



Bensenville Elementary School District
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes - November 17, 2021

President, Dr. Chris McCullough called the regular meeting of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 Board of Education, DuPage County to order at 7:03 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, Jeff Kersten, Principal Tioga School, Carlos Patiño Principal W.A. Johnson School

Community Members in attendance: Jacqueline Dye and Members of the Dye Family

President Dr. McCullough swore in the newly appointed Board of Education Member, Mrs. Jacqueline Dye.

Mrs. Dye assumed her position at the board table. Dr. McCullough welcomed Mrs. Dye to the Bensenville District 2 Board of Education.

Dr. McCullough led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: none

Presentations

- A. Board Member Appreciation** – Dr. Becky Nelson, Interim Superintendent presented Board members with a certificate of appreciation for their dedication to the students and staff of BSD2.
- B. FY 2021 Audit Report** - Mr. Kevin Bissell from PKF Mueller presented the Audit.
- C. School Improvement Action Items** – Ms. Anne Paonessa, Interim Director of Teaching & Learning along with the three Principals Dr. Perry Finch, Principal Blackhawk Middle School, Jeff Kersten, Principal Tioga School and Carlos Patiño Principal W.A. Johnson School presented the School Improvement Action items.

Administrative Reports

- A. FOIA Report** – Mr. Novack reported that there were three this past month:

1. NBC5 Chicago – unclaimed funds not yet reported to IL Treasurer & related data
2. LocalLabs – Panorama Education Contracts, payments, training/curriculum materials, teachers and classes that used.
3. SmartProcure – purchasing records thru the current date from late July 2021.

B. Food Service Contract for 2022-2023 Update – Mr. Novack reported that the District wants to renew its food service contract with Sodexo for one more year. Although renewal for a seventh year is not typically available, this year the USDA permits one-year extensions for districts that find COVID is affecting food operations or the market for contracts. Administration recommends renewal, because the prices are reasonable and because Sodexo does a great job. Tanya Barrett, Sodexo’s onsite director, recently won second place in a national Sodexo contest for food service managers. Congratulations to Tanya!

At 8:01 p.m. Mrs. Krajecki excused herself from the meeting.

C. Sharing Fields with Park District Update – Mr. Novack reported that the Park District has proposed three projects with the District. Two were first presented in June: the Park District proposes to manage Mohawk Park and to manage the field area behind Blackhawk Middle School. At Blackhawk, the plan is to create an artificial turf field and other improvements. At Mohawk, the Park District would create a variety of park improvements. The third project is also proposed, to share a maintenance garage for buses and Park District vehicles. The Board asked Administration to keep exploring these projects.

Consent Item:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 20, 2021
2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 20, 2021 – Closed Session
3. Regular Workshop Meeting – November 3, 2021
4. Regular Workshop Meeting – November 3, 2021 – Closed Session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills October 2021
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Construction Checks
2. Treasurer’s Cash Report as of October, 2021
3. Investment Summary as of October 31, 2021
4. Tax Distribution Report as of October 31, 2021
5. Activity Fund Report October, 2021
6. Financial Statements as of October 31, 2021

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

C. Personnel

I. Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of David Martinez, Full-Service Site Coordinator for the District, effective November 26, 2021.

II. Resignation of Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Isabella Ibarra, Pre-K teacher, Tioga School, effective December 17, 2021.

III. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Amy Alessio, Paraprofessional Substitute, for the District, effective January 1, 2022.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Parthimos, Dye, Leyva, McCullough,

Nay: None

Absent: Krajecki, Laudadio, Stoltman

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

- A. Acceptance of FY2021 Audited Financial Statements** - Mr. Novack reported that the District's financial statements for the 2021 fiscal year have been audited by the firm of PFK Mueller. PFK Mueller and its predecessor firm, MPS|CPA, have been the District's auditors since 2011.

Mr. Kevin Bissell from PFK Mueller reviewed the audit results with the Board earlier in the meeting.

Links are provided here to these four documents.

1. The [District's Financial Statements](#), with Notes & Schedules, for the year ended June 30, 2021.
2. [PFK Mueller's Report letter](#), providing its opinion about the information presented in the District's Financial Statements.
3. [PFK Mueller's Conclusions Letter](#), describing the audit it performed.
4. [PFK Mueller's Internal Control Letter](#), describing its limited-purpose opinion about the District's processes for collecting and recording financial information.

