



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Minutes – February 15, 2023

President, Dr. Chris McCullough called the regular meeting of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 Board of Education, DuPage County to order at 7:00 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	Member	X	
Katie Krajecki	Member	X	
Bob Laudadio	Member	X	
Marisol Leyva	Secretary	X	
Chris McCullough	President	X	
Lori Parthimos	Treasurer	X	
James Stoltman	Vice-President	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 in attendance: Joe West - BSD2 Tech team member, Anne Paonessa - Interim Director of Teaching & Learning, Tim Waldorf – Community Relations Coordinator, Dustin Berman - Director Student Services, Kris Stalzer - Student Services Coordinator, Carlos Patiño - Principal WA Johnson School, Edgar Placios - Director ELL, Mary Larsen, C Umana, Carola Llanes, Carla Vazquez

Others: Nancy Quinn, Naila Fonseca, Maria DeJesus, Marie Frey

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. McCullough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Public Hearing - E-Learning Plan

- A. Open Public Hearing pertaining to e-Learning Plan - Dr. McCullough opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.
- B. Presentation of e-Learning Plan - Ms. Anne Paonessa presented the e-Learning Plan. District 2 will implement eLearning Days as a means of providing continuous instruction for our students when school may be closed due to extreme weather or other emergencies.
- C. Audience Participation – questions and clarification - Dr. McCullough asked if there were any questions from board member or audience members or if there was any clarification needed. Hearing none.
- D. Close Hearing and return to regular Board Meeting - Dr. McCullough closed the Public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Celebrations - Dr. McCluskey announced the following celebrations:

- A. BMS Band Presentation - The Board watched highlights of BMS Band students performing for Castle Towers on Tuesday, February 14th. During the video the Band thanked the Board for its support for instrumental music instruction.
- B. Those Who Excel - Dr. McCluskey announced that Ms. Carla Vazquez, a dual language first-grade teacher at W.A. Johnson School received “Special Recognition” in the 2023 Illinois State Board of Education’s Those Who Excel Awards Program. Kind words were said about Ms Vazquez by Mr. Patiño principal, and Mrs. DeJesus a parent. Board Member Marisol Leyva congratulated Ms. Vazquez as well as Dr. McCullough who spoke on behalf of the Board.

Presentations

- A. Department Student Services Update - Mr. Dustin Berman, Director of Special Services reported that this year, District 2 transitioned from a Special Education Department to a Student Services Department. Mr. Berman, provided an overview of that transition, introducing members of the department and explaining the programs and services it provides.

- B. Teaching & Learning Update on Zwiers Work - Mrs. Anne Paonessa Interim Director of Teaching & Learning reported that this fall, the District kicked off an exciting partnership with Dr. Jeff Zwiers, an acclaimed Stanford University professor and the author of *The Communication Effect - Infusing Learning with Authentic Communication*. Ms. Paonessa, shared how this work is helping District 2 teachers build ideas and increase engagement with their students.

Board Committee Reports

- A. **Announcements** – Mrs. Jackie Dye reported that the Bensenville Community Foundation will be receiving another check from Grand Subaru and is accepting grant applications.

Administrative Reports

- A. **Announcements** - Dr. McCluskey reported the following:
 - 1. BEA/BOE will hold their Contract check in meeting on February 22, 2023 at 3:45 p.m. via zoom. All committee members are invited to attend. These meetings are held twice a year.
 - 2. Kindergarten registration will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 from 3-7 p.m.
 - 3. 5Essentials Survey has opened and will remain open until March 31st. We are encouraging parents to complete the survey as it is part of the Strategic Plan to gain feedback from the community on the safety and climate and culture of the schools. We will have computers set up for parents to complete the survey tech staff will be available to assist with technology. The Park District has donated one family pool pass per school as an incentive to complete the survey. Anyone who participates in completing the survey will be entered into a drawing for the pool pass.

- B. **FOIA Report** – Mr. Novack reported that there were 3 FOIA's since last month.

Consent Item:

- A. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 18, 2023
 - 2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 18, 2023 - Closed Session

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

- B. **Approval of Financial Reports**
 - 1. Bills January 2023
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - 2. Financial Statements as of January 31, 2023

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

C: **Personnel**

I. **Ratification of Employment for 2022-2023, Certified Staff**

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the employment of Hannah Irizarry, Teacher on Special Assignment, Blackhawk Middle School, effective February 6, 2023.

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

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

1. Nausheen Ajmeri, 5th Grade Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective February 6, 2023.
2. Ruby Carrera, Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective February 1, 2023.
3. Marco Medina, Special Education Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School, effective January 30, 2023.
4. Giavanna Sessa, Part Time Special Education Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School, effective February 1, 2023.

III. Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignations of Myriam Ayala, Special Education Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective January 18, 2023.

