



## Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Minutes – December 20, 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	
<b><i>Administration</i></b>			
Dr. Katie McCluskey	Superintendent	X	
Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
<b><i>EAC Staff</i></b>			
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, Dustin Berman – Assistant Superintendent for Student Services.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public comments:** none

**Public Hearing to receive comments on the 2023 Tax Levy.**

- A. Mr. Laudadio opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. to receive comments on the **2023 Tax Levy**. Hearing none, Mr. Laudadio closed the public hearing and returned to the regular board meeting at 6:31 pm.

**Celebrations**

- A. **Family Resource Center** - The BSD2 Family Resource Center, formerly known as the BSD2 Community Center, held its Grand Reopening in November. The Center’s goal is to help ALL District 2 families learn and grow together, and can connect families with school staff and community partners that provide assistance navigating the school system, medical and legal aide, food and clothing services, citizenship and language assistance, social-emotional supports, parent education and workshops, and other helpful resources for families. We encourage all District 2 families to utilize the Family Resource Center to support their needs.

**Presentations**

- A. **Audit Report for 2022-2023** – Mr. Don Shaw from Lauterbach & Amen, the District’s auditor, reported with the “highest level of confidence” that the District’s financial statements were presented “fairly, in all material respects.” This is commonly known as an “unqualified opinion.” The District’s financial strength is excellent and ISBE is expected to give the District the highest financial profile score in the spring.

**Board Committee Reports**

- A. Announcements - none

### Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements - none
- B. FOIA Report – Mr. Novack reported that there have been 4 FOIA's:
  - 1. Meghan Scholnick of Adelante Educational Specialists Group regarding documents sent to or from
  - 2. Science of Reading Illinois regarding Literacy & reading curricula programs for K-3
  - 3. SmartProcure regarding purchasing records since 9/25/2023.
  - 4. Change the Air regarding results from indoor air quality testing and environmental testing
- C. Construction/Furniture Update for BMS – Mr. Novack reported that the District has issued bid packages for summer renovation projects at Blackhawk Middle School. Bids will be submitted and presented to the Board for approval in January. Once bids are opened, the District will have a clearer picture of the project's budget. The District will also place an order for new furniture at Blackhawk in January. Staff and students have already tested several options for desks and chairs, and -- based on student and staff feedback -- have selected new desks, chairs, etc., that are more spacious, flexible, mobile and accessible.
- D. 2024-2025 Calendar Proposal – Dr. McCluskey presented the draft of the 2024-2025 School Calendar.

### Consent Items

#### A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – November 15, 2023
- 2. Regular Board of Education Meeting - November 15, 2023 - closed session
- 3. Special Board of Education Meeting – November 30, 2023
- 4. Special Board of Education Meeting - November 30, 2023 - closed session

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

#### B. Approval of Financial Reports

- 1. Bills November 2023
  - a. Accounts Payable
  - b. Imprest Checks
  - c. Advanced Checks
  - d. Board Member Reimbursement
- 2. Financial Statements as of November 30, 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 **Hannah Irizarry, Teacher on Special Assignment at Blackhawk Middle School, effective December 20, 2023.**

##### II. Resignation of Classified Staff

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

- 1. Jade Carter, Special Education Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School, effective December 19, 2023.
- 2. Colleen Connors, Occupational Therapist, Tioga School, effective December 20, 2023.
- 3. Jennifer Martens, Breakfast/Lunch Supervisor/Crossing Guard, Johnson School, effective December 9, 2023.
- 4. Gloria Escalante, 43-week Clerk, Tioga School, effective December 19, 2023.

##### III. Ratification of Employment for 2023-2024, Certified Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education approves the employment of

- 1. **Barbara Melody-Pizzato, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education ISP Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective December 18, 2023.**
- 2. Elizabeth Callahan-Maciasz, Teacher on Special Assignment, Tioga School, effective January 8, 2024.

**IV. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff**

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

1. Yarel Monarrez, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Tioga School, effective January 8, 2024.
2. Robin Scotti, Special Education Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective January 8, 2024.
3. Marc Spillone, Lunch/Recess Supervisor & Crossing Guard, Tioga School, effective January 8, 2024.
4. Kimberlee Swanson, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Johnson School, effective November 27, 2023.

**D. Gift Acceptance**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education accept the donations from Vasquez Family.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Gonzalez,

**Motion Carried.**

**Conference/Action Item**

**A. Policy Reviews - No Changes recommended**

- 2:110, Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 3:50, Administrative Personnel Other than the Superintendent
- 4:90, Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds
- 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services
- 4:170, Safety
- 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- 5:120, Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
- 5:150, Personnel Records
- 5:190, Teacher Qualifications
- 6:20, School Year Calendar and Day
- 6:65, Student Social and Emotional Development
- 6:270, Guidance and Counseling Program
- 7:345, Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

**B. 1st Reading Policy Revision - 5:240 Professional Personnel Suspension** - The proposed change extends the Board's authority to suspend employees without pay to the Superintendent. It also authorizes the District to consider suspension if recommended by the Department of Children and Family Services.

**C. Adopt 2023 Tax Levy** – Mr. Novack reported that property owners will pay about 5 percent more than this year, except if their property values markedly changed. The District's total tax will increase by about 5.63 percent depending on how much new construction is identified in the District.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopt the Tax Levy Resolution, specifying the amount to be levied in each of the funds for the 2023 Levy to be collected in 2024.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Gonzalez,

**Motion Carried.**

- D. Approval of Resolution providing for the issue and sale of not to exceed \$5,000,000 of working cash fund bonds of the District and for the levy of taxes to pay such bonds.** – Mr. Novack reported that by using a combination of \$5 million of borrowed funds and \$11 million in cash reserves to pay for the renovations, the District could preserve more of its cash reserves for possible future projects while also shifting some of the costs to future taxpayers who will benefit from the project. The bonds will be repaid by extending a property tax that expires this year and costs about \$25 in 2023 for the owner of a \$250,000 home.

The District has complied with the notice and public hearing requirements applicable to issuing the bonds.

The Board considered options for funding the Blackhawk Middle School renovation at meetings in August 2023, March 2023, November 2022, and October 2022.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education adopts the attached Resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds of par value not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Gonzalez,

**Motion Carried.**

- E. Adopt Bond Issuance & Disclosure Compliance Procedure** – Mr. Novack reported that the District is authorized to borrow money in the form of bonds and certificates of indebtedness. These borrowings are highly regulated by Federal laws and regulations. The key issue under these rules is always whether the District adequately disclosed the possible risks that could affect the lenders' future payments.

To ensure adequate disclosure, Counsel recommends that the Board establish requirements for Administration to follow whenever issuing such debt or whenever making later disclosures that affect the lenders' rights. If a government agency were to consider the adequacy of disclosure by the District, the adopted requirements would be an important tool in establishing that the District took as many steps as possible to identify items for accurate disclosure.

The District's bond counsel, Chapman & Cutler, recommends adoption of the attached procedures. Administration already follows these procedures.

**A motion was made by Ms. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Dye That the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution to establish the Policies and Procedures for Preparing and Updating Disclosures shown as Exhibit A to the resolution.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Gonzalez,

**Motion Carried.**

**New Business**

- none

**Closed Session**

**At 6:59 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Miller 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:** Stoltman, Miller, Dye, Leyva, Parthimos, Laudadio,

Nay: None  
Absent: Gonzalez,  
Motion Carried.

At 7:04 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Dye 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 7:05 p.m.

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President

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Secretary