



Bensenville Elementary School District
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes - February 16, 2022

Vice-President, James Stoltman 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. Raymond Lechner	Interim Co-Superintendent	X	
Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
EAC Staff			
Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	
Tim Waldorf	Community Relations Coordinator	X	

Staff in attendance: Joe West - BSD2 Tech team member, Andy Chiu – BSD2 Data Analyst, Juliann Greene - Director of Special Education, Missy Baglarz - MTSS Director, Anne Paonessa – Director of Teaching & Learning,

Others in attendance: Community Members – Les Bernero, Corisa Agosto, Joanna Mastyj, Teresa Williams, Pawel Czauderna, Marta Boneli and Petra Micohlavova.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stoltman welcomed the W.A. Johnson Student leadership Team. The students introduced themselves and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Dr. Lechner read a statement regarding concerns about ongoing litigation surrounding the Governor’s mask mandate. The following community members expressed their feelings regarding the mask mandate: Joanna Mastyj, Pawel Czauderna, Petra Micohlavova.

Board Committee Reports

- A. Announcements** – Mrs. Dye reported that the Bensenville Community Foundation is supporting the Woman’s Transend Workshop on 3/5 and Giving of DuPage Days.
- B. Collective Bargaining Update** – Mr. Stoltman reported that collective bargaining began on February 9th. Both the BEA & Board met for full day of training on Interest-Based Bargaining. The BEA & BSD2 administrators worked well in setting the stage for a collaborative process. A schedule of meetings was established.

Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements** – none
- B. New Superintendent Transition** – Dr. Lechner reported that the interim superintendents continue weekly zoom meetings with Dr. McCluskey to facilitate a seamless transition to BSD2. Board agendas and highlights are discussed. Some items under discussion include this year’s BS2 plan including a review of Middle School schedule and the challenges of 2 email systems. Current items include EAC secretary job descriptions, annual non-union staff salary increase and changes to administrator contracts. All will be brought to the board when complete.

C. **FOIA Report** – none this month

Consent Item:

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Special Board of Education Meeting – January 19, 2022

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

B. **Approval of Financial Reports**

1. Bills January 2022
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Construction

2. Financial Statements as of January 30, 2022

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

C. **Personnel**

I. **Ratification of Employment for 2021-2022, Certified Staff**

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the employment of the following certified staff member:

1. Eric Sotomayor, Special Education Resource Teacher 2nd/3rd Grades, Johnson School, effective February 14, 2022.

II. **Resignation of Certified Staff**

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of

1. Brooke McKinney, Special Education ISP Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective January 21, 2022.
2. Kirk Williams, Physical Education Teacher, Johnson School, effective February 27, 2022.

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

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

1. Karina Avila, Lunch Aide Substitute, Johnson School, effective February 9, 2022.
2. Michelle Cottrell, 3rd Grade Transitional Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective February 4, 2022.
3. Christina Ninan, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Tioga School, effective February 15, 2022.
4. Erika Vilches, Parent Mentor for Tioga's Birth to 3 program, effective February 2, 2022.

IV. **Resignation of Classified Staff**

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

1. Racquel Sadique, Lunch Aide/Crossing Guard, Tioga School, effective January 19, 2022.
2. Jacqueline Steger-Cook, Bus Driver for the District, effective January 28, 2022.

V. **Approval of Long-Term Substitute**

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

1. Caroline Joyce, long-term substitute for a Special Education ISP classroom, Johnson School, effective January 24, 2022.
2. Laurel Chahir, long-term substitute for an Art teacher, Johnson School, effective approximately February 16, 2022.

VI. **Approval of Job Descriptions**

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve these job descriptions:

1. Parent Mentor. [\[Link to job description\]](#)
2. Full-Service Community Schools-Transition Coordinator (.4) position. [\[Link to job description\]](#)

VII. Leave of Absence – Extended Sick Leave – Removed for further discussion in closed session.

D. Review Closed Session Minutes & Destruction of Recordings

Recommendation: 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

These are the District’s bond issues:

Bond Series	Financial support	Final Maturity	Comments
2013A	Tax-supported	January 1, 2024	The 2021 tax levy for these bonds, about \$268,000, will be the next-to-last levy.
2016	Alternate Revenue	2046	Most interest is paid by the Federal government; the District’s share is at a rate below 1%.
2020	Alternate Revenue	2045	Constitutes 91% of the District’s debt.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution abating all 2021 taxes (collected 2022) previously levied for these bonds: Series 2016 and Series 2020.

F. Approval of BPD Bus Transportation for Before & Afterschool Program

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize transportation in 2022-2022, 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda items as presented, with the exception of Leave of Absence – Extended Sick leave.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Laudadio, Parthimos, Dye, Krajecki, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva, McCullough,

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Approval of 2022-23 School Fees – Mr. Novack reported that fees may be charged for several purposes. Registration fees are not being charged this year, for the first time. No meal fees are charged this year either, because of a temporary program change offered by the US Department of Agriculture. Next year, we expect meal fees to resume. Middle school gym suits and similar items are sold at a modest price.

