



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Minutes – August 9, 2023

President, Bob Laudadio called the regular workshop 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	Present	Absent
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 (arrived at 6:32 p.m.)	
James Stoltman	Member	X	
Administration			
Dr. Katie McCluskey	Superintendent	X	
Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
Dr. Anne Paonessa	Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning	X	
Mr. Dustin Berman	Assistant Superintendent for Student Services	X	
EAC Staff			
Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	

Staff Present: Tim Waldorf, Joe West,

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Presentation

- A. [Verkada regarding Bus Cameras](#) - Dr. McCluskey reported that a committee to review a bus camera system was formed and consisted of Dr. McCluskey, Mr. Novack, Mr. Lippoldt, Technology Supervisor and Mrs. Cooper, Director of Transportation. Mr. John Kickma from Verkada presented information on their bus camera system.

Administrative Reports

A. **Announcements** - Dr. McCluskey reported:

- that Mrs. Miller’s and Mr. Stoltman’s birthdays were this week;
- that the District greeted 32 new teachers today at their New Teacher Institute;
- that the District submitted a multi-district grant with Fenton HS Dist. 100 and Wood Dale Dist. 7. She thanked Mrs. Szwankowski, Grant Coordinator for all her work on the grant. The District should hear in late October if they received it.

Consent Items:

A. **Personnel**

I. Resignation of Classified Staff

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

1. Jesus Arreguin, Full Service Site Coordinator for the District, effective August 10, 2023.
2. Lyanne Esparza, 1st grade paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective August 1, 2023.
3. Roberto Ruffalo, Lunch Supervisor, Johnson School, effective August 3, 2023.
4. Lucero Tolentino-Estrada, Bilingual/ESL Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective August 8, 2023.

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

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the employment of

1. Nisa Fayyaz, EL Teacher, Johnson School, effective August 9, 2023.
2. Elizabeth Casey, Fine Art Teacher, Tioga School, effective August 9, 2023.
3. Jennifer Gutierrez, Teacher on Special Assignment, Tioga School, effective August 9, 2023.
4. Le-Ann Roper, ISP Classroom Teacher 3/4 at W.A. Johnson School.

III. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Claire Stephens, long-term substitute for an Art Teacher at Johnson School, effective August 9, 2023.

IV. Approval of Professional Development Plan – Educational Leadership

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the professional development opportunity for Ms. Rubi Ortiz, Curriculum Coordinator, through National Louis University.

V. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Diana Sanchez, Lunch Supervisor, effective August 16, 2023.
2. Carolyn Weiler, Lunch/Recess Supervisor & Crossing Guard, Tioga School, effective August 16, 2023.

- B. Renewal of IGA for Resource Officer** - A Village police officer has served as a school resource officer in District 2 for the past 14 years. The officer is onsite full-time during the school year. The District and the Village renew their intergovernmental agreement annually.

The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement is the same agreement that has been in place since 2009. A copy of the agreement is [attached](#).

Recommendation: That the Board of Education resolves to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and the District for the 2023-24 school year.

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, Miller, Parthimos,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Policy Reviews - No Changes recommended

PRESS Proposal marked against D2 current policy	Administration Comments
2:80, Board Member Oath and Conduct	Updating the policy (to include the full Oath of Office) is not required but could be considered. The correct oath, as set forth in the statute, is always administered even though not stated in the policy.
2:170, Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date.
4:45, Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery	Administration recommends postponing consideration of this text until related laws affecting unpaid meals can be considered. Although debts for unpaid meals are very common, the PRESS text does not consider laws governing whether the District may collect for unpaid meals. In addition Insufficient Funds checks are rare occurrences.
4:100, Insurance Management	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date.
5:230, Maintaining Student Discipline	No changes recommended, because D2's policy is up-to-date in all material respects. A new sentence added by PRESS, about the Superintendent's supervision of these matters, can be considered when and if more substantive changes are considered.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education consider the reviewed policies and determine that Policy 4:45 be proposed later for First Reading and that no changes are necessary at this time to the other policies.

- B. 2nd Reading Policy Revision 2:120 Board Member Development** - Mr. Novack reported that the Board creates and revises the Policy Manual. Policy 2-120 is presented here for second reading and adoption. It describes Board member training and development. Some of the training topics are required by Illinois law.

