



Bensenville Elementary School District
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes - October 20, 2021

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
vacant	Member		
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. Rebecca Nelson	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, Ms. Anne Paonessa – Interim Director of Teaching & Learning, Dr. Perry Finch, Principal Blackhawk Middle School,

Community Members in attendance: Nancy Quinn, Alex Stitgen, Mojca Anaya

Dr. McCullough led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: none

Public Hearing – E-Learning Plan

- A. Open Public Hearing on the – E-Learning Plan – Dr. McCullough opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.
- B. Presentation of – E-Learning Plan - Ms. Paonessa presented information pertaining to the E-Learning Plan.
- C. Audience Participation – questions and clarification – Dr. McCullough ask if the audience had any questions. Mrs. Krajecki asked her questions and Mrs. Paonessa answered them. Ms. Paonessa thanked the Bensenville Education Association on their feedback of the plan.
- D. Close Hearing and Return to Regular Board Meeting – Dr. McCullough closed the hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Presentations

- A. **Bus Driver Appreciation** – Dr. McCullough extended board gratitude to everyone involved in transporting our students to and from school.
- B. **Update on Budget Plans for ARP Grant** – Ms. Paonessa presented information on the ARP-ESSER III Funding. She reported on how BSD2 will use funds to address the following;
 - Safely returning students to in-person instruction
 - Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students’ academic, social and emotional needs

- Afterschool and other extended learning and enrichment programs
- Purchasing educational technology

Consultation and Public Comment Requirements:

- Step 1: Safe Return to In-Person Plan- posted on the district website for review and comment
- Step 2: Use of Funds Plan- Stakeholder Survey - September 13-20th, 2021

Additional Funding Sources

- School Climate and Transformation Grant (SCTG)- specifically targets students' social and emotional needs
- ESSR II- used to purchase cleaning supplies and PPE; inventories to be monitored to determine if more funds are needed from ESSR III

3 Categories of Funds Use:

- Category 1: Academic and Social Emotional Supports
- Category 2: Technology Resources
- Category 3: Health and Safety Resources

Ms. Paonessa gave examples of fund usage.

ARP-ESSR III Fund Summary

1. ARP-ESSR III Funds; safely reopen schools and address lost instructional time and SEL impact from the Covid-19 pandemic
2. BSD2 awarded \$2,678,924 from federal funds and state reservations
3. This funding covers a three-year time span through September 2024
4. The ARP Use of Funds Plan was developed through stakeholder feedback including public survey
5. The ARP Use of Funds Plan will be reviewed and updated no less than every six months to determine impact and updated student needs

C. 1st Quarter Financial Update – Mr. Novack presented the 1st quarter Financial update.

D. Financial Forecast - Mr. Novack presented the Financial Forecast.

Administrative Reports

A. FOIA Report – Mr. Novack reported that there were four: 1) Data Research Partners, 2) LocalLabs, 3) LocalLabs, 4.) NBC5 Chicago.

B. Bus Driver Staffing & Costs – Mr. Novack reported that all school districts face bus driver shortages this year. District 2 would like to hire 2-3 more drivers but is unable to attract candidates.

So far, the team is serving the necessary daily routes with fewer drivers, by combining routes and by having the director drive each day, also. Optional service areas that were dropped in 2020-21 due to COVID limitations are still not being served due to the driver limitations.

Between 3 and 8 drivers may become eligible for District health insurance this year, because they are working more hours. The District's insurance cost per driver ranges from \$6,600 to \$15,000 per driver, depending on the coverage. Status as eligible lasts for one year. It may begin this year or next year, depending on the circumstances.

The driver shortage leads to this result. Drivers are working more often on extra routes that serve the PreK program, the after-school clubs, and sports teams. In prior years, more drivers were available to share these routes, keeping all of them below 30 hours per week, which is the insurance threshold.

No Board action is recommended at this time.

- B. Blackhawk Chiller Tower** – Mr. Novack reported that the Chiller tower at Blackhawk Middle School is quite old and needs repair. An approval of bid for repairs will be presented at the November 3rd or November 17th meeting.
- C. Blackhawk Chiller Tower** – Mr. Novack reported that the chiller tower at Blackhawk Middle School is quite old and needs replacement. A contract award for the replacement will be requested at the November 3rd or November 17th meeting.

Consent Item:

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. Special Board of Education Meeting – September 15, 2021
- 2. Special Board of Education Meeting – September 15, 2021 – Closed Session
- 3. Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 15, 2021
- 4. Regular Workshop Meeting – October 6, 2021
- 5. Regular Workshop Meeting – October 6, 2021 – Closed Session
- 6. Special Board of Education Meeting – October 13, 2021

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

- 1. Bills September 2021
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Construction Checks
- 2. Treasurer's Cash Report as of September, 2021
- 3. Investment Summary as of September 30, 2021
- 4. Tax Distribution Report as of September 30, 2021
- 5. Activity Fund Report September, 2021
- 6. Financial Statements as of September 30, 2021

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 Sabina Herrera, Social Worker, Tioga effective October 4, 2021.

II. Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Nancy Bomicino, Literacy Aide Tioga School, effective October 12, 2021.

III. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Suzanne Waite, ALS Special Education Paraprofessional, Johnson School. effective September 22, 2021.

IV. Extra Duty Stipends

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the attached list of extra duty stipends for the 2021-2022 school year.

