

## Formal Grievance - No. 2

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Date: February 15, 2021

To: Board President Woolley and Members of the Board

Re: Formal Grievance #2 and Call for Immediate Action

This grievance is submitted in objection to Action Agenda Item C - Seating of Board Member (Ms. Judith Barba) to the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education at the February 16, 2021, Special Meeting.<sup>1</sup> We submit for the following reasons that proceeding with Item C creates inextricable conflicts for the Board and serves to compromise the District in ways violative of the public trust:

- Tulsa School Board Policy 1102 includes a subsection entitled *Contracts with Board Members or Business in Which Board Members Have an Interest* and explicitly prohibits the District from entering into a contract “with a Board member or any company, individual, business concern, or other entity in which any Board member is directly or indirectly interested, except as otherwise provided by Oklahoma law.”<sup>2</sup>
- On June 18, 2020 the Board approved an agreement for contracted services provided by Growing Together to the District in the amount of \$390,000 to provide services for students and teachers.<sup>3</sup>
- Ms. Barba herself is employed by Growing Together, an entity whose work is so closely bound up with that of the School District’s that employees of Growing Together are assigned positions as “Site Coordinators” inside of four schools belonging to the sub-district Ms. Barba would represent.<sup>4</sup> Due to the nature of the services provided, Ms. Barba functions as a de facto employee of the District. Due to the extant contract with Growing Together, Ms. Barba’s loyalty to the District could be divided.
- Seating Ms. Barba on the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education brings the Board and therefore the District into violation of [70 O.S. 5-124](#), [Contract Requirements and Prohibitions](#) and [Tulsa Public Schools Board Policy 1102, Contracts with Board Members or Business in Which Board Members Have an Interest](#).
- The administration of the Oath of Office by Mr. Eric Wade, Counsel to the District, is objectionable on the grounds that doing so could *create* for his client a violation of its own policies explicitly prohibiting the District from entering into a contract “with a

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<sup>1</sup> [Agenda of Special Meeting of the Board of Education](#), February 16, 2021 [See Attachment A]

<sup>2</sup> [Tulsa Public Schools Board Policy 1102, Contracts with Board Members or Business in Which Board Members Have an Interest](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Regular Meeting, June 18, 2020](#), Item E.23

<sup>4</sup> [About Growing Together](#) [See Attachment B - Screenshots from the Growing Together website 2-15-21]

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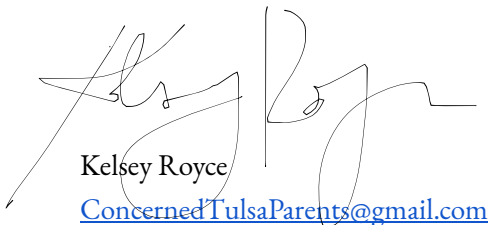
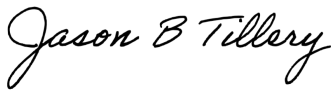
Board member or any company, individual, business concern, or other entity in which any Board member is directly or indirectly interested...”<sup>5</sup>

- Pursuant to Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education Policy 1102, “questions concerning the application of this portion of this policy [Contracts with Board Members or Business in Which Board Members Have an Interest] will be referred to the Board attorney for a written opinion.” Mr. Eric Wade, variously the Attorney for the Board and the Attorney for the District<sup>6</sup> has not followed up with a written response to a grievance filed previously against Board Member Jania Wester whose spouse is the Executive Director of Growing Together.

For the reasons listed above, we insist that the Board of Education remove Item C - Seating of Board Member Judith Barba from the Action Agenda of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education. Our intention here shall not to be construed to diminish the work of Ms. Barba nor of Growing Together but instead taken as a demonstration of our insistence that the Board of Education uphold the laws which imbue it with the authority and the responsibility to govern without conflict and as representatives of the people not proxies for individual Board Members’ professional interests.

Sincerely,

Jason B. Tillery  
2020 E. Admiral Blvd. #4  
Tulsa, OK 74110  
Resident TPSB District 2



Kelsey Royce  
[ConcernedTulsaParents@gmail.com](mailto:ConcernedTulsaParents@gmail.com)



Melissa Remington  
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<sup>5</sup> [Tulsa Public Schools Board Policy 1102](#), *Contracts with Board Members or Business in Which Board Members Have an Interest*

<sup>6</sup> Video, [Regular Board Meeting](#), July 6, 2020. [01:58:37-01:59:42]

## AGENDA

**Special Meeting** of the Board of Education, Independent School District Number One, Tulsa County, Oklahoma, Tuesday, **February 16, 2021**, at 4:00 p.m. conducted using videoconference pursuant to Title 25, Section 307.1 of the Oklahoma Statutes, as amended by Senate Bill 1031 and in the Cheryl Selman Room, ground floor, at the Charles C. Mason Education Service Center, 3027 S. New Haven Avenue, Tulsa, OK. Members of the public may access the meeting by videoconference at [tulsaschools.org](https://tulsaschools.org) or in-person at the above-described location, where the board members attending remotely by videoconference will be projected on a video screen. The Zoom Meeting ID is: 819 4659 8809, which can be accessed through Zoom and the following link: <https://tulsaschools-org.zoom.us/j/81946598809?from=addon>.

