



Bensenville Elementary School District

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Minutes – May 15, 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	
Dr. Anne Paonessa	Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning	X	
Mr. Dustin Berman	Assistant Superintendent for Student Services	X	
Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	

Staff Present: Tim Waldorf – Community Relations Coordinator, Gaby Escobar – Bilingual Community Relations Coordinator, Mr. Jeff Kersten, Principal Tioga School, Mr. Carlos Patiño, Principal W.A. Johnson School

Pledge of Allegiance

- Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: none

Celebrations

- **Linda Szwankowski:** On behalf of the Board, Dr. Katie McCluskey, Superintendent of Schools, congratulated Linda Szwankowski, the District’s Grant Reporting Manager, on earning her credentials as a Certified Grant Management Specialist. This is a very rigorous credential to obtain and a very difficult test to pass. There is only a 44 percent pass rate on the exam. There are only two other people in Illinois that hold this same credential. Mrs. Szwankowski will now be recognized as the third in the state, and be listed on the National Grants Management Association website.
- **Buddy Benches:** Tioga and W.A. Johnson Schools celebrated the installation of Buddy Benches on their playgrounds this week. A "Buddy Bench" is a place a student can go when they feel 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 could use a friend and will join the child and offer their help, support, and comfort. Earlier this year, third-grade ACE students researched and developed a proposal to purchase "Buddy Benches" to install on their playgrounds. In January, they presented their idea to the Bensenville Community Foundation, which voted unanimously to fund the project.

Presentations

- Climate & Culture School Committee Updates** – Dr. McCluskey reported that Developing and maintaining a positive climate and culture to meet the needs of all stakeholders is one of the strategic priorities identified in the District’s five-year strategic plan. Mr. Patiño, Principal at W.A. Johnson School and Mr. Kersten, Principal at Tioga School provided updates on how the Climate & Culture Committee at each of the elementary schools addressed this strategic priority this year.

Board Committee Reports

A. Announcements –

- Ms. Parthimos reported that the NDSEC Board approved a 5.75% increase in salary and hourly rates for employees not included in the collective bargaining agreement. District 2 voted against the motion but would have supported a smaller increase. She also reported that she was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board for NDSEC.

Administrative Reports

A. Announcements – none

B. FOIA Report – Mr. Novack reported that there were none this month.

C. 4th of July Parade – Dr. McCluskey asked which Board members were interested in participating in the 4th of July Parade. Mrs. Dye and Mrs. Gonzalez will participate. Mrs. Dye reported that she would like to see more representation from District 2 in the Parade.

D. Triple I Conference – Dr. McCluskey reported that the Triple I Conference will be held on Nov. 22-24, 2024 in Chicago and asked which Board members would like to attend as registration opens June 1st.

E. Amended Budget Report – Mr. Novack reported that an amended budget will be published next week for public review and then presented to the Board at the June meeting. The Debt Service Fund's budget will be amended to include the payments created by the bonds that were issued in December 2023. The other Funds' expenditures will have minor changes that will not increase total District spending.

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – April 10, 2024
2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – April 10, 2024- closed session
3. Special Board of Education Meeting – May 8, 2024
4. Special Board of Education Meeting – May 8, 2024 - closed session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills April 2024
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Credit Card Payments
 - e. Construction Checks
2. Financial Statements as of April 30, 2024

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

C. Personnel

I. Notices of Resignation

The following certified staff have submitted resignations:

1. Jesus Godinez, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School.
2. Rachel Leedom, 2nd grade Classroom Teacher, Tioga School.
3. Kayla Lincoln, Social Emotional Learning Teacher, Tioga School
4. Mary Novak, Bilingual Reading Interventionist, Blackhawk Middle School.
5. Lisa Smid, K-2 ISP Teacher, Johnson School.
6. Kaelyn Vaschur, Art Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School

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

II. Resignation of Classified Staff

The following classified staff members have submitted their resignations:

1. Ruby Carrera, Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School.
2. Carol Lelito, Clerk, Blackhawk Middle School.

3. Maria Munoz, Pre-K Paraprofessional, Tioga School.
4. Mary Oakes, Special Education Paraprofessional Floater, Tioga School.
5. Annette Vale, Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School.

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

III. Ratification of Employment for 2024-2025, Certified Staff

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

1. Elizabeth Callahan-Maciasz, 2nd Grade Teacher, Tioga School, effective August 15, 2024.
2. Barbara Mellody-Pizzato, 8th Grade ISP Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 15, 2024.
3. Monika Piekutowski, ESL Math Teacher Grades 6-8, Blackhawk Middle, effective August 15, 2024 pending the completion of her short-term EL approval.
4. Dustin Sublett, Teacher on Special Assignment, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 15, 2024.

IV. Summer School – Kindergarten Jumpstart

The following teachers, are recommended to teach the Jumpstart Kindergarten program:

1. Laura Wojcieszek, Jumpstart Kindergarten-Monolingual Classroom
2. Kristi Mullen, Jumpstart Kindergarten-Monolingual Classroom
3. Jaime Cazares, Jumpstart Kindergarten-Dual Language Classroom
4. Laura Negrete, Jumpstart Kindergarten-Dual Language Classroom
5. Blanca Delgado, Jumpstart Kindergarten- Dual of Monolingual Classroom
6. Angela Campanile, Social Worker
7. Meredith Barrett, Jumpstart Kindergarten SEL Teacher
8. Julie Bartoski, Jumpstart Kindergarten Occupational Therapist

Recommendation: No action by the Board of Education is necessary.

