



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes – October 18, 2023

President Robert Laudadio called the regular meeting of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 Board of Education, DuPage County to order at 6:30 p.m., at Educational Administration Center, 210 S. Church Road, Bensenville, Illinois.

Roll call verified that there was a quorum of the Board present with the following members present and absent as listed below:

<i>Board of Education</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Jacqueline Dye	Secretary	X	
Victoria Gonzalez	Member	X	
Robert Laudadio	President	X	
Marisol Leyva	Vice-President	X	
Anita Miller	Member	X	
Lori Parthimos	Treasurer	X	
James Stoltman	Member	X	
<i>Administration</i>			
Dr. Katie McCluskey	Superintendent	X	
Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
<i>EAC Staff</i>			
Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	

Staff Present: Tim Waldorf – Community Relations Coordinator, Joe West – Tech Specialist, Dustin Berman – Asst. Superintendent for Student Services, Anne Paonessa - Asst. Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Carlos Patiño – Principal, WA Johnson School, Jeff Kersten – Principal, Tioga School and Dr. Perry Finch – Principal, Blackhawk Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Celebrations

- District 2 celebrated four employee recognition days in October: National Custodial Workers Day (October 2), National School Lunch Week (October 9-13), National School Bus Safety Week (October 16-20) and Illinois Principal Appreciation Day (October 20.) The Board viewed a short video recognizing District 2 employees in each of those groups.

Presentation

A. School Improvement Plans

- District administrators and principals from all three schools addressed how their school improvement plans addressed each of these strategic priorities:
 - We will engage all students with diverse learning experiences from an appropriately aligned and challenging curriculum.
 - We will develop and maintain a positive climate and culture to meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Board Committee Reports

A. Announcements

- Mrs. Dye asked for Board input on the IASB Resolutions. After discussion, there was a consensus to vote according to IASB recommendations.
- Mr. Stoltman reported that the Bensenville/WoodDale Rotary distributed 300 cots to approximately 120 families.

● **Administrative Reports**

A. Announcements - none

B. FOIA Report - Mr. Novack reported that there have been 3 FOIA's since the last meeting:

1. President, Ass'n of Illinois Library Educators - Name and work email for certified school librarians
2. Daily Herald Media- Radon test results and remediation records
3. Allium Data - Insurance renewal summaries regarding property & casualty insurance and health, dental & vision plans

C. 1st Quarter Financial Update – Mr. Novack reported that through the first quarter of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, revenue is coming in as forecast while expenses are seeing small but mostly favorable variances.

Consent Item

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 20, 2023

Recommendation: The Board of Education approves the above listed minutes as presented and attached.

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills September 2023
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
2. Financial Statements as of September 30, 2023

Recommendation: The Board of Education approves the financial reports as presented and attached.

C. Personnel

I. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of the following classified staff:

1. Cecilia Arteaga, 2nd Grade Dual Language Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective October 16, 2023
2. Mariela Dela Cruz Gutierrez, Kindergarten Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective September 25, 2023.
3. Greg Jones, Manager of Buildings and Grounds for the District, effective November 1, 2023.

II. Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following classified staff member:

1. Jocelyn Zacarias, Breakfast/Lunch/Crossing Guard at Tioga School, effective October 13, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Stoltman, Leyva, Parthimos, Dye, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Miller

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Revised Policies – Dr. McCluskey presented the following revised policies for adoption:

- Policy 2:80 – The revision updates the policy to include the full Oath of Office. The correct oath, as set forth in the statute, is always administered even though not stated in the policy.
- Policy 6:10 - The revision replaced Items 9 - 11 with the Vision, Mission, and Beliefs adopted in 2022. No other changes were recommended.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopt revised policy 2:80 Board Member Oath & Conduct as presented Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopt revised policy 6:10 - Educational Philosophy & Objectives as presented. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Resolution to Estimate 2023 Tax Levy – Mr. Novack reported that this is the first step to collect property taxes for the 2024-25 school year. In this step, the Board estimates the amounts to be raised by resolution property taxation. The next two steps occur in November. The Board will hold a hearing on the estimated increase and will consider a resolution to levy the tax for 2024-25.

Separate levies will be estimated in the resolution for seven of the District’s eight funds. The Bond Fund levy is not estimated here because no estimate is required. Bond Fund levies are created by a different process than the other levies.

Mr. Novack also reported that this resolution is an estimate rather than the actual levy. The actual tax levy will be proposed in November.

