that the document she was reviewing was dated and signed.

Mr. Tillman asked whether she was referring to Agenda Item 2 or Agenda Item 3.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams clarified that the document she was referencing was Item 3.

Mr. Crivens stated that his concerns regarding Item 3 affected his ability to vote on Item 2. He stated that he could not vote on Item 2 without first addressing what he described as several points of contention in Item 3. Specifically, Mr. Crivens stated that the confidentiality language was too vague and overreaching, was not limited specifically to negotiations, and did not include a termination date for the nondisclosure requirements.

Mr. Tillman stated that the Board had previously discussed some of these matters in closed session and referenced discussions associated with a Special Meeting.

Mr. Crivens stated that his understanding from the previous discussion was that the document would be presented to the Board so members could review and address concerns prior to anyone signing it.

Mr. Tillman disagreed with Mr. Crivens' characterization of the prior conversation and stated that the discussion had concerned the requirement for the Board to vote on matters before they were signed.

Mr. Crivens reiterated that his concern was with the language of the document. He stated that the confidentiality provisions could be limited to negotiations and that a termination provision could be added specifying when the nondisclosure requirements would end, including at the conclusion of negotiations once the contract was signed.

Mr. Tillman stated that the District's attorneys had prepared the documents.

Mr. Crivens responded that the Board still had a responsibility to review and approve matters presented by its attorneys. He stated that attorneys present matters to the Board for discussion and a vote and that, if the Board wanted language added to an agreement, counsel could consider the proposed language and advise the Board regarding its inclusion.

Mr. Tillman stated that he would rely on the legal advice of the District's attorneys and acknowledged Mr. Crivens' concerns.

Mr. Crivens further stated that, in his view, nothing should have been signed before being presented to the Board. He referenced the Open Meetings Act and stated that the matter should appear on the agenda, be presented to the Board, and be voted upon in public. He also stated that public business should not be conducted through polling or action outside of a public meeting.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve Dr. Maureen White to continue to serve on the District's Bargaining Team. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM M2
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Mr. Crivens stated for the record that, in his view, contracts could not be signed prior to being brought before the Board for consideration and characterized doing so as a violation of the Open Meetings Act. He stated that

this practice needed to cease and that contracts should be brought before the Board so that members have an opportunity to review the information and provide input before action is taken.

Mr. Crivens reiterated the specific concerns he had raised regarding the language of the Non-Disclosure Agreement. He stated that the changes he was proposing were not extensive and included adding a termination date and narrowing the confidentiality provisions so that the information subject to confidentiality was not overly broad. He expressed concern that these proposed changes were not being given consideration before proceeding with the agreement.

Mr. Crivens further expressed concern that matters were being moved forward without adequate consideration of Board members' input. He referenced discussion regarding treating individuals with respect and stated that, in his view, those principles needed to be demonstrated in practice as well as in words and that established requirements needed to be followed.

Mrs. Crayton asked Mr. Crivens how he knew that the process was not being followed.

Mr. Crivens again referenced the Open Meetings Act and stated that matters requiring Board action should come before the Board and appear on the agenda prior to approval. He specifically stated that the Non-Disclosure Agreement had been signed before the Board approved it.

Mrs. De Vasher-Williams asked why the signature on the document had been redacted.

Attorney Kolenberg responded that it was for protection.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to approve Non-Disclosure Agreement. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, and Mr. Tillman. Nay: Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, and Mrs. De Vasher-Williams. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM M3
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Mr. Crivens stated that his concern was that he had not been contacted regarding the Board poll. He stated that, as a matter of respect, Board members should be contacted and asked for their position even if they may ultimately vote no. Mr. Crivens further stated that this was not the first Board poll from which he believed he had been left out.

Dr. Brown responded directly to Mr. Crivens and stated that she had contacted him regarding this matter. She stated that she called every Board member on Thursday, August 13, 2026, and specifically stated that she called Mr. Crivens at 1:45 p.m. According to Dr. Brown, Mr. Crivens answered the telephone and told her that he would call her back.

Mr. Crivens responded that he needed to be asked to take the poll.

Dr. Brown acknowledged the distinction and stated that, in the future, she could specifically state that she was calling to take a poll. Dr. Brown reiterated that she had called all Board members regarding the matter.

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to ratify board poll approving quote from QMI, to replace failed compressor unit at Berger-Vandenberg, in the amount of \$8,799.58. 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 M4
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MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Elston, to ratify board poll approving quote from QMI, to replace failed compressor on chiller unit circuit one, at Caroline Sibley, in the amount of \$15,303.00. 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 M5
MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to ratify board poll approving quote from QMI, to replace failed compressor on chiller unit circuit one, at Caroline Sibley, in the amount of \$15,303.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Crayton, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. King, Mr. Crivens, Mrs. De Vasher-Williams, and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM M6

Mr. Tillman addressed a question that had been raised at the previous Board meeting regarding the District's expenditure for a mentor/coach for the Superintendent. He stated that the question raised at that meeting was why the District was spending money for a mentor/coach when the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) reportedly provided coaching and mentoring services for newly hired superintendents at no cost.

Mr. Tillman stated that he believed the information regarding complimentary IASB coaching and mentoring services was incorrect and that he contacted IASB Executive Director Kimberly Small directly for clarification.

Mr. Tillman read into the record the email he sent to Ms. Small. In the email, he stated that he had recently been informed by the Board Vice President during a Board meeting that IASB offered a complimentary coaching and mentoring service for school districts with newly hired superintendents. He referenced his involvement with IASB earlier in the year, including three occasions in which he had been in Springfield with Ms. Small and others, and stated that he would have expected such a benefit to have been discussed if the service were available. He further stated that, because he had not previously heard of the offering, he was uncertain whether the information he had received was accurate. He asked Ms. Small to confirm whether IASB offered a coaching or mentoring program of that nature for newly hired superintendents and, if not, to provide clarification.

Mr. Tillman then reported Ms. Small's response to the Board. He stated that he would not read her entire response because the first portion answered the question. Mr. Tillman read Ms. Small's response stating that IASB does not offer complimentary coaching or mentoring programming/services for newly hired superintendents.

Mr. Tillman explained that he was addressing the matter during the meeting because the original question regarding complimentary IASB coaching and mentoring services had been raised on the record at the previous Board meeting. He stated that he therefore wanted to correct the record and indicated that the information previously presented regarding IASB providing the service at no cost was not factual, based upon the clarification he received directly from the IASB Executive Director.

Adjournment

MOTION by Mrs. Tillman, seconded by Mrs. Crayton, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:49 p.m. ROLL CALL TO VOTE: Aye: ALL IN FAVOR MOTION CARRIED	AGENDA ITEM N
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Wilbur Tillman, President

Sheryl Tillman, Secretary