No changes are recommended from the First Reading. The proposed Policy adds a new mandatory training topic concerning trauma-informed practices for students and staff. The new requirements apply this year to Board members in their first year of service. This topic is required for new Board members by Illinois law.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopt Policy 2-120 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

- C. Bus Driver Hourly Wage Increase** - Mr. Novack reported that the District would like to hire 3-4 more bus drivers, but has so far had no applications from qualified drivers. The market for drivers remains

exceptionally tight. Chicago Public Schools, for instance, reported about 600 driver vacancies on July 31, which is nearly half the total needed.

New drivers in District 2 earn \$25 per hour, just established in June. The current drivers earn between \$26.46 and \$34.51, depending on seniority. Drivers earn the same seniority bonus in December as do other classified staff. Drivers usually do not work enough hours each week to qualify for health insurance coverage or other benefits. Administration is reviewing whether some drivers may qualify now based on 2022-23 work history. This review is required by law.

Other employers, both private and public, have recently raised rates and offered sign-on bonus. The District is therefore not meeting its goal for driver pay, which is to be higher than the private bus companies and at or above the middle for public school districts.

To compete for new drivers, Administration recommends increasing the starting pay to \$27 and establishing a sign-on bonus of \$2,000. The bonus would be paid one-half the first month and the other half at the end of the school year.

To retain existing drivers, the Administration recommends increasing the hourly rate by \$2.

A motion was made by Mrs. Leyva and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education authorize the above increases to bus driver pay, effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

D. Expansion of Free Lunch For All Students - Mr. Novack reported that the District offers breakfast and lunch every day. About 80% of the meals are provided for free and the rest are purchased. The US Department of Agriculture runs the free meal program.

The District has two ways to identify students eligible for free meals. Nearly 50% of the students qualify automatically because their family is enrolled in other State programs, such as Medicaid or TANF. Another 12% or so qualify by submitting their financial information to the District office. District staff evaluates those applications against standards published by the USDA.

A different USDA meal program is also available to the District. All students eat free in that program, known as Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). No applications are needed from the 12% group mentioned above. No students pay, which partly eliminates a revenue source for the District.

The CEP program replaces that lost revenue with a fixed fee per meal. Some districts receive enough in this way to offset the lost revenue from paying students.

Free meals were offered to all students in 2021-22 under a COVID-relief program. Meal volume increased in that year compared to past years.

Administration is reviewing this history in more detail to construct a financial forecast for CEP in 2023-24. This forecast will indicate how the CEP program will affect the District's finances. More financial forecasts will be presented at the meeting on August 9.

Some non-meal programs rely on results from the low-income applications associated with the traditional (non-CEP) meal program. Those applications are mostly eliminated in CEP, although they could be requested if necessary. Administration is reviewing its non-meal programs to determine whether any would be affected.

Enrollment in CEP is optional. A four-year enrollment is required, however.

The meals program is a subset of the Education Fund. Revenues received for any student food service can only be used for costs related to food service.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education authorize Administration to take all necessary steps to apply for and implement the CEP program, intending it to take effect this school year.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

D. Authorize Bus Purchase - Mr. Novack reported that in May, the Board authorized the purchase of four buses. That purchase will maintain the fleet size at 18. Delivery is expected this month.

Since then, a need for two more replacements have been identified. Major repairs were identified on one additional bus this summer. Similar major repairs are anticipated for another bus with the same engine type. Administration recommends scrapping these buses instead of making the repairs. Even if repaired, the buses would have no value except for scrap.

All six buses being replaced this summer have a certain engine type that does not have the life typically expected. Buses with that engine have no resale value.

The District has purchased only used buses since at least 2013, with good results. Buses typically last from 12 to 16 years. New buses have been in short supply the past two years and have sometimes not been delivered on time.

The District has identified two used buses for purchase from Midwest Transit. They are from model year 2019 with mileage around 35,000 miles. Newer buses than 2019 are not available this year, because of high demand for used buses. The per-bus price is \$69,498, the same price as authorized in May 2023. The District has purchased from Midwest Transit for many years. Midwest claims to be the largest bus dealer in the United States.

Used buses offer excellent value and are readily available. They will be route-ready when delivered, because semi-annual maintenance and inspections will be performed by Midwest before delivery.

A motion was made by Mrs. Leyva and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education authorize Administration to purchase two buses for a price not to exceed \$70,000 each and to issue payment upon delivery.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Closed Session: none

Adjournment

At 7:22 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez 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 7:22 p.m.

President

Secretary