Mr. Novack reported that the Report Letter provided the highest level of confidence that auditors may use: that the Financial Statements' information is presented fairly, in all material respects. This is commonly known as an "unqualified opinion".

The District's financial strength is excellent.

- The net financial position increased in 2020-21 for the 18th consecutive year. This means that the District's assets (reduced for its liabilities) have increased in each of those years, even allowing for a modest decline of its building values due to age.
- The District finished the year with about \$33.5 million of cash.
- The District's bonds have a AA+ bond rating.
- The District's school buildings are very new.

ISBE is expected to give the District the highest possible Financial Profile score next spring, based on the values reported in the Financial Statements.

A motion was made by Mrs. Leyva and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education accept the FY2021 Audit Report as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Leyva, Parthimos, Dye, McCullough,

Nay: None

Absent: Krajecki, Laudadio, Stoltman

Motion Carried.

- B. Approval of Resolution for 2021 Tax Levy** – Mr. Novack reported that the District levies nine separate property taxes. This memo concerns all of them except the bond levy. The bond levy needs no action, because all future bond levies were established in past years when the bonds were issued.

The eight levies proposed here are for these purposes: Education, Special Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, Social Security taxes, Illinois Municipal Pension contributions, Working Cash and Torts & Insurance.

Each levy is a dollar amount, not a rate. Rates are determined later by the County by apportioning the District's requested dollars among all the property owners.

For taxes to be collected in 2022, the Administration proposes the tax levies as stated in the Tax Levy Resolution, attached.

Property taxes are projected to be about 70% of the District's revenue in 2022-23.

Mr. Novack reported that State law limits the eight-levy increase, in the aggregate, to inflation plus new construction. Inflation is 1.4% and new construction is projected to be about 0.1%, making the maximum increase about 1.5%.

An extra 1.7% is proposed here but is very unlikely to be collected. The cushion will be collected only if new construction turns out larger than the projected \$500,000.

Prior-Year Total, Eight Levies	28,757,675	
Inflation, calendar year 2020	402,608	1.40%
New Construction (est.)	19,217	0.07%
Cushion, probably not collected	500,000	1.74%
Total before Bonds	29,679,500	3.21%

For many property owners, the increase over last year will be 1.4%; that is, the increase in inflation. But, it could be higher or lower depending on how their property value has changed since last year.

Mr. Novack presented a levy-by-levy analysis.

Mr. Novack reported that four of the eight funds contain a cushion that will be eliminated in the final levy next spring. This maximizes the District's flexibility in allocating its total levy among the eight purposes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Leyva and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education adopt the Tax Levy Resolution, specifying the amount to be levied in each of the funds for the 2021 Levy to be collected in 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Leyva, Dye, Parthimos, McCullough,

Nay: None

Absent: Krajecki, Laudadio, Stoltman

Motion Carried.

- C. **Appointment of Bensenville Community Foundation Committee member** – Dr. McCullough appointed Mrs. Jacqueline Dye as a District 2 representative for the Bensenville Community Foundation.

- D. **1st Reading Policy Revisions** - Policy 5:185, Family and Medical Leave – Mr. Novack reported that Policy [5:185](#) describes the District’s implementation of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The policy is mostly a description of what the law requires.

FMLA provides two benefits to employees: (1) during their leave, their health insurance remains in effect and the Board continues to contribute towards the premiums; and (2) upon return from the leave, they have the right to be restored to an equivalent job.

Leaves may total 12 weeks during a 12-month period. The leave may be continuous or intermittent.

The FMLA is a Federal law. For school districts and some universities, Illinois has now created its own version of the FMLA. The new law takes effect January 1, 2022.

Eligibility is different in the Illinois law; all other features of the Illinois law are the same as the Federal version. In Illinois school district and universities, employees become eligible after 1,000 hours of service instead of 1,250 hours.

The new eligibility standard is mandatory for Illinois school districts.

Mr. Novack requested that the Board review the [proposed revisions to Policy 5:185](#) and then consider them for adoption at its December meeting.

- E. **Change Orders** - none

New Business- none

Closed Session: none

Adjournment

At 8:19 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Parthimos 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 8:19 p.m.

President

Secretary