IV. Termination of Employment – Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education terminate the Gina Tomasello, Special Education Academic Life Skills Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective January 25, 2023.

V. Extra Duty Stipends

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the attached list of extra duty stipends for the 2022-2023 school year.

D. Review Closed Session Minutes & Destruction of Recordings

Recommendations: 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.

E. Abate Tax Levy for Alternate Revenue Bonds

Recommendation: That the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution abating all 2022 taxes (collected 2023) previously levied for these bonds: Series 2016 and Series 2020.

F. Approval of Bus Transportation for Bensenville Park District Before/After School Program

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize transportation in 2023-2024, to and from the Bensenville Park District's Deer Grove Center, for before- and after-school programs for up to sixty (60) District 2 students.

G. Gift Acceptance

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accept the \$1,000.00 donation from Tioga Post 2149 V.F.W.

H. Approval of Bensenville Arts Council Membership & Fee

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve the 2023 fee for the Bensenville Art Council in the amount of \$3,000.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Laudadio, Stoltman, Dye, Krajecki, Leyva, McCullough, Parthimos

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

- A. Approval of E-Learning Plan** - Dr. McCluskey reported that the Illinois State Board of Education established eLearning with the purpose of continuation of learning through an eLearning day during emergency/non-attendance days pursuant to state statute (105 ILCS 5/10-20.56). The number of eLearning days may not exceed the number of emergency days in the approved school calendar and they will count as attendance days. It is

expected that there be five clock hours of instruction for each student, access to electronic communication, and appropriate learning opportunities for students with special needs.

Dr. McCluskey also reported that the goal of eLearning Days is to engage students in learning when school may be closed due to extreme weather or other emergencies.

District 2 will implement eLearning Days as a means of providing continuous instruction for our students in the event of an emergency that would prevent in school attendance. We as a school district and community learned a lot through remote instruction provided through the pandemic. Once the need arises to initiate eLearning day(s), the district will conduct parent, student, and staff surveys to capture what is working and what may be in need of improvement.

A motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education approves the Bensenville School District 2 e-Learning Plan as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Krajecki, Leyva, Dye, Laudadio, McCullough, Parthimos, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

B. Approval of 2023-24 School Fees - Mr. Novack reported that Fees may be charged for several purposes.

- No registration fees are being charged this year. This fee was last charged in 2020-21.
- No field trip fees have been charged since 2020-21.
- Middle school gym suits and similar items are sold at a modest price.
- Bus service could be provided for a fee to students not living far enough from school to qualify for free bus service, if enough staff is available.

Administration recommends that, the same as last year, no registration fee be charged for 2023-24.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Fee</u>	
Registration:		
Kindergarten	None	
Grades 1-5	None	
Grades 6-8	None	
Field Trips	None	
Bus service		
(outside normal service zone)	\$230.00	Per semester
Classroom Supplies	None	
BMS Supplies:		
Lanyard, Agenda, etc. package	\$10.00	All BMS students must purchase a package of lanyard, ID card & agenda.
Gym suit package	\$18.00	
Meals at all schools	TBD	

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education adopts the 2023-24 Fee Schedule as presented and that fees are paid at the time of registration.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Laudadio, Krajecki, Leyva, McCullough, Parthimos Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

C. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Policy Revisions: Employee Ethics, 5:120 - Mr. Novack reported that the proposed policy is a complete re-write of an existing policy to incorporate recent law changes and to better organize the existing material. These are the highlights:

- Expectations are clearly stated for high standards in job performance, integrity and honesty, and proper relationships with students, parents, and others.
- Goals are stated to connect employee conduct to a safe learning environment, to protect students from sexual misconduct, and to protect employees from the appearance of impropriety.
- Staff training is required and an employee code of conduct shall be developed.
- Monitoring for boundary violations is required, as is employee reporting of observed boundary violations by others.
- Existing employee discipline standards are retained.
- Also retained are existing provisions concerning statements of economic interest; ethics and gift ban; conflicts of interest; and outside employment.

Mr. Novack reported that District counsel has reviewed the policy.

A motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Mr. Stoltman that the Board of Education adopt Policy 5:120 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Krajecki, Stoltman, Dye, Laudadio, Leyva, McCullough, Parthimos,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

D. Award Contract for Blackhawk Renovations - Asbestos Abatement - Mr. Novack reported that this summer, the District will install new flooring materials in the hallways at Blackhawk Middle School. Before the new materials can be installed, existing carpet and the old floor tiles underneath it must be removed. In slightly more than half the hallways, these old floor tiles or their glue contain asbestos ("ACM"). In the rest of the hallways, the tiles are not ACM or they had been removed already.

