



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes – August 23, 2023

President protemp Marisol Leyva 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:

Board of Education		Title		Absent
	Jacqueline Dye	Secretary		
	Victoria Gonzalez	Member	X	
	Robert Laudadio	President	X (arrived at 6:41 p.m.)	
	Marisol Leyva	Vice-President	X	
	Anita Miller	Member	X	
	Lori Parthimos	Treasurer	X	
	James Stoltman	Member	X	
Administration				
	Dr. Katie McCluskey	Superintendent	X	
	Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
EAC Staff				
	Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	

Staff Present: Tim Waldorf, Joe West, Anne Paonessa, Dustin Berman

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Leyva led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Celebrations

- **First Day of School** - Dr. McCluskey reported that the first day of school was Wed. August 16th. She shared a video of the students on their first day. She also gave a shout out to Sign Hero’s for their donation of their *Welcome Back To School* signs displayed during the 1st week of school.
- **Blackhawk Renovations flooring** - Dr. McCluskey presented a look into the 1st phase of the Blackhawk renovations that were completed over the summer. It consisted of asbestos removal and laying of the new flooring.

Presentations

- A. Summer Learning - Dr. Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning reported on the summer learning program that occurred through the High Impact Tutoring grant. The report consisted of the number of students that attended, staff participation and the summer learning outcomes. In addition, students were able to choose a book from Anderson Book Fair and had opportunities to use English through the Culinary Club at COD.

Board Committee Reports

- A. Announcements - Mr. Stoltman reported that the Bensenville Rotary will hold the Pura Vida 5K race on September 9, 2023 at Wood Dale Jr. High School. To sign up click [here](#).

Administrative Reports

- A. **Announcements** - Dr. McCluskey thanked the board for applying and allowing the District to implement the CEP program. In the first 5 days there has been an increase of 63% students taking breakfast and an increase of 25% taking lunch.
- B. **FOIA Report** - Mr. Novack reported that there were two FOIA's: 1 from NBC5, 1 from Prairie State Wire Media.
- C. **Report of Annual Safety Meeting** - Mr. Berman reported that the District held its annual safety meeting prior to the start of the school year to review school safety plans with first responders and other municipal partners. The group discussed school safety drills, emergency preparedness plans, ALICE training, and updated standard response protocols.
- D. **Tentative Budget 2023-2024** - Mr. Novack reported that the District's tentative budget shows a small surplus, with expenditures projected at about \$45.9 million and revenues at \$46.2 million. The **tentative budget** is available for public review and slated for approval following a public hearing at the Board's September 20 meeting.

Mr. Laudadio joined the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Consent Item

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – July 26, 2023
- 2. Regular Workshop Board of Education Meeting - August 9, 2023

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

- 1. Bills July 2023
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Board Member Reimbursements
- 2. Financial Statements as of July 31, 2023

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

C. Personnel

I. Ratification of Employment for 2023-2024, Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the employment of the following certified staff:

- 1. Vanessa Campos, TOSA Teacher on Special Assignment, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 16, 2023.
- 2. Martha Malana, Pre-K Counselor, Tioga School effective August 14, 2023.

II. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

- 1. Amanda Gerstmayr, Lunch/Recess Supervisor & Crossing Guard, Tioga School, effective August 16, 2023.
- 2. Enza Lappo, Infant/Toddler Specialist, Tioga School, effective August 30, 2023.

III. Authorize Stipend Appointments for Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the creation of 34 PLC positions and two shared Athletic Director positions to be filled by teachers selected by the principal subject to the Superintendent's approval.

IV. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Sana Mobeen, long-term substitute for Tioga Pre-K Program, effective August 16, 2023.

D. Hazardous Transportation Routes

Recommendation: That the Board of Education resolve that the presently approved safety hazard transportation conditions remain unchanged and that free transportation for the identified population be approved for the 2023-24 school year as presented and attached.

E. Non-Resident Tuition and Designation of Hearing Officers

Recommendation: That the Board of Education (1) designate the principals and assistant principals of each school as Hearing Officers for that school to determine residency of their students, each able to conduct hearings individually; and (2) establish an annual tuition rate for non-resident students of \$18,143 for 2023-24.

