



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Minutes – February 21, 2024

President Robert Laudadio called the regular meeting of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 Board of Education, DuPage County to order at 6:30 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:

<i>Board of Education</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Jacqueline Dye	Secretary	X	
Victoria Gonzalez	Member	X	
Robert Laudadio	President	X	
Marisol Leyva	Vice-President	X	
Anita Miller	Member	X	
Lori Parthimos	Treasurer	X (arrived 6:32 pm)	
James Stoltman	Member	X	
<i>Administration</i>			
Dr. Katie McCluskey	Superintendent	X	
Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
<i>EAC Staff</i>			
Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	

Staff Present: Tim Waldorf – Community Relations Coordinator, Joe West – Tech Specialist, Dr. Anne Paonessa - Asst. Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Dustin Berman – Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Leann Roper – Staff member

Others Present: Deputy Chief Dooley, Officer Banks - Bensenville Police Department

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Celebrations

- A. BMS Dance Team:** Dr. McCluskey congratulated the BMS Dance team! The dancers competed against eight other schools at the Thomas Middle School Dance Invitational, and their Rihanna-themed pom performance earned them second place!

Presentations

- A. Safety & Security Update:** Dr. McCluskey and Dustin Berman, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, reviewed important school safety practices implemented by the District over the past two years in collaboration with Bensenville’s Police and Fire Departments and Emergency Management Agency, the Northern Illinois School Safety Administrators Association, and the DuPage County Regional Office of Education, and School Safety Task Force. Highlights include the completion of a District-wide safety audit, ALICE training, and implementation of standard response protocols for emergency situations throughout BSD2 schools. The ALICE Training principles provide staff and students the option to “run, hide or fight” when reacting to a threat. The District will review these safety and security updates during a parent information night at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, in the auditorium at Blackhawk Middle School. Dr. McCluskey thanked Deputy Chief Dooley and Officer Banks of the Bensenville Police Department for the strong collaboration and of all their work with the District on the Safety & Security of the buildings.
- B. Summer School 2024 Plan:** Dr. Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, reviewed the District’s plans for providing traditional summer school, a new summer enrichment program, and its annual Kindergarten JumpStart program over this year’s summer break.

Board Committee Reports

- A. Announcements - none

Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements – none
B. FOIA Report – Mr. Novack reported that there were 4 FOIAs:

Canon Solutions America	Leases and contracts for maintenance of copiers and printers; contracts for Managed Print Services; and invoices for these items from the past six months	Commercial	The requestor revoked the FOIA.	1/9/24	1/22/24
Illinois Retired Teachers Association	Names and email addresses of teachers retiring this year.	Non-Profit (commercial-like)	Annual request. Records provided.	1/17/2024	2/9/2024
Data Bid	Details about bid packages submitted for the BMS Renovations	Commercial	Records provided.	1/17/2024	1/18/2024
Illinois Federation of Teachers	Wages (starting & ranges); eligibility for insurance; and single & family for insurance; and single & family premium costs. Request specifically applies to paraprofessionals, non-licensed nurses, custodial/maintenance, clerical, and computer support.	Non-Profit (traditional)	rates and eligibility. No other records available. The response date was extended.	2/5/2024	2/15/2024

- C. **Buddy Benches:** Congratulations to the third-grade ACE students from Tioga and W.A. Johnson Schools! The students researched and developed a proposal to purchase "Buddy Benches" to install on their playgrounds and presented their idea to the Bensenville Community Foundation, which loved the idea and voted unanimously to fund the project. A "Buddy Bench" is a place where students can go when they're feeling sad or lonely and need someone to talk to or play with. When a student sits on the "Buddy Bench," other students and staff will know the child needs a friend and will join the child and offer their help, support, and comfort. These benches will be a legacy for years to come.
- D. **BMS Construction Update** – Mr. Novack reported that the Board will review five contracts for the renovation and expansion project at Blackhawk Middle School this summer. The contracts total about \$2 million and are the last major contracts to come before the Board for this project. Work on the project will begin over spring break with preparations for moving and storing furniture and supplies so that contractors can begin working inside the building as soon as summer break begins.
- E. **Founder’s Award** - Dr. McCluskey reported that nominations are open for the Bensenville School District 2 Founders Award from Board Members. *The intent of the origination of the Founders’ Award(s) is as follows:* This award(s) is to be bestowed very selectively by any or all of the District’s Schools or by the District in its own right. The award(s) may be proffered annually if Founders’ Day Selection Criteria has been met. An individual may receive the award only once. The recipient may be chosen posthumously.
- F. **5Essentials Reminder** – Dr. McCluskey reported that the 5Essentials Survey is open until March 29. She asked that parents and staff fill it out before the deadline.
- G. **Convert Tioga Innovation Lab into Classroom Spaces:** Due to limited space, ACE programming at Tioga has been provided in the school’s innovation lab this year, with partitions used to create two temporary classrooms. This project will turn that space into two permanent classrooms outfitted with all of the furnishing, fixtures and equipment found in the rest of the school’s classrooms.
- H. **School Psychologist Internship for 2024-25** – Dr. McCluskey reported that the District will support a School Psychologist program. It will support an Intern position for the 2024-2025 school year. There will be a stipend given to the person filling the position. The hope is that they will be hired for the following year and this program will assist us in continuing to recruit psychologists to fill our needs in the future. .

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 17, 2024

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills January 2024
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Credit Card Detail
 - December 2023
 - January 2024
2. Financial Statements as of January 31, 2024

Recommendation: The Board of Education approves the financial reports as presented and attached.