Registration Fees

Most districts charge registration fees, often \$100 or more. District 2’s registration fee through 2020-21 was \$40 in K-5 and \$44 at Blackhawk Middle School. These fees had not changed in many years before they were discontinued for 2021-22.

Administration recommends that, the same as last year, no registration fee be charged for 2022-23. One reason is that only about half the students pay registration fees. The other half receive fee waivers, which are automatic for any student with free lunch. A second reason to end the policy is that is that the fee is not directly related to the service provided. This makes it different from school supplies or field trips.

Activity	Proposed Fee	Comment
<i>Registration:</i>		Before this year, about one-half the students paid registration fees totaling about \$30,000 in recent years. The other half of the students received fee waivers based on the school lunch program.
Kindergarten	None	
Grades 1-5	None	
Grades 6-8	None	

Supplies and Transportation

No change is recommended in bus service fees. For other items, recommendations will be brought after costs are determined.

Activity	Proposed Fee	Comment
<i>Bus service outside normal service zone:</i>	\$220.00	Per semester
<i>Classroom Supplies</i>	None	The classroom supply program costs about \$40 per student, totaling about \$80,000.
<i>Special BMS Supplies and Meals at all schools</i>		Recommendation will be brought later this year after the costs are established.

Mr. Novack reported on options considered: The Board of Education does not have to charge fees. Reasonable fees may be charged for services and activities that are tangential to the education program, but the fees may not affect a student’s right to a free and appropriate public education.

A motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education adopts the 2022-23 Fee Schedule as presented and that fees are paid at the time of registration.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Krajecki, Laudadio, Dye, Parthimos, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva, McCullough,

Motion Carried.

B. Change Orders – none at this time.

C. BMS Facility Review Update – Mr. Novack reported that the Board of Education asked Administration to identify possible improvements at Blackhawk Middle School. The primary focus is to enhance teaching and learning.

The District’s architects since 2010 are STR Partners.

Mr. Novack reported that STR has completed focus groups at Blackhawk School among students, teachers and administration. Participating teachers toured Tioga School to see some of the features there.

STR is reviewing the input from the focus groups to suggest possible improvements. In the next three months, STR will meet with a core team of District and school staff to gradually refine the options. A presentation to the Board this summer is expected.

Mr. Novack reported on options considered: The future projects could be paid for from savings, a bond issuance, or a combination.

If a bond issuance occurred for this project, the bond could involve other projects already underway in the District. For more information, please see the attached memorandum concerning the designation of current capital expenditures as potentially bond-related.

No action is recommended now concerning the Facility Review. However, see the recommended Board resolution in the attached memorandum, concerning other projects that could be paid for from a bond also issued to pay for Blackhawk facility costs.

C. Resolution Expressing Official Intent Regarding Certain Capital Expenditures to be Reimbursed from Bond Proceeds – Mr. Novack reported that the District may issue long-term tax-exempt bonds for only two purposes:

to invest in capital projects or to refinance earlier bonds that were previously issued for capital projects.

For example, the District's 2010 bonds paid for capital projects (construction and renovation at Johnson and Tioga Schools in 2011 and 2012). The District's 2020 bonds served both purposes: refinancing the 2010 bonds and paying for capital projects (construction at Tioga PreK in 2021 and renovation of science rooms at Blackhawk in 2020).

In most cases, the bonds are issued before the capital projects begin. However, the order can be reversed: capital expenditures can be paid for from savings and designated at the time as potentially bond-related. Later, if and when a bond is issued, the proceeds can reimburse the District's funds.

The reverse-order approach gives the District financial flexibility. Projects now underway will be paid for with District savings. But, if future conditions warrant it, the District can replenish its cash reserves later with a bond issuance.

Mr. Novack reported that the administration consulted bond counsel to confirm these arrangements. Counsel recommended that the Chief Financial Officer complete the proper designation and that the Board ratify the designation at the next meeting date.

The Chief Financial Officer made the appropriate designation on February 10, 2022, for up to \$2 million of expenditures on the following projects:

- Tioga PreK Construction (the portion not paid by 2020 bonds)
- Blackhawk Chiller Replacement
- EAC Roof Replacement (the portion exceeding \$100,000 of cost already dedicated to the recent Maintenance Grant.

Mr. Novack reported on options considered: The designation does not obligate the District to issue bonds. It does preserve the option. For instance, these expenditures could be combined with future Blackhawk renovation costs to support a future bond issuance by the District.

A motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Krajecki that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution ratifying, confirming and approving a declaration of official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of a debt obligation.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Laudadio, Krajecki, Dye, Parthimos, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva, McCullough,

Motion Carried.

New Business- none

Closed Session:

At 7:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Krajecki that the Board of Education to go into closed session to discuss matters pertaining to 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.*

At 7:38 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Krajecki that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Parthimos and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education approves 37 extended sick leave days for Meredith Demma from February 10, 2022 through April 11, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Parthimos, Dye, SLaudadio, Krajecki, toltman

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva, McCullough,

Motion Carried.

Adjournment

At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki 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 Mr. Stoltman adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

President

Secretary