



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes – November 15, 2023

President Robert Laudadio called the regular meeting of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 Board of Education, DuPage County to order at 6:31 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, Dr. Anne Paonessa - Asst. Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Tereon Teague 3rd Grade Teacher at Tioga School.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Public Hearing to receive comments on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in the amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District.

- A. Mr. Laudadio opened the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m. to receive comments on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in the amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District. Hearing none, Mr. Laudadio closed the public hearing and returned to the regular board meeting at 6:33 pm.

Public Hearing to receive comments on the permanent transfer of funds from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund.

- A. Mr. Laudadio opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. to receive comments on the permanent transfer of funds from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund. Mr. Novack reported that the administration is proposing that the district transfer money from the Educational Fund to the Transportation Fund. Hearing no comments, Mr. Laudadio closed the public hearing and returned to the regular board meeting at 6:34 pm.

Celebrations

- District 2 celebrated Board Members for their dedicated leadership in education & continuing service to the children of Bensenville School District 2. A small token of appreciation was given to the board members.

Presentations

- A. **Teaching & Learning Update** – Dr. Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, reviewed the District’s 2023 Illinois State Report Cards. The report cards are compiled using a variety of state assessment data, and they include summative designations that account for each school’s overall performance, as well as the performances of seven demographic subgroups of students. Both Tioga and W.A. Johnson Schools maintained “Commendable” designations this year. While Blackhawk Middle School’s cumulative score also ranked well within

the “Commendable” range, it received a “Targeted” designation indicating a need to increase support for our English Learners (EL) subgroup. Dr. Paonessa also presented next steps in our curricular priorities, increased support for all of the District’s EL students, and steps that the district is taking to mitigate chronic absenteeism and truancy..

Board Committee Reports

- A. Announcements - none

Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements - none
- B. FOIA Report – Mr. Novack reported that there have been 3 FOIA’s:
1. Allium Data, Insurance renewal summaries regarding property & casualty insurance and health, dental & vision plan.
 2. Proven IT, Copier, MFP, and printer agreements for purchase, lease, and/or maintenance.
 3. Meghan Scholnick, Adelante Educational Specialists Group: documents sent to or from.
- C. Five-Year Plan / Financial Forecast – Mr. Novack reported that the District annually forecasts the costs of its operations for the next five years. The current forecast shows the District will have enough revenue to pay for its regular activities during the five-year period. It also shows that the District has already set aside enough cash reserves, saved from prior years, to pay for next year’s renovations at Blackhawk Middle School. Cash reserves are also already set aside to pay for some of the extra debt service that is scheduled for 2024-2025 through 2027-28.

Consent Item

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 18, 2023

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills October 2023
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
2. Financial Statements as of October 31, 2023

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

C. Personnel

I. Resignation of Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Brandee Dolgin, ESL Math Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective October 30, 2023.

II. Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Cheryl Schaefer, Payroll/Insurance Supervisor for the District, effective October 24, 2023.

III. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Yadirah Diaz, Special Education Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective October 24, 2023.

IV. Proposal to Increase Long-Term Substitute Teacher Rates

Recommendation: That the Board of Education change the rate of the long-term substitute from \$200/day to \$250/day effective immediately.

D. Authorize District’s Application for the School Maintenance Project Grant

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize the District’s Application for the School Maintenance Project Grant, reserve the local funding, and authorize the President to make the certifications required by ISBE, and authorize Administration to complete all other portions of the grant application.

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, Dye, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Parthimos,

Nay: None

Absent: Miller

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Approve Transfer from Education Fund to Transportation Fund – Mr. Novack reported that the Transportation Fund’s expenditures this year are higher than usual. The Fund has purchased six buses this year, the most ever in a single year.

Here is the Transportation Fund budget for 2023-24 without the transfer proposed below:

Balance at July 1, 2023		368,670
Revenues	1,148,682	
Vehicle Purchases	(489,000)	
Other Expenditures	(1,567,990)	
Net for 2023-24, before transfers		(908,308)
Transfer in October from Working Cash Fund		100,000
Tentative Year-End Balance		(439,638)

A permanent transfer into Transportation from another fund can eliminate the tentative negative balance. Illinois law permits interfund transfers among the District’s three main operating funds: the Education Fund, the Operations & Maintenance Fund, and the Transportation Fund. These transfers can be made by the Board for any reason following a public hearing.

A public hearing was held to consider a permanent transfer of \$500,000 from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund.

After the transfer, the Education Fund will have adequate resources to meet its future objectives, including to pay for the Blackhawk Middle School renovation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board approve a resolution authorizing a permanent transfer of \$500,000 from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Miller

Motion Carried.

B. Resolution to Authorizing Litigation against Social Media Companies – Dr. McCluskey reported that the administration recommends that the Board adopt a resolution to file a lawsuit against social media companies. The District’s counsel, Himes Petrarca & Fester, together with three other law firms, are representing school districts

for damages caused by the social media companies' actions. Many Districts in our area are participating in this litigation with the goal of achieving relief to change how social media companies operate and to safeguard the children of their schools. There is no cost to districts to participate. This legal representation would be on a contingency basis. Legal fees and reimbursable costs would only be payable from a settlement fund or legal judgment against the defendants.

A motion made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopts the attached resolution to authorize (1) the law firms of Himes Petrarca & Fester Chtd., of Illinois, Mehri & Skalet, PLLC, in Washington DC, Bailey & Glasser, LLP, of Charleston, West Virginia and Terrell Hogan of Jacksonville, Florida, to file a civil action against any appropriate parties to compensate this District for damages suffered by the District and its students, as a result of social media's targeting students, to maximize the time youth spend on Defendants' social media platforms, and then designed their algorithms to feed children harmful content, like videos promoting eating disorders, bullying, discrimination, violence, self-harm, and suicide, and to seek any other appropriate relief; including injunctive relief; and (2) the Superintendent to sign all necessary contracts and other related documents on behalf of in the pursuit of any civil action.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Miller

Motion Carried.

- C. Property Tax Relief Grant** – Mr. Novack reported that the District can apply for a grant to offset a property tax reduction. Board authorization is required to apply for the grant, including establishing the amount to be requested.

The District's tax rate is probably not high enough to receive an award, because the funding is limited. Grants are awarded to the districts with the highest tax rates among the applicants.

An application is still recommended, because of the advantages to local taxpayers.

If the Board chooses to apply, then the grant application must specify the tax reduction, in any amount up to \$2,354,002.

Mr. Novack reported that an application is optional. It is recommended, because of its long-term financial benefits.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education select the maximum amount permitted and authorize Administration to apply for the Property Tax Relief Grant.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Miller

Motion Carried.

- D. Approval of Teacher Laptop Refresh** – removed

New Business

- Mr. Stoltman asked that the Board review the district's policy on purchasing processes. It hasn't been reviewed since 2014. The Administration will bring back some additional information for the board to discuss.
- Ms. Parthimos reported that some links on the website are not working.

Closed Session

At 7:23 p.m. motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of: Personnel - *The performance of specific employees of the public. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).*

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Miller

Motion Carried.

At 7:49 p.m. motion was made by Ms. Parthimos and seconded by Mr. Stoltman that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 7:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mr. Stoltman 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 7:50 p.m.

President

Secretary