



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes – March 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,

Others: Nancy Quinn, Cathleen Quinn, Naila Forseca, Chris, Nicole & Raleigh Mann, Vicky Gonzalez, Bob Special, Marie Frey

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. McCullough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Celebrations - Dr. McCluskey announced the following celebrations:

- **BMS Spring Musical:** Congratulations to the students and staff who staged three excellent performances of *Beauty and the Beast JR*, earlier this month. Around 25 students were part of the cast, and around 50 were part of the crew, and between 150-175 people attended each show.
- **Celebration - Young Women's Leadership Summit:** In celebration of International Women's Day, Blackhawk Middle School's eighth-grade girls visited Fenton High School on March 8 to participate in the Young Women's Leadership Summit. Dr. Katie McCluskey, Superintendent of Schools, joined them, and participated in an inspiring panel discussion in which she shared experiences and advice to help empower the young female students as they pursue their personal and professional goals.

Board Committee Reports

A. Announcements – none.

Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements** - Dr. McCluskey reported that the 5Essentials survey is still up and running and parents can still fill out surveys until March 31.
- B. FOIA Report** – Mr. Novack reported that there were 6 FOIA's since last month.
- C. 8th Grade Promotion** will be held June 1, 2023 at Fenton High School in their fieldhouse.
- D. Teaching & Learning Update**

1. Math Pilot Overview - Ms. Anne Paonessa, Interim Director of Teaching & Learning reported that District 2 is investigating new math resources for Tioga and W.A. Johnson Schools. Two resources will be piloted this fall by teachers on the math team. Then, in January, one resource will be selected for implementation in the fall of 2024. The investigating team includes Johnson and Tioga teachers, middle school math teachers, multilingual and special education staff, administrators, and consultants from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Consent Item:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – February 15, 2023
2. Regular Workshop Board of Education Meeting – March 1, 2023
3. Regular Workshop Board of Education Meeting – March 1, 2023 – Closed Session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills February 2023
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks

2. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2023

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

C: Personnel

- I. Notices of Resignation

Recommendation: No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

The following staff members have submitted their resignation:

1. Alina Kloss, Social Emotional Learning Teacher, Tioga School, at the end of the school year.
2. Jamie Levin, Pre-K Coordinator for the District, at the end of June.
3. Aida Rodriguez, Bilingual Math Specialist, Johnson School, at the end of the school year.
4. Samantha Uman, 4th Grade Teacher, Tioga School, on parental leave this year and notified the District that she will not be returning next year.
5. Lisa Boswell, Counselor/Social Worker-6th Grade, Blackhawk Middle School on parental leave this year and notified the District that she will not be returning next year.
6. Allyssa August, Paraprofessional Pre-K, Tioga School effective March 16, 2023.

- II. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of the following long-term substitute:

1. Sydni Gizynski, long-term substitute for a 5th grade classroom teacher at Tioga School, effective late February for 12 weeks.
2. Eve St. Marie, long-term substitute for a Kindergarten teacher at Tioga School, effective the end of April until the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

D. Approval of NDSEC Lease Agreement 2023-2024

The District is a member of the North DuPage Special Education Cooperative. Member districts provide classrooms for NDSEC-operated programs.

NDSEC uses two classrooms in District 2. At Tioga School, one room is used for the LASSO autism-spectrum program and another for the Social Supports (K-2) class.

The rent will be the usual \$15,000 per room. The lease runs for 12 months. It is not automatically renewable,

although the District generally seeks to keep these programs in-District.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize execution of the lease agreement with NDSEC for two rooms for the 2023-2024 school year.

A. Approval of Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Agreement among DuPage County School Districts

School districts commonly assist other districts during a crisis. District 2 counselors have provided grief counseling at Fenton High School and other area schools in the past. Other area districts also reciprocate that support in times of need for our district.

To support this resource-sharing, a Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Agreement has been proposed by the DuPage Regional Office of Education. The County fortunately has not been subject to a catastrophic event, but recognize it is in the best interests of their students, staff and communities that they join together to plan for such occurrences and be prepared to assist each other during catastrophic events which exceed the capacity of an individual school district or cooperative to respond effectively on its own.

The purpose of this agreement is designed to provide mutual aid in crises, primarily arising out of disaster or violence in DuPage County School Districts and Cooperatives. An advisory panel with representatives from DuPage County school districts will also be created. In addition, the program is designed to provide training and professional development to prepare member personnel for response and recovery activities.

The District can withdraw from the IGA effective June 30 of any year with 60 days' notice.

Education Fund. The annual contribution is \$250 the first year and is capped at \$400 thereafter.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement attached for Mutual Aid.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

- A. BMS Renovations - Authorize Design & Development Phase** - Dr. McCluskey reported that for the renovation of Blackhawk Middle School, Board action is recommended at this meeting to select project options for the next phase of project development. In that phase, Design & Development, the architects create detailed drawings and cost estimates.

These more detailed drawings will be presented to the Board at the July or August meetings. At that time, the Board will consider whether to authorize the final development phase, creation of Construction Documents.

The overall project schedule calls for seeking bids in Fall 2023 and awarding contracts before January 1. This schedule is recommended to reduce the chance that supply chain delays affect work in the summer of 2024.

A key deadline in the project is June 1 to obtain teacher and staff input. This input will be essential for spaces such as the science rooms, the dedicated special education classroom, and the new flexible spaces to support student intervention, teacher work areas, and small classrooms.

Dr. McCluskey reported that options for the renovation were presented on March 1. See the summary on the next page and the schematic drawings here.

Mr. Novack reported that the District is financially able to pay for any grouping of the renovation options. The District has both cash reserves and borrowing capacity. Possible funding combinations are summarized [here](#). More information about the funding possibilities will be presented when the Design & Development phase concludes this summer.

Discussion was held.

A motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education authorize the Design & Development phase for selected option 2 without the staining of the brick on the outside and adding the additional 2 classrooms.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

BMS Renovations - Authorize Design & Development Phase: The Board approved the next phase in developing plans to renovate Blackhawk Middle School in summer 2024. The plans provide key improvements identified by students, teachers, and administrators, and include the following:

- Additions of four new classrooms and a new fitness center.
- Conversions of three classrooms into flex spaces that can be divided into as many as nine small-group spaces that can be used for interventions, meetings, and workspaces.
- Enlargements of 12 classrooms by removing six workrooms currently connected to neighboring classrooms.
- Relocation of the special education classroom to a dedicated space with a sensory room and restroom.
- Renovations of science rooms, the health office, and the school's two outdoor learning courtyards.
- Upgrades to classroom technology to create a wireless environment for both students and teachers.
- Painting throughout the building, and installation of new flooring, lighting, whiteboards, and classroom furniture.

Detailed plans will be presented to the Board this summer. The preliminary cost estimate is \$14.8 million. The District will pay for the renovations with a combination of savings and existing taxes.

The renovations will be complete by the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Asbestos abatement and flooring renovations will be completed this summer to allow more time next summer to complete the remaining renovations.

New Business

Ms. Parthimos asked that some type of recognition be given to the students from the ISP class that presented at the February meeting.

Closed Session:

At 7:39 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Stoltman 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: Stoltman, Leyva, Dye, Krajecki, Laudadio, McCullough, Parthimos,
Nay: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

At 7:47 p.m. motion was made by Ms. Parthimos 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 7:49 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mr. Laudadio 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 7:49 p.m.

President

Secretary