F. Review Closed Session Minutes & Destruction of Tapes

Recommendation: That the Board of Education

- (1) direct the Superintendent to destroy closed meeting recordings that are at least 18 months old for which approved minutes of the closed meeting already exist; and
- (2) find the need for confidentiality still exists as to all of its closed session minutes.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Dye,

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Approval of Contract for Verkada Bus Cameras - Dr. McCluskey reported that a strategic priority for the District is to implement additional security measures in 2023-24 such as door access, bus cameras, and an emergency notification system. Since the summer of 2022, a District committee has been researching bus cameras. The committee members were Dustin Berman, Paul Novack, Keith Lippoldt, Claire Cooper and Dr. McCluskey. The committee consensus was that Verkada could provide the best product to meet our safety and security needs. A pilot from Verkada has been used on one District bus.

Verkada's proposes to equip the other 17 buses with cameras and related equipment for \$197,755.

The Verkada package includes several features that were important to the reviewing committee. First, the cameras have a 10-year warranty. This should ensure a long life for the system. Second, the images can be viewed by any staff person with a Web connection and shared immediately to any other staff user or emergency responder. No special software is needed. Third, the images are available in real-time. We hope that feature never matters, but it will be invaluable if we need it. Fourth, the images transfer automatically by a cell phone connection instead of manually by a memory device that staff would have to manipulate every day. Last, the software and the images all reside in the cloud instead of on District 2's servers, so day-to-day management and upgrades are handled by Verkada without additional efforts or cost by our team.

This is a 5-year proposal so the cost includes installation, the hardware, and all the licensing for 5 years. Cellular service is included for one year. The products have a 10-year warranty.

Several other companies were considered when the project began in summer 2022. None of them had the full feature set that Verkada does. The Verkada system is not inexpensive, but the hardware warranty, the cell phone data connections, and the easy-to-use software are all premium features.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the Verkada bus cameras for our fleet of 18 buses.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Dye,

Motion Carried.

- B. Policy Review - No Changes Recommended** - Mr. Novack reported that the proposed policies are drafted by the Illinois Association of School Boards and released four times per year. From the June 2023 releases, seven proposals are reviewed here. After the review, no changes are recommended.

PRESS Proposal marked against D2 current policy	Administration Comments
6:10, Educational Philosophy and Objectives	First Reading will be presented to replace Items 9 - 11 with the Vision, Mission, and Beliefs adopted in 2022. No other changes are recommended.
6:190, Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date.
6:240, Field Trips	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date.
7:275, Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment	District 2 does not have a policy on this topic. No such orders exist at this time. The District's practice would be the same as described in the policy if such as order were submitted.
7:305, Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date.
8:25, Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by NonSchool Related Entities	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date.
8:95, Parental Involvement	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education consider the reviewed policies and determine that Policy 6:10 be proposed later for First Reading and that no changes are necessary at this time to the other policies.

- C. Mandated Bullying Report & Policy Review - Mr. Berman reported that** the District's anti-bullying policy, 7-180, is linked [here](#). Its contents reflect the highly-detailed requirements set forth in School Code.

The term "Bullying" is defined in School Code. This definition is narrower than the common public usage. Under the statute, bullying means (1) pervasive or severe conduct, with (2) a harm that is physical in nature, affects mental health, or creates a substantial interference in academic performance or school participation.

The District must review the policy and reevaluate it every two years. The report, once completed, will be posted on the District's website. The factors were presented for review. Data is drawn mostly from the District's student behavior database.

Revisions to BOE policy 7-180 will be presented for first reading to the Board at a future Regular BOE Meeting once PRESS provides a recommendation. These revisions will implement recent changes in the anti-bullying statute. In the meantime, BSD2 will be adhering to the requirements of the new law signed by Governor Pritzker.

Recommendations: No Board action on the report is necessary.

- D. Funding Options for Facilities** - Mr. Novack reported that Blackhawk Middle School renovations are projected to cost around \$16 million. To pay for the renovation, the District could use its cash reserves or a combination of borrowed funds and cash reserves. The Board reviewed options for borrowing about \$5 million for the renovations. The loan would be repaid by extending a property tax that expires this year. The tax is about \$27 in 2023 for the owner of a \$250,000 home. Borrowing now would preserve the District's cash reserves for possible future projects. The loans also cause future taxpayers to partly share in the project's cost. If funds are borrowed before construction begins, then the District would invest the loan proceeds and earn more interest than it would be charged for issuing the new debt. The Board will revisit this discussion at future meetings.

New Business

Dr. McCluskey reported that from the Institute day we had Jonathan Alsheimer with the teachers. He is the author of *"Next Level Teaching"* Dr. McCluskey wanted to make sure that each Board Members had a copy. Dr. McCluskey will be leading a book study with the principals and they in turn will be leading it with their staff.

Closed Session: none

Adjournment

At 6:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio 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 Mrs. Leyva adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

President

Secretary