Inflation Rate, 2022	6.50%
Inflation Rate as capped for Levy	5.00%
New Construction Estimate	0.13%
District’s Likely Increase	5.13%
Cushion (see Options section)	1.62%
Estimate for Truth-in-Taxation	6.75%
Amounts are rounded	

Although the official estimate is 6.75%, the likely increase is 5.13% in the District’s total tax, from two components.

- The inflation component is the 12-month Consumer Price Index change reported for December 2022. It is capped at 5%. The actual increase was 6.5%.

- The new construction component permits the District to increase its aggregate levy beyond the CPI factor.

The typical taxpayer will have a 4.95% increase. However, individual results will vary depending on valuation changes for their individual parcel. Most parcels will increase in value by 4% this year. *Valuation increases in existing parcels do not add to the District's total tax.* They only affect how the total tax is divided among all property owners.

Mr. Novack presented Options:

- This estimate proposes a 1.62% cushion in addition to the 5.13% likely increase.
- The cushion serves two purposes: (1) if new construction is higher than estimated, then the District can fully increase its levy; and (2) it creates flexibility for the District next spring to adjust individual fund levies up or down as needed without changing the total levy.
- The aggregate cushion can only be levied if new construction exceeds estimates.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education adopts the resolution estimating money necessary to be raised by taxation in tax year 2023 (collected 2024) as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Leyva, Miller, Parthimos, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

- C. Resolution declaring an intent to issue up to \$5,000,000 of working cash fund bonds and directing that notice of such intent be published in the manner provided by law.** – Mr. Novack reported that the District is considering issuing up to \$5,000,000 in bonds later this school year.

Two preliminary steps are recommended here. These steps do not obligate the District to issue bonds. A resolution to approve the issuance is anticipated in December.

The proceeds will be used to pay for part of the 2024 renovation costs at Blackhawk Middle School. If the bonds are issued, the Administration will recommend that they be supported by continuation of an existing tax levy. The initial levy is forecasted to be about \$27 for a \$250,000 home, the same as in the current property tax year.

Mr. Novack reported to issue the bonds later this year, these two preliminary steps are recommended.

(1) The attached Resolution of Intent to Issue Working Cash Fund Bonds is recommended for adoption. The issuing fund is the Working Cash Fund, which meets School Code requirements. In 2024, the Working Cash Fund is expected to transfer the bond proceeds to the Operations & Maintenance Fund or other fund most in need of the funds.

(2) Immediate publication is recommended of a notice described on page 3 of the resolution.

A motion was made Mrs. Leyva and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education adopts the attached Resolution stating its intent to issue Working Cash Fund Bonds in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the purposes set forth in the resolution and directing publication of a notice thereof.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Leyva, Dye, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Miller, Parthimos, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

D. Partially Abate from Working Cash Fund to Transportation Fund – Mr. Novack reported that the District’s Working Cash fund does not make expenditures directly. Its purpose is to loan cash to other funds that do make expenditures. Loans are repaid as soon as taxes are received in the borrowing fund. The minimum balance for the Working Cash fund is 0.05% of the District’s equalized assessed valuation, or about \$415,000.

The District’s Transportation fund will purchase six buses this year for about \$400,000. The cash available in that fund is not able to absorb such a large expenditure.

School Code permits a transfer (not a loan) from the Working Cash fund to the Transportation Fund.

Mr. Novack also reported that an abatement (transfer) of \$100,000 to the Transportation Fund is recommended. The Transportation Fund, among all the District’s funds, is in most need of the transfer because of its bus purchases. Without the abatement, it will likely need to borrow from the Education Fund later this year.

The Working Cash fund can afford the proposed transfer. Its balance at September 30, 2023, was \$564,034, which is substantially higher than either the minimum amount or likely future loans.

- No loans are outstanding at this time. The total loans in 2023 were \$15,000.
- Loans for the year 2024 are not expected to exceed \$50,000.
- The required minimum balance for the fund is about \$415,000.

Administration believes a balance of about \$460,000 would be sufficient for the near future.

Mr. Novack reported on Options:

- The Working Cash Fund can levy taxes if it needs additional cash. Total tax levies in the Fund since 2020 are only \$19,000.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board adopt the attached resolution to abate \$100,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Parthimos, Dye, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Leyva, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

New Business - none

Closed Session: none

Adjournment

At 7:31 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No further business appearing Mr. Laudadio adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

President

Secretary