



## Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Minutes – March 20, 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	
James Stoltman	Member	X	
<i>Administration</i>			
Dr. Katie McCluskey	Superintendent	X	
Mr. Paul Novack	C.F.O.	X	
Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	

**Staff Present:** Tim Waldorf – Community Relations Coordinator, Dr. Anne Paonessa - Asst. Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Dustin Berman – Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Leann Roper & Tereon Teague – Staff members.

**Others Present:** Dr. Allison Superfine – UIC Professor Learning Sciences Research Institute at University of Chicago, Courtney Stillman – Legal Counsel,

**Community Members:** Melissa Berlanger, Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Gonzalez, Joel Torres, Maria DeJesus, Lissette Vega

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public comments:**

There were 5 community members who spoke in regards to the two-way Dual Language Program in District 2.

- 1.) Melissa Berlanger, 2.) Mr. Sergio Gonzalez, 3.) Susie Gonzalez, 4.) Joel Torres, 5.) Maria DeJesus

**Celebrations**

- A. Celebration - Future Chefs:** Dr. McCluskey reported that six students competed March 2 in District 2’s first ever "Future Chef National Challenge" sponsored by Sodexo. They each prepared their favorite recipe from home during a live cook-off in the kitchen and cafeteria at Blackhawk Middle School. Johnson fifth grader, Isabella Flores, earned the competition's grand-prize with her recipe for lemon-ricotta pancakes.

**Presentations**

- A. Presentations - CASPIR – UIC Math Collaboration:** Dr. McCluskey introduced Dr. Alison Superfine, Professor at the Learning Sciences Research Institute at the University of Illinois Chicago who reported on the District’s ongoing collaboration with UIC to improve K-8 mathematics across the district.

**Board Committee Reports**

- A. Announcements - none**

## Administrative Reports

- A. **Announcements** – none
- B. **FOIA Report** – Mr. Novack reported that there were 3 FOIAs:
1. SmartProcure – Purchasing records from 1-129-2023 to current – regular requestor completed 3-5-2024.
  2. IBEW Local 701 – Transactions with Omega Pro Systems between dates of 1-1-2021 & 12/31/2023 – no records exist completed 2-23-2024
  3. Time Peiffle – Buildings assessed for radon between 2014 and 2024. Most recent contract for radon measurement. Radon measurements performed on any building. The final reports, findings, or discussion to mitigate evaluated buildings., no records exist completed 3-5-2024
- C. **Eighth Grade Promotion:** Blackhawk Middle School will hold its eighth-grade promotion ceremony on Tuesday, May 28, in the field house at Fenton High School, 1000 W. Green Street in Bensenville.
- D. **Eighth Grade Trip:** Blackhawk’s annual eighth grade trip will be to YMCA Camp Duncan in Ingleside which will focus on team building.
- E. **BMS Construction Update:** The District will hold a brief groundbreaking ceremony Thursday, March 21st for the Blackhawk renovation project. Over spring break, crews will reconfigure fiber optic cables in the building to prepare for the addition of four new classrooms to the southwest corner of the school. Crews may also begin moving dirt in that area to ensure construction can begin as soon as classes dismiss for the summer.
- F. **Budget Outlook 2024-2025:** Next year, the District’s ESSER and School Climate Transformation grants will expire, reducing the District’s revenue by about \$1.5 million. Adjustments to the District’s contract and software services and its grant-funded after-school childcare program, Right at School, are expected to help the District offset that revenue reduction and maintain its small class sizes.

## Consent Items

### A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – February 21, 2024
2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – February 21, 2024 - Closed Session

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

### B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills February 2024
  - a. Accounts Payable
  - b. Imprest Checks
  - c. Advanced Checks
  - d. Credit Card Details
  - e. Construction Checks
2. Financial Statements as of February 29, 2024

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

### C. Personnel

#### I. Resignation of Administrator

**Recommendation:** No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

1. Edgar Palacios, Director of Multilingual Programs & English Learners, effective June 30, 2024.

#### II. Resignation of Certified Staff

**Recommendation:** No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

1. Matthew Gammons, Primary Academic Life Skills Teacher, Johnson School, effective May 30, 2024.

#### III. Resignation of Classified Staff

**Recommendation:** No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

1. Evelyn Mescha, Dual Language Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective April 5, 2024.
2. Aaron Stewart, Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective February 22, 2024.

**IV. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff**

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

1. Maria Munoz, Pre-K Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective February 26, 2024.
2. Nicolette Rakowski, Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective March 20, 2024.
3. Melissa Whisenhunt, Bus Driver for the District, effective February 28, 2024.

**V. Administrative Contracts - Superintendent**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education approves the contract for the Superintendent, to be effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029.

**VI. Certified Staff - Retirement**

**Recommendation:** No action by the Board of Education is necessary for this retirement.

1. Mina Thielenhouse, 3rd grade Classroom Teacher, Johnson School, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

**VII. Ratification of Employment for 2024-2025, Certified Staff**

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

1. Mariana Arruabarrena, Bilingual Social Worker, Tioga School, effective August 15, 2024.
2. Hannah Minucci, School Psychologist, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 15, 2024.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Miller

**Motion Carried.**

**Conference/Action Item**

**• First Reading Policy Revisions**

- 2:20, Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification
- 2:120, Board Member Development
- 2:200, Types of School Board Meetings
- 4:60, Purchases and Contracts
- 4:160, Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds
  - Policy 2:20 is presented [here](#) for First Reading. It is a general statement of Board powers and duties, including providing indemnification to Board members, District staff, and others. The proposed policy adds two new duties and revises two more, all to comply with recent law changes. The section on indemnification is being reviewed by counsel.
  - Policy 2:120 is presented [here](#) for first reading. The policy lists training required by School Code for Board members. The revision adds a new mandatory training item, "*and trauma-informed practices for students and staff*" to the policy.
  - Policy 2:200 is presented [here](#) for first reading. The policy states general practices for Board meetings. The proposed revisions list new reasons for meeting in closed session that have recently been added to the Open Meetings Act.
  - Policy 4:60 is presented [here](#) for first reading. The policy lists purchasing guidelines in the same manner as established in School Code and federal law. The proposed revisions add new provisions recently added to School Code.
  - Policy 4:160 is presented [here](#) for first reading. The policy sets a general standard for environmental safety and recites Illinois laws that govern specific topics. New provisions are proposed for recent changes to Illinois law.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education review the proposed Policies 2:20, 2:120, 2:200, 4:60 and 4:160 as first reading, to consider adoption at the next meeting.

**New Business**

- none

**Closed Session**

**At 7:35 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:**

- A. Litigation**, 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).
- B. Personnel** - 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:** Leyva, Dye, Gonzalez, Parthimos, Laudadio, Stoltman,  
**Nay:** None  
**Absent:** Miller,  
**Motion Carried.**

**At 8:08 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.**

**Adjournment**

**At 8:08 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Dye 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 8:08 p.m.

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President

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Secretary