



Bensenville Elementary School District
Board of Education Special Meeting
Minutes – January 6, 2021

President, Bob Laudadio called the special meeting of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 Board of Education, DuPage County to order at 6:31 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
Christian Constante	Secretary	X	
Katie Krajecki	Vice-President	X	
Bob Laudadio	President	X	
Chris McCullough	Member	X (via zoom)	
Alex Stitgen	Treasurer	X (via zoom)	
James Stoltman	Member	X (via zoom)	
Susan Vitellaro	Member	X (via zoom)	
Administration			
Dr. James Stelter	Superintendent	X	
Dr. Kay Dugan	Assistant Superintendent for Learning	X (via zoom)	
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 (via zoom)	

Others in attendance:

- **Staff:** Manny Manago, BSD2 Tech team member

A motion was made by Mr. Stitgen and seconded by Mr. Constante that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Hearing of Delegations: none

Presentations

- A. Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) – W.A. Johnson School** – Mr. Carlos Palacios, Principal of W.A. Johnson School presented the Continuous Improvement Plan.
- B. English Language Learners and Continuous Improvement** - Mr. Edgar Palacios, Director of English Learners
- C. Update on State & Federal Assessments** – Dr. Dugan updated the board on State and Federal Assessments.

Conference/Action Items

A. Personnel Report

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Alan DelRio, Teacher on Special Assignment (ESL) position at Tioga, effective January 4, 2021, for the remainder of the school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Constante and seconded by Mrs. Krajecki that the Board of Education approves the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Constante, Krajecki, Laudadio, McCullough, Stoltman, Stitgen, Vitellaro

Nay: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried.

B. Special Board Committee Update - District Reopening – Dr. Stelter reviewed the Special committee meeting notes from 12-15-2020. Discussion was held. Board members asked that Dr. Stelter compile the metrics and specific operational targets along with transition parameters for the opening of District 2 schools.

C. Consider Potential dates to resume Hybrid Instruction – Dr. Stelter reported that DuPage is part of Region 8. Region 8 has been Phase 4 / Tier 3 since November 20. On that same day, District 2 reduced the in-District work requirement from 2 days per week to none.

To relax the Tier 3 mitigation (i.e., return to Tier 2), a region must pass three tests:

- Positivity rate below 12% for three consecutive days (using the 7-day rolling average); and
- Hospital bed availability greater than 20% percent for three consecutive days (for both intensive care unit beds and medical/surgical beds, using the 3-day rolling average); and
- Hospital patient count for COVID has declined in 7 out of the last 10 days (using the 7-day rolling average).

Dr. Stelter also reported that Region 8 is very close to passing all three as of 12/31/2020. The positivity has remained under 12% (last reported at 9.8%) for 11 days. Local ICU beds has been above 20% for the past 11 consecutive days (positive trend) but Medical/Surgical beds have been above 20% one day less than the requirement. The patient count has declined 9 of the last 10 days.

In-person instruction (hybrid)) has continued in December at several DuPage districts. A partial list includes Itasca (K-8), Roselle (K-8), Downers Grove (K-8) and in Wheaton (K-5). Head Start in Bensenville has remained open.

Considering this information as well as the recommendations from the Special Board Committee, a possible re-opening plan could follow these resurgence criteria and/or the Special Board committee recommendations.

Dr. Stelter presented the following 3 options to consider for reopening dates:

1. If the Governor announces the return to Tier 2 mitigation, staff would return to the schools for two (2) days per week and three (3) days working remotely, to the extent practical. This approach is consistent with the change in onsite working days when the Governor moved the state from Tier 1 to 2. Staff could return to the schools as early as Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

2. The Board directs administration to commence planning metrics for a possible return of students in the hybrid mode of instruction on February 1, February 8, or February 15, based upon the Governor's directive or achievement of certain positivity rates and other criteria deemed appropriate from the health department and Special Board Committee.
3. Special Education and/or Pre-K and/or K-5 could return to in-person instruction (hybrid) at earlier dates than other grades, following the model of other districts.

Dr. McCullough asked about the possibility of surveillance testing. Dr. Stelter reported that he and the team will look into it and get back to the board.

Mr. Stoltman would like to see specific results of the return to school parent survey when they are complete. In addition, he commented that parents should be able to change their remote/hybrid choice, based upon availability of space in the school and enough time for the school to plan for the students return.

A motion was made by Mrs. Krajecki and seconded by Mr. Constante that the Board of Education direct the Administration to consider the following options when reopening the schools.

1. **If the Governor announces the return to Tier 2 mitigation, staff would return to the schools for two (2) days per week and three (3) days working remotely, to the extent practical. This approach is consistent with the change in onsite working days when the Governor moved the state from Tier 1 to 2. Staff could return to the schools as early as Tuesday, January 19, 2021.**
2. **The Board directs administration to commence planning metrics for a possible return of students in the hybrid mode of instruction on February 1, February 8, or February 15, based upon the Governor's directive or achievement of certain positivity rates and other criteria deemed appropriate from the health department and Special Board Committee.**
3. **Special Education and/or Pre-K and/or K-5 could return to in-person instruction (hybrid) at earlier dates than other grades, following the model of other districts.**

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Krajecki, Constante, Laudadio, Stoltman, Stitgen, Vitellaro

Nay: McCullough,

Absent: none

Motion Carried.

- D. **On-Boarding New Board Members** – Dr. Stelter reported that on 01/18/2017, the School Board Member Handbook was last presented and adopted. This handbook was developed from a model shared across the county. Prior to the election, the administration recommends that the handbook be reviewed and revised as necessary so that it can be included in on-boarding of new Board members after the election.

Dr. Stelter also reported that the Board Member Handbook is a good tool to orientate new board members. A formal first reading will be placed on the agenda for the 01/20/2021 regular meeting. A second reading can be completed either in February or March, prior to the election.

Dr. Stelter recommended the Board of Education review the Board Member Handbook.

Dr. McCullough commented on the structure and form of the Board Member Handbook changes that were made.

Adjournment

At 8:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mr. Constante that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No further business appearing Mr. Laudadio adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

President

Secretary