C. Personnel

I. Ratification of Employment for 2023-2024, Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the employment of the following certified staff members:

1. Monika Piekutowski, 7th & 8th Grade EL Math Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective January 24, 2024.
2. Dustin Sublett, Teacher on Special Assignment, Blackhawk Middle School, effective February 12, 2024.

II. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Sabrina Buszydlo, Occupational Therapist, Tioga School, effective March 4, 2024.
2. Andrea Lopez, Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective February 5, 2024.
3. Raquel Villasenor Hernandez, Lunch Supervisor, Johnson School, effective February 12, 2024.
4. Michele McDonough, Payroll & Insurance Supervisor, District office, effective March 11, 2024.

III. Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following classified staff members:

1. Christian Guzaro, Transitions Coordinator for the District, effective February 2, 2024.
2. Nina Keehn, Lunch Aide Supervisor, Johnson School, effective February 5, 2024.
3. Marc Spillone, Lunch Supervisor/Crossing Guard, Tioga School, effective February 20, 2024.

IV. Constructive Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education terminates the following classified staff members as having constructively resigned for reasons listed above:

1. Kimberlee Swanson, Lunch Supervisor, Johnson School, effective January 31, 2024.
2. Carl Mueller, PM Crossing Guard, Blackhawk Middle, effective September 30, 2023.

V. Authorize Stipend Appointments for Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the creation of all the Play/Musical positions and the CURES Coordinator position to be filled by teachers selected by the principal's subject to the Superintendent's approval.

VI. Resignation of Employment - Administrator

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accept the resignation of Dr. Perry Finch, Principal of Blackhawk Middle School effective June 30, 2024, and enact his tenure in District 2 and he will return to a teaching position for the 2024-2025 school year.

VII. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Jennifer Carlson, long-term substitute for a teacher at Johnson School, effective February 21, 2024.

D. Approval of School Fees

Activity	Proposed Fee	Comment
Registration	None	No fee is recommended, because about half of the students receive fee waivers.
Field Trips	None	No fee is recommended, because about half of the students receive fee waivers.
BMS Supplies: Lanyard, etc. package	\$10.00	All students must have a gym suit and must purchase a package of lanyard, ID card & agenda. The lanyard package fee is waived for students eligible for a fee waiver, but the gym suit is not.
Gym Suit package	\$14.00	

Recommendation: That the Board of Education adopts the 2024-2025 Fee Schedule as presented and that fees are paid at the time of registration.

E. Approval of Bus Transportation for Bensenville Park District Before/After School Program

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize transportation in 2024-2025, to and from the Bensenville Park District’s Deer Grove Center, for before- and after-school programs for up to sixty (60) District 2 students.

F. Review Closed Session Minutes & Destruction of Tapes

Recommendations: That the Board of Education

- (1) direct the Superintendent to destroy closed meeting recordings that are at least 18 months old for which approved minutes of the closed meeting already exist; and
- (2) find the need for confidentiality still exists as to all of its closed session minutes.

G. Gift Acceptance

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accept the following donations:

1. Unrestricted donation from Tioga Post 2149 V.F.W. for \$500.00.
2. Restricted donation from Bensenville Community Foundation for \$2,600 toward Buddy Benches for each playground at Tioga School and Johnson School.

H. Update Advance Checklist

Recommendation: That the Board approved the requested changes to the Advance Checklist as presented ([here](#)).

I. Approval of NDSEC Lease Agreement 2024-2025

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize execution of the lease agreement with NDSEC for two rooms for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Dye, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Leyva, Parthimos, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Abate Taxes for Alternate Revenue Bonds

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mr. Stoltman that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution abating all 2023 taxes (collected 2024) previously levied for these bonds: Series 2016 and Series 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Stoltman, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Leyva, Miller, Parthimos,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

B. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Policy Revisions (2:20, 5:125 6:235)

- Policy 2-220 - School Board Meeting Procedure
- Policy 5:125 - Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
- Policy 6:235 - Access to Electronic Networks

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education adopt the following revised policies as presented:

1. Policy 2-220 - School Board Meeting Procedure

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Gonzalez, Leyva, Laudadio, Miller, Parthimos,

Nay: Stoltman,

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education adopt the following revised policies as presented:

2. Policy 5:125 - Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
3. Policy 6:235 - Access to Electronic Networks

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Gonzalez, Leyva, Dye, Laudadio, Miller, Parthimos, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

C. Transfer 2023 Working Cash Bond Proceeds to Capital Projects Fund

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Ms. Pathimos that the Board adopt the attached resolution to abate \$5,001,177.31 from the Working Cash Fund to the Capital Projects Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Parthimos, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Leyva, Miller, Stoltman,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

D. Award contracts for BMS Renovation

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education

- i. ratify the contracts awarded to Maneval Construction and RHL Enterprises;
- ii. authorize Administration to award to Ascher Brothers the base bid and Alternate 1 for Painting;
- iii. authorize Administration to award the flooring contract to Michael Kautz Carpets and Designs for \$317,145 and to award the electrical contract to Gurtz Electric for \$1,214,779;
- iv. approve the change order to the flooring contract as in the District’s best interest and as germane to the original contract; and
- v. approve the change order to the electrical contract as in the District’s best interest and as germane to the original contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Stoltman, Miller, Dye, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Leyva, Parthimos,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

New Business

- none

Closed Session

- A. At 7:28 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of: *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).*

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Stoltman, Leyva, Dye, Gonzalez, Miller, Parthimos, Laudadio,

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

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

Adjournment

At 8:25 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Stoltman 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 Mr. Laudadio adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

President

Secretary