



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

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:

<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
<b>Administration</b>			
Dr. Rebecca Nelson	Interim Co-Superintendent	X	
Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
<b>EAC Staff</b>			
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, Anne Paonessa – Director of Teaching & Learning, Kris Stalzer – Coordinator of Special Education, Juliann Green – Director Special Education, Edgar Palacios – Director of EL.

**Others in attendance:** Community Members – Mr. Alberto Sanchez & Ms. Silvia Solano and BMS student America Sanchez Solano.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. McCullough welcomed the BSD2 ALS Students who participated in the video of the Pledge of Allegiance. America Sanchez Solano a Blackhawk Middle School student assisted with the Pledge.

**Public comments** – none

**Strategic Planning Report** –Dr. Nelson, Interim Superintendent introduced Dr. Kim Suedbeck and Dr. Lynn Gibson from Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates who presented the Strategic Planning Report. The report included the findings of the ENGAGE Phase of the Strategic Planning Process facilitated by Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) from October 2021 through February 2022. The data contained herein were obtained from input the HYA associates received when they met with individuals and groups in either individual interviews or focus group settings, the results of the online survey completed by stakeholders and other reports provided by the administration. The report also included Next Steps, Phase 2 - Strategic Planning Process/Focus Phase, and Phase 3 - Implementation Process/Execute Phase. The Survey Report and Needs Assessment Report were also distributed to Board members for their review.

**Board Committee Reports**

**A. Announcements** - none

**B. Collective Bargaining Update** – Dr. McCullough reported that the District is currently engaged in collective bargaining and the process is going very well. The climate and culture in negotiations is positive. Dr. McCullough reported that he is grateful to all the stakeholders for the work that has been done. Dr. McCullough acknowledged the participates serving on team.

**Administrative Reports**

**A. Announcements** – none

**B. Teaching & Learning Update**

1. **Carnegie Math (Gr. 6-8)** - Ms. Anne Paonessa reported that for 2022-2023 school year the 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade math department will be using the Carnegie Learning math program as the new curricular resource. The Math department piloted two programs after reviewing multiple options and chose to move forward with Carnegie. This program will provide a math resource that will help engage our students in understanding what they are learning in a deeper, conceptual way while providing teachers with the resources they need to customize their instruction. Professional development will be held in April, during the summer and will have job embedded PD and support.
2. **Elementary Schedule 2022-2023** – Ms. Anne Paonessa reported that an adjustment to the elementary schedule is needed for the 2022-2023 school year to address the impact of interrupted learning through additional PLC meeting time for teachers and coordinated intervention blocks. Ms. Paonessa reviewed the key considerations:
  - Guaranteed and Viable Instructional Time
  - Daily Grade Level PLC Time
  - Block to Provide Interventions and Enrichment
  - Reallocation of Staffing
  - SEL Specials Rotation
  - STEAM Class as Specials Rotation
  - Health & Safety Standards within PE Classes
  - Acceleration for All

**C. New Superintendent Transition** – Dr. Nelson reported that the Interim Superintendents continue to communicate weekly via zoom with Dr. McCluskey in order to be involved with the decisions being made to transition for 2022-2023.

**D. FOIA Report** – Mr. Novack reported that there was one commercial request from SmartProcure regarding purchase records from October 21 through the current date.

**E. 3rd quarter update of the 2021-2022 District Plan** – Dr. Nelson reported that the interim superintendents met with administrators and board members and identified area that needed to be worked on this year that was put into the District Plan. In review of the District Plan you will find that many items have been completed or in progress.

**F. Updating the 2021-2022 In-Person Reopening Plan** – Dr. Nelson reported that we are required to update the plan every 6 months. The plan has been revised with guidance from the CDC other organizations. The administration presented they survey results and plan revision to the Board

- [BSD2 2021-2022 COVID Mitigation Plan.](#)
- [The results of that survey](#)

**G. Banking & Investment Changes** – Mr. Novack reported that the District invests its cash balances conservatively. “Safety of principal” is the overriding concern established by Policy 4-30. Currently, all cash is held in bank accounts and in money markets funds, both mostly at Fifth Third Bank. The interest rates are low in these accounts.

Mr. Novack reported that other investment types are authorized by the Policy and by the Illinois Public Funds Investment Act. These include US government and US agency bonds, bank certificates of deposit, corporate commercial paper if highly rated, and local government bonds if highly rated.

Mr. Novack reported that the administration has asked its bank, Fifth Third Bank, to recommend possible investments of these types. Interest rates have recently risen for these kinds of investments.

Mr. Novack also reported that the District has three investment categories for its cash balances, each with a different purpose. These are the categories:

- (1) About \$3 million is set aside for larger-than-usual bond payments scheduled for 2025 thru 2028.
- (2) About \$15 million is held in reserve and not yet committed to a spending purpose. This portion can be used for new investments such as the Blackhawk Middle School refresh, and to protect from budget surprises.
- (3) The balance of the cash is held for current-year spending with a modest cushion. This balance is presently about \$10 million.

Mr. Novack reported that to hold these investments, Fifth Third recommends three accounts, one for each investment category listed above. The separate accounts make reporting easier and help clarify that the maturity dates in each account are aligned with the purposes of that category. No Board action is required to establish these accounts.

Mr. Novack reported on options considered:

- Instruments will be selected following the four guidelines established in Policy 4-30. These are safety; liquidity; rate of return; and diversification.
- Investments will have staggered maturity dates that allow a gradual response to changing interest rates and that correspond to the needs of each designated category.

