



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Minutes - December 15, 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
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, Jeff Kersten - Principal Tioga School, Nicole Mrowice - Assistant Principal Blackhawk Middle School, Juliann Greene - Director of Special Education, Missy Baglarz - MTSS Director, Craig Baker - BMS Teacher.

Others in attendance: John Perdue – HYA & Assoc. Dr. Katie McCluskey and family.

Dr. McCullough led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: none

New Superintendent Hire – Dr. McCullough reported that the Board proposes to select Dr. Katherine McCluskey to become the next Superintendent. Her employment would begin July 1, 2022 and continue through June 30, 2025.

The contract and goals were presented to the board for review.

A motion was made by Mrs. Leyva and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education ratify the superintendent contract for Dr. Katherine McCluskey.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Dr. McCullough welcomed Dr. McClusky to the District and shared as a token of appreciation and admiration for Dr. Lechner, Dr. McCluskey and Dr. Nelson, a photo clock with a quote from Mortimer Adler on it.

Dr. McClough also presented Dr. McCluskey a pen which symbolizes the instrument that she will use to write down her goals, beliefs and dreams for the Bensenville School District, it will meld those hopes dreams and desires into a shared vision and shared goals.

Announcements – Dr. Lechner announced that Mr. William Winters, 7th and 8th grade Band Director at BMS wrote a chapter in a recently published book, *Portraits of Music Education and Social Emotional Learning: Teaching Music with Heart*.

His chapter is entitled “Building Student Citizenship and Community through Music.” Mr. Winters work focuses on how each band member is a unique individual who is important to the group as a whole. He emphasized the need for teachers to get to know each band member personally; this helps help build community and a team. Mr. Winters prides himself on being aware of progressive approaches to inspiring our young musicians. Additionally, it is an honor to see him inspiring colleagues in Music Education. Congratulations on this accomplishment, Mr. Winters.

Administrative Reports

- A. FOIA Report** – Mr. Novack reported that there were two FOIA’s requested **1) SmartProcure-Purchasing** records thru the current date from late July 2021. **2.) Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Union** - RE: Advanced Door & Hardware LLC - for FY20: contracts; e-mails; submittals; certified payroll; payout requests; documents identifying general contractors & subcontractors; and list of the schools work was performed at. Provided contract and pay-out documents; no labor was included, so no certified payroll exists. 11/22/21 12/6/21
- B. Revised Organizational Chart** – Dr. Lechner reported that the Board requested a revised BSD2 Organizational Chart. This request was developed into a goal for the 2021-2022 District Plan. Dr. Lechner presented the revised Organization Chart for review and described the changes.
- C. 2021-2022 District Plan Update** – Dr. Lechner reported that in July the Interim Superintendents met with each Board member, administrator as well union leaders in BSD2. As part of this process, everyone was asked to identify individual "Wish List" items. The Administrative Team reviewed and found several themes among the wish lists. Administrators were then asked to volunteer to lead a specific wish list item. A standard reporting format was developed to outline a specific plan for each goal. These goals were presented at the September 15th Board meeting. Attached are the updated 2021-22 goals supporting the District Plan. This provides the Board the quarterly update on each of the goals.
- D. Roof Replacement Bid Opening Update** – Mr. Novack reported that bids were opened on Tuesday, December 14th. References are being checked on the low bidder. The bid results will be presented to the board in January.

Committee Reports

- Mrs. Leyva reported that the Bensenville Community Foundation held its last meeting for 2021 in November. The Board holds two Bensenville Community Foundation board seats by Jacqueline Dye and Marisol Leyva. This committee is an opportunity to give back to the community.
- Ms. Parthimos reported that the NDSEC Committee meets monthly with superintendents for the Operational Board meeting and 4 times a year with Board Representatives for the Governing Board meetings. The governing board voted to not evaluate teachers in good standing this year due to

COVID pandemic.

- Mr. Stoltman said he had no report as the IASA Representative.

Consent Item:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – November 17, 2021
2. Regular Workshop Meeting – December 1, 2021
3. Regular Workshop Meeting – December 1, 2021 – Closed Session
4. Special Meeting – December 3, 2021
5. Special Meeting – December 3, 2021 – Closed Session
6. Special Meeting – December 4, 2021
7. Special Meeting – December 4, 2021– Closed Session
8. Special Meeting – December 7, 2021
9. Special Meeting – December 7, 2021 – Closed Session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills November 2021
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Construction Checks
 - e. Tuition Reimbursement
 - f. Board Member Conference Reimbursement
2. Treasurer’s Cash Report as of November, 2021
3. Investment Summary as of November 30, 2021
4. Tax Distribution Report as of November 30, 2021
5. Activity Fund Report November, 2021
6. Financial Statements as of November 30, 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 the following classified staff member:

1. Elena Davydova, Gifted Aide, Tioga, effective Immediately.
2. Yessenia Velazquez, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective December 17, 2021.
3. Carolina Trujillo, 2nd Grade Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective December 17, 2021.