D. Gift Acceptance

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accept the donation from Coca-Cola GIVE! In the amount of \$52.69.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva,

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Approval of E-Learning Plan – Ms. Anne Paonessa, Interim Director of Teaching & Learning reported that the Illinois State Board of Education established an eLearning pilot in 2015 for three schools with the purpose of recording the efficacy of eLearning 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 would count as attendance days. It was expected that there were five clock hours of instruction or school work for each student, access to electronic communication, and appropriate learning opportunities for students with special needs.

She 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 has collaborated with several districts throughout the state that piloted and implemented eLearning Days as one way to make up for lost traditional school days due to emergencies.

A motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Parthimos that the Board of Education approves the Bensenville School District 2 eLearning Plan as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva,

Motion Carried.

B. Approval of Resolution to Estimate 2021 Tax Levy – Mr. Novack reported that a proposed resolution is attached estimating the 2021 tax levy.

This resolution is the first step to collect property taxes for the 2022-23 school year. It is a Board estimate of the amounts to be raised by property taxation. The second step occurs in November or December, when the Board levies the tax and files that levy to the DuPage County Clerk.

Separate levies will be estimated in the resolution for seven of the District's eight funds. The Bond Fund levy, \$265,000, need not be estimated, because it is already levied anyway.

This resolution is an estimate rather than the actual levy. The actual tax levy will be proposed in December.

Inflation Increase over prior year	1.4%
New Construction Estimate	0.1%
District's Likely Increase	1.5%
Cushion (see Options section)	1.7%
Total Estimated Increase (ignoring bonds)	3.2%

The likely increase is 1.5% in the District's total tax, from two components.

- The inflation component is the 12-month Consumer Price Index change reported for December 2020. This will be the typical tax increase for an individual property owner.
- The new construction component permits the District to increase its aggregate levy beyond the CPI factor. Most new construction in District 2, however, does not have that effect, because it usually occurs in one of the Tax Increment Financing districts. Property tax on those increases is collected by the Village of Bensenville to pay for improvements within the TIF District.

The typical taxpayer will have a 1.4% increase, but individual results will vary depending on valuation changes for their individual parcel. Most parcels will increase in value by 4% this year. *Valuation changes in existing parcels do not affect the District's total tax.* They only affect how the total tax is divided among all property owners.

Mr. Novack reported that this estimate proposes a 1.7% cushion in addition to the 1.5% likely increase.

The cushion serves two purposes: (1) if new construction is higher than estimated, then the District can fully increase its levy; and (2) it creates flexibility for the District next spring to adjust individual fund levies up or down as needed without changing the total levy.

New construction, not existing taxpayers, will bear the cost if any part of the cushion is ultimately included in the final levy.

A motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education adopts the resolution estimating money necessary to be raised by taxation in tax year 2021 (collected 2022) as presented and attached.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva,

Motion Carried.

- C. Approval of Design for Johnson & Tioga School Signs** – Mr. Novack reported that new outdoor signs are recommended for W. A. Johnson School and Tioga School.

The designs are unchanged in recent months. The signs face the street, include lighting mounted at ground level, and are assembled from brick and concrete.

Images were presented for proposed locations. The school principals have been consulted and approve the signs and locations.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board direct Administration to proceed with installation of the signs.

D. Appointment of BOE Negotiation Team Members – Dr. Chris McCullough appointed the following to the Board Negotiation Team:
 1. Marisol Leyva
 2. Chris McCullough

E. Review Policy 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment) – Mr. Novack reported that the District’s anti-bullying policy, 7-180, is linked [here](#). Its contents reflect the highly-detailed requirements set forth in School Code.

The term “Bullying” is defined in School Code. This definition is narrower than the common public usage. Under the statute, bullying means (1) pervasive or severe conduct, with (2) a harm that is physical in nature, affects mental health, or creates a substantial interference in academic performance or school participation.

The District must review the policy and reevaluate it every two years. This report, once completed, will be posted on the District’s website.

These factors were presented for review. Data is drawn mostly from the District’s student behavior database.

Review Factor	Found in Statute	Data from 2019-2021	Comments
Frequency of victimization in past 2 school years	Yes	16	No bullying reported in 2020-21. In the prior two-year period, 54 incidents were reported but most were not severe enough to meet the statute’s definition.
Incidents determined not to meet definition of bullying	No	None	Principals and staff know the proper definition of bullying. Lesser incidents still receive attention but are not reported as bullying.
Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school	Yes	None	Survey data shows students generally feel safe at school. Each school received and responded to less than 10 emails reporting possible bullying or safety concerns.
Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs	Yes	See →	Hallways and cafeterias were the main location. One off-campus incident was recorded.
Types of bullying utilized	Yes	See →	Physical contact is very rare. Intimidation, threats, and harassment are the common situations.
Bystander intervention or participation.	Yes	None	

Consequences	No	See →	In-school suspensions or detentions were imposed in 10 of the 16 situations. Loss of privileges either at home or at school was applied 3 times.
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The policy is very extensive. No changes are recommended.

Recommendation: No action is recommended. The report with necessary changes will be posted on the District’s website.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva,

Motion Carried.

New Business- none

Closed Session:

At 8:07 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Krajecki that the Board of Education to go into closed session to discuss matters pertaining to Personnel & Probable Litigation - *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. / When an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).*

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

At 8:41 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 8:42 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki 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 8:42 p.m.

President

Secretary