The ACM must be removed by a licensed contractor following methods specified by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Environmental Analysis, Inc. ("EAI"), designed the bid specifications. EAI will be onsite to monitor the work each day. Tiles will be removed whole, which is the safest removal method.

Work will last about three weeks. It shall begin on the first weekday after the last attendance day of the 2022-23 school year. Work will occur between 3:00 p.m. and midnight. School office staff, flooring contractors, and others may safely work in the building during the day. No summer school will occur at Blackhawk this year.

Mr. Novack reported that an advertisement soliciting bids was published on January 20, 2023. Three contractors submitted sealed bids, which the District opened on February 10, 2023. These are the bids:

Bidders, ranked by Bid Amount	Bid Amount
EHC Industries	81,400
Colfax	92,000
Kinsale Contracting Group	166,000

The bid amounts include a standard \$10,000 allowance. The District controls whether or not the allowance is spent.

An award is recommended to the low bidder, EHC Industries, for \$81,400. Its bid satisfies the bid requirements and the firm has good references.

Mr. Novack reported on Options; the allowance amount will be applied only with the District’s approval. It can only be used for additional work not otherwise included in the contract. Administration will minimize the amount spent.

A motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education accept the bid of EHC Industries for \$81,400.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Krajecki, Parthimos, Dye, Laudadio, Leyva, McCullough, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

D. Award Contracts for Blackhawk Renovations - Flooring - Mr. Novack reported that the new flooring materials will be installed this summer in the hallways at Blackhawk Middle School. This is the first step in renovations planned for Blackhawk Middle School. More renovation work is planned for the summer of 2024.

The District’s architects, STR Partners, prepared bid specifications for the flooring. The new hallway material will be vinyl tile with a wood grain appearance, commonly called luxury vinyl planks. The color scheme is two tones of a neutral gray that will complement colors to be selected next year for lockers, walls, and other surfaces.

Work will begin two to three days after another contractor begins removing the existing floor tile. Work will proceed one hallway at a time, preserving access to other parts of the building. School office staff and others may safely work in the building at the same time. No summer school will occur at Blackhawk this year.

Mr. Novack reported that an advertisement soliciting bids was published on January 20, 2023. Four contractors submitted sealed bids, which the District opened on February 9, 2023.

Bidders supplied four prices. One price is for known work to remove old materials and install new. The other three prices are unit prices to be applied to contingent work that may or may not be needed. The contingent work prepares the concrete floor for proper application of the new floor tile. Whether it is needed or not will not be known until the old flooring materials are removed.

The bids are ranked here by applying the unit prices to an assumed amount of floor preparation. The same bidder ranks first no matter what assumptions are made.

Bidders, ranked by amount in last column	Base Bid for Known Work	Allowance for Floor Prep, applied to assumed quantities	Total for Bid Evaluation Purposes
Michael Kautz Carpets	113,500	52,500	166,000
Pinnacle Flooring	162,000	42,500	204,500
Continental Flooring	159,800	63,750	223,550
Bestway Carpeting	146,706	Did not supply	Disqualified

An award is recommended to the low bidder, Michael Kautz Flooring. Its bid satisfies the bid requirements and the firm has good references.

The contract amount will include an allowance of \$116,000. This allowance will only be applied with the District’s approval as needed for floor preparation. The unit prices supplied by the bidder will be used to calculate the cost of this contingent floor preparation.

The total award is therefore \$229,500, which consists of the amount for the known work, \$113,500, plus the maximum possible allowance, \$116,000.

Mr. Novack reported on options considered: The allowance amount will be applied only with the District's approval after examining the conditions of the concrete base. Administration will minimize the amount spent.

The new flooring material does not require annual waxing, unlike traditional vinyl tiles. It is known for its durability and is a common selection for schools, commercial establishments, and homes.

A motion was made Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education accept the bid of Michael Kautz Carpets for \$229,500.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Krajecki, Dye, Laudadio, Leyva, McCullough, Parthimos, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Administration to update Board in June on the cost of this contingent floor preparation.

New Business

Dr. McCullough reported that a special meeting will need to be called on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to canvass the votes and declare the winners for the April 4th election, and seat and organize the new board. All board members were good with the date.

Closed Session:

At 7:55 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education go into closed session for:

- A. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).**
- B. To consider the performance of certain staff. (Personnel - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.)**

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Laudadio, Leyva, Dye, Krajecki, McCullough, Parthimos, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

At 8:27 p.m. motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Parthimos that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:28 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Parthimos and seconded by Mrs. Krajecki that the Board of Education go into closed session for:

- A. To consider the performance of certain staff. (Personnel - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.)**

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Parthimos, Krajecki, Dye, Laudadio, Leyva, McCullough, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

At 8:34 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Parthimos that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No further business appearing Dr. McCullough adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

President

Secretary