**Consent Item:**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – February 16, 2022
2. Regular Board of Education meeting – February 16, 2022 – Closed session

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

**B. Approval of Financial Reports**

1. Bills February 2022
  - a. Accounts Payable
  - b. Imprest Checks
  - c. Advanced Checks
2. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2022

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

**C. Personnel**

**I. Resignation of Certified Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Lori Eatherton, ELL Specialist, Johnson School, effective immediately.

**II. Resignation of Classified Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Stephanie Colletti, Literacy Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective March 4, 2022.

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

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education approves the employment of Alyssa Ayala, Special Education Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

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

1. Veronica Macias, Part-Time Infant/Toddler Specialist, Tioga School, effective February 28, 2022.
2. Christian Guzaro-Cruz, .4 Transition Coordinator, District Wide, effective March 1, 2022.

3. Leslie Rodriguez-Santiago, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Early Literacy Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective February 28, 2022.
4. Refugio Viridiana Vazquez, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Tioga School, effective March 17, 2022.

**V. Salary for Administrative Assistant Position**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education ratify the proposed pay change for Ms. Eva Carpenter effective March 21, 2022.

**VI. Approval of Job Descriptions**

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

1. Administrative Assistant for Student Services. [\[Link to job description\]](#)
2. Administrative Assistant for Teaching and Learning. [\[Link to job description\]](#).

**VII. Parental Leave**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education not grant the parental leave requested by for Lisa Boswell for the 2022-23 school year.

**D. NDSEC Lease Agreement 2022-2023- Two Spaces, 2022-23**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education authorize execution of the lease agreement with NDSEC for two rooms for the 2022-23 school year.

**E. Change of Name on District Credit Card**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution to approve the name change on the credit card to Paul Novack, the Chief Financial Officer.

**F. Gift Acceptance**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education accept the donation from Coca-Cola GIVE! of \$37.20 to W.A. Johnson School.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay: None**

**Absent: None**

**Motion Carried.**

**Conference/Action Item**

- A. Change Orders – Mr. Novack reported that the Board’s role in reviewing changes to construction contracts is explained [here](#).**

The construction manager and the administration recommend a change to the electrical contract to incorporate design changes and to repair unexpected conditions.

**Mr. Novack reported that these contract changes exceeding \$10,000 are presented for Board approval.**

Nature of Change	Work Performed & Contractor’s Name	Amount Added (Removed)	Reasons to Approve the Change
Repair an unmarked fiber optic cable that was damaged during excavation.	Argon Electric Company: install and connect replacement fiber optic	\$16,094	These changes are in the District’s best interest and are germane to the original

	cable and splice to existing connections.		contracts for site work and concrete work.
Speakers (ceiling-mounted and connected to the projector) were not included in the original design. They are added now after consulting with PreK staff.	Argon Electric Company: purchase and installation of speakers and related equipment (amplifiers, controls, retractable ceiling mount).	\$28,978	These changes are in the District's best interest and are germane to the original contracts for site work and concrete work.

Mr. Novack reported that all of these items are necessary to complete the construction and to make the classrooms fully functional.

**A motion was made by Ms. Parthimos and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education approve the proposed change orders as in the District's best interest and as germane to the original contract.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay: None**

**Absent: None**

**Motion Carried.**

**B. Authorize Intergovernmental Agreement with Bensenville Library for Roofing Project** – Mr. Novack reported that the Board and the Bensenville Community Public Library have awarded a roofing contract to Filotto Roofing, Inc., to replace the cedar shake roof on the EAC and the Library. The District's share of the contract is about \$156,000 and the Library's share is about \$355,000. Previous memoranda on this subject were presented at the June 2021 meeting and at the January 2022 meeting.

Mr. Novack reported that the District proposes to lend to the Library the funding for the Library's share, as shared at the June 2021 meeting. The loan enables a larger and more cost-efficient project.

The loan will not affect the District's ability to spend and invest. The District forecasts a cash balance of \$11 million or more at all times during the life of the loan.

Mr. Novack reported that the Library and the District will enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to manage the project and to govern the advances by the District and their repayment by the Library. The proposed agreement is attached.

Mr. Novack reported that the Library will repay the loan over the next six years in payments of about \$65,000. This amount fits within the Library's annual budget for building projects. Interest will be charged at rates averaging slightly over 2%, with higher rates for the longest maturities. The interest rates are comparable to what the District could earn in authorized investments and also comparable to what the Library would pay if it had borrowed for the roof project.

Mr. Novack reported that without the loan, the project would have been only one-third the size, raising the District's cost. The loan to the Library enables a larger and more cost-effective project that produces savings for both parties and an acceptable interest rate for the District.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education authorize administration to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement in substantially the form attached and to advance funds to the Bensenville Community Public Library in the manner specified in the Agreement.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay: None**

**Absent: None**  
**Motion Carried.**

**New Business-** none

Dr. McCullough reported that the teachers are being well represented and that the District is actively listening to ideas and creative solutions and proposals that the whole bargaining team know impact your work lives. Dr. McCullough reported that he is confident that the team will generate an outcome that will benefit all stakeholders.

**Closed Session:**

**At 8:07 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education to go into closed session 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.*)**

**At 8:50 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.**

**Adjournment**

**At 8:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Parthimos and seconded by Mr. Stoltman 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 8:51 p.m.

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President

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Secretary