II. Ratification of Employment for 2021-2022, Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the employment of

1. Rachel Hallin, Pre-K Blended Teacher, Tioga School, effective January 3, 2022.
2. Nilda Pantaleon, K-5 Teacher, Tioga School, pending graduation.

III. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Geoffry Leedom, Math Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School, effective December 13, 2021.
2. Rauthany Ly, Literacy Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective December 6, 2021.
3. Yadiza Martinez, Kindergarten Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective January 3, 2022.

D. Adopt 2nd Amendment to Tax Consortium Inter Governmental Agreement – Mr. Novack reported that the District must pay tax refunds when property tax appeals are decided for the taxpayer. Although the County defends all the appeals, the District and other local taxing bodies jointly intervene in large cases. By intervening, the local group can assist with the appeal and influence settlement negotiations.

An Intergovernmental Agreement among this group of taxing bodies establishes the practices for joint interventions and for the sharing of costs.

Mr. Novack reported that an amended and revised IGA is proposed here. See the marked version, attached. These are the revisions:

- (1) Add Bensenville Fire Protection District No. 2 as the sixth member.
- (2) Adjust the billing shares to reflect the six taxing bodies' rates from the latest levy, 2020, and agree to revise billing shares whenever a taxing body's tax rate changes due to referendum.
- (3) Remove the naming of a particular law firm to represent the consortium; that designation can be handled by resolution as needed.
- (4) Remove the explicit hourly rate; rates will be set with the law firm on a periodic basis using a consultation among members similar to how settlement agreements are reviewed now.
- (5) For cases that do not involve all six members, share costs among only the affected members.
- (6) Renew the agreement each two years automatically, while preserving each member's existing right to withdraw at any time with 30 days' notice.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education agree to the Second Amended Intergovernmental Agreement concerning the sharing of costs for intervening in property tax appeals.

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. Consider Application for Property Tax Reduction Grant – Mr. Novack reported that Illinois is offering school districts almost \$50 million in 2022 for property tax relief. Winning districts must reduce their property tax.

An award for the District is unlikely this year unless higher-ranked districts choose not to apply. There is no cost or disadvantage to submit an application.

The Administration proposes applying for a grant that would yield a \$300,000 local tax reduction for taxes to be collected in calendar years 2022 and 2023. That reduction would eliminate about one-half of the tax increase recommended for levy at this meeting.

Action to be Taken	Responsibility	Date
Authorize Grant Application.	Board of Education	December 15, 2021
Submit Grant Application to ISBE.	Administration	By January 10, 2022
Evaluate all applications and notify applicants of results.	ISBE	By early February, 2022
<i>Final decision date:</i> If the District is selected for the grant, then it may choose to accept it or not at this time.	Board of Education	February 16, 2022
District Receives Grant Funds, if any	ISBE	About May 20, 2022
District Collects Less in Taxes, if abated	N/A	June and September, 2022

The grants would not completely replace the tax reduction. District 2, if awarded a grant, would receive about 70% back from Illinois. For a \$300,000 reduction, the grant would be just over \$210,000. The District's net revenue would decline by about \$90,000.

Mr. Novack reported that the District ranks 171st among 851 districts for purposes of this grant. This is probably not high enough; the available funding is enough for about 40 applicants.

Mr. Novack reported that if the District does receive a grant, then at the February meeting, the Board would choose to accept or reject the grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Krajecki that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to apply for a \$210,663 grant. That grant amount, if awarded, would require a tax abatement of \$300,000 for taxes to be collected in calendar years 2022 and 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

B. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Policy Revisions – Mr. Novack reported that the Board's role in creating and revising the Policy Manual.

In November, the Board had a first reading of revisions to Policy 5:185. This policy describes the District's implementation of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The FMLA is a Federal law.

The revised policy implements an Illinois version of the FMLA for school districts and universities. 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. No other changes are recommended.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education adopt the attached version of Policy 5:185.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

C. Change Orders - none

D. 2022-2023 Calendar Discussion – Dr. Lechner reported that the draft calendar has been reviewed with administration, B.E.A. and a copy shared with all staff. The calendar follows past practices. Since the draft calendar was posted there are two possible changes. The first is that B.E.A. is requesting that the June 1st Teacher Institute day be moved to January 9th. That change would make the last day of student attendance on June 1st. the second possible change would be adding to winter break Thursday, December 22 to more align to Fenton HS winter break. This would make the last student attendance day June 2nd. The calendar will be brought to the board for adoption at the January 19th meeting.

E. Triple I Follow-up

- Mrs. Leyva felt that it was a good experience for board bonding, being able to socialize outside the board room and build on relationships. Mr. Stoltman and Mr. Laudadio concurred.
- Mrs. Dye reported that she got clarity on her role as a board member and the president’s role.
- Mrs. Parthimos reported that she spent a lot of time in the IASA Bookstore, finding some books on woman in leadership.
- Mrs. Krajecki was unable to attend.
- Dr. McCullough found a workshop on Collective Bargaining helpful. The presenter shared information on contemporary practices on bargaining.

New Business- none

Closed Session: none

Adjournment

At 7:32 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Ms. Parthimos 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 7:32 p.m.

President

Secretary