The following members of the Board of Education plan to attend remotely via videoconference, provided that they may still be permitted to appear and attend at the in-person meeting site, the Cheryl Selman Room of the Charles C. Mason Education Service Center, 3027 S. New Haven Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma:

Stacey Woolley, Board President (District 1); Judith Barba (District 2); Jennettie Marshall (District 3); Shawna Keller (District 4); John Croisant (District 5); Jerry Griffin (District 6); and Suzanne Schreiber (District 7). If the audio connection is lost, the meeting will be stopped and reconvened as soon as the audio connection is restored. Please stand by.

A. OPENING EXERCISES

A-1. Call to order and confirm that a quorum is present.

A-2. Flag Salute.

B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

C. SEATING OF BOARD MEMBER

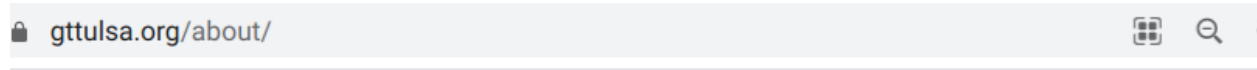
C-1. The Board President will read a statement concerning the election of a Board Member to represent School Board Election District Number Two.

C-2. School District Attorney Eric Wade will administer the Oath of Office to the newly-elected Board member for Election District Number Two.

C-3 The Board President will call for nominations for the office of interim vice president. A motion will be made, seconded, and vote taken.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FORMER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTING ELECTION DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.

## Attachment B - Screenshots from the Growing Together website 2-15-21



Judith Barba

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & MOBILIZATION MANAGER

Judith joins Growing Together with years of experience in diversity and nonprofit work. During her previous career, she had the opportunity to see the diversity this country has and strategically figure out how we can work together to improve the quality of life for each individual. Judith skills are in developing strong teamwork, problem-solving and a variety of communication skills. She lives in the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood and is passionate about improving the lives of those in her community. In her role at Growing Together Judith can use her passions to help those who live in her city and are in need.



Jessica Noonan

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Before joining the Growing Together team, Jessica was a teacher at Kendall-Whittier Elementary school for eight years. During that time, she was awarded teacher of the year and became a National Board-Certified reading specialist. Since her time at Kendall-Whittier Elementary, Jessica has worked as an instructional coach with Tulsa Public Schools and a graduate research and teaching assistant at Oklahoma State University. With her experience at the school site level, district level, and in higher education, she has an in-depth understanding of how these various systems interact within the local context. With this understanding, Jessica plans to make a difference in the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood by helping to break down barriers between schools and the families they serve.






Anahi Messer


CIS SITE COORDINATOR - SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY

Anahi holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Tulsa. Being connected to the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood, she is ready to utilize her efficiency and listening skills to help solve problems and overcome obstacles to support students and families at Sequoyah Elementary School. Anahi feels she has a passion to further people's future and help those that need it the most, and that's why she is so excited to be helping students through the CIS program at Growing Together. She aspires for to help her students reach their goals and impact the next generation.




## Attachment B - Screenshots from the Growing Together website 2-15-21






**Norma Gonzalez**  
CIS SITE COORDINATOR - KENDALL-WHITTIER ELEMENTARY


For the last four years, Norma was an AmeriCorps member and served as a parent educator as well as a Literacy Lead with Reading Partners. During these positions, she realized that several Tulsa families in need do not know how to get help or support. This is what brought Norma to Communities in Schools. With a heart full of respect, empathy and compassion, Norma can work to connect students with resources to help improve their lives and stay motivated. She studied business administration in Chihuahua, Mexico, prior to joining AmeriCorps.






**Susan Mulvaney**  
CIS SITE COORDINATOR - WILL ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL

Previously working as a DHS social worker and then as a pre-school teacher, Susan has always had a passion for helping children. Now, she is a site coordinator at Rogers College High School. Susan believes that every child deserves to be accepted and given encouragement to achieve success. Each day she works to provide students with resources to help their families while reminding students to focus on graduation, providing encouragement along the way. Susan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology of Organization and Administration with a business minor from the Oklahoma State University.





**Vanessa Villanueva**  
CIS SITE COORDINATOR - WILL ROGERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Previously working with diverse populations in workforce development, recruitment and grant management, Vanessa has a passion for re-entry services and helping people achieve success. She has a diverse educational background from Southwestern Oklahoma State University with a BA in Criminal Justice, BS in Psychology, M.Ed in Social Services with a Criminal Justice emphasis. As an active listener, she works hard to empower, motivate and build relationships with her clients. Vanessa works to make a difference by planting seeds of hope that one day will lead to positive changes in individuals, families and communities.