V. Salary & Benefits for Currently-Employed Classified Staff

A standard raise of 4% is recommended. A few employees will receive slightly larger or smaller increases based on performance or based on date of hire during the school year. All job categories are recommended for the same raise.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve increasing hourly and salary rates for classified staff.

VI. Summer School Staffing

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of the following 2024 summer school Teacher/paraprofessionals:

1. Edith Navar, Social Worker for summer school.
2. Jacqueline Valenzuela as a 1st Grade Dual Language Math Teacher.
3. Nicole Wawczak, One-on-One Paraprofessional
4. Adriana Garcia, One-on-One Paraprofessional

VII. Approval of CFO Contract

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratify the proposed contract for Mr. Novack to act as Chief Financial Officer for the 2024-25 school year.

VIII. Approval of Professional Development Plan

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the Professional Education Plan for Ms. Shannon Steen, MtSS & Assessment Coordinator, through Concordia University.

D. Approve Final Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year

Recommendation: That the Board of Education establish May 30, 2024 as the last day of student attendance as the closing date for the 2023-24 school year.

E. Gift Acceptance

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accept of the unrestricted donation from Linda Uhl as presented.

F. Treasurer’s Bond

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the attached resolution approving the Treasurer’s bond in the amount of \$5,300,000.

G. Approval of District-wide Consolidated District Plan (CDP)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the 2024-2025 Consolidated District Plan as presented.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Stoltman,

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Award Contract - Moving Services – Mr. Novack reported that most student and teacher furniture is being replaced this summer at Blackhawk Middle School. This furniture must be removed from the building. A smaller amount of furniture and contents must also be moved away from work areas where renovation is planned.

The District invited movers to submit bids by publishing an advertisement on April 25, 2024, and two addenda since then. Six companies submitted bids on May 13, 2024.

Bidder	Base Bid
Armstrong Relocation	37,481.00
Straight Line Moving	53,721.00
Advantage Moving	66,330.00
Mid-West Moving	67,658.00
Nelson Westerberg	73,400.00
Superior One	28,946.25

Mr. Novack reported that Armstrong Relocation is the lowest responsible bidder and is therefore recommended. A local school district provided an excellent reference for Armstrong. Superior One’s bid is not a responsive bid and is therefore disregarded. It is not a responsive bid, because the bidder did not submit certain required certifications with its bid and because it has not completed moves on this scale before.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education awards a contract to Armstrong Relocation for \$37,481 to remove old furniture at Blackhawk Middle School in anticipation of its replacement, to relocate other contents away from renovation work areas, and then to return those contents in August.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Stoltman,

Motion Carried.

B. Award Contract –TV Monitors for BMS – Mr. Novack reported that the Blackhawk Middle School renovation includes adding TV monitors to classrooms. Teacher laptops will project to these monitors as well as to the projector. It will also be possible to display different material on the monitor and the projector at the same time.

Bids were requested on BHFx, a website for publicizing technology purchases. The invitation to bid specified 55 Samsung monitors of two different sizes plus mounting brackets.

Mr. Novack reported that seven firms submitted bids on May 9. Four firms quoted a newer model from the same manufacturer with the same feature set as the specified model. Two other firms quoted the same models listed in the bid request but both at higher prices than other bidders. A seventh firm quoted a model from a lower product category.

Bidder	Bid	Specified Model	Updated Model	Different Category
Howard Tech Solutions	64,158.00			X
Visions of Video	91,404.00		X	
B&H	97,282.25		X	
ABT	105,641.00		X	
Mesa Electronics Inc.	107,934.93	X		
AVI-SPL	114,648.90	X		
ITC	133,614.57		X	

B&H is the recommended bidder. Delivery will occur several weeks sooner this summer with B&H than with Visions of Video. B&H is a longstanding vendor to the District, having sold at least one item every year since 2018-19.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education award a contract for the purchase of 55 monitors and brackets to B&H Video for \$97,282.25.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Stoltman,

Motion Carried.

C. Sale of District Vacant Property – Dr. McCluskey reported that Mohawk School was located on Hillside Avenue until December 2012, when students and staff moved to an expanded W.A. Johnson School. The school building was demolished in 2014. In 2016, a playground was constructed by the community in collaboration with KaBOOM.

Dr. McCluskey also reported the Mohawk site comprises 5.92 acres. It is now an open area and playground and the Board has expressed its interest in preserving the site’s use as a park.

The Village of Bensenville proposes to purchase about 2.2 acres of the Mohawk site and to acquire easements in other sections of the site, for a total price of \$335,748. These transfers would enable Village improvements to storm water management and water main design. The Board has reviewed the Village’s design for a dry-bottom detention area in the purchased section. The Village intends the design to be suitable for recreation, similar to Lion’s Park on Wood Avenue. The Board’s counsel is reviewing contracts and other legal documents that would accomplish the sale, create the easements, and give the Village temporary construction access while easements and other documents are finalized.

The Board is approaching the Park District about selling the remainder of the parcel.

If the Board chooses to sell any part of the site, it must remove the site’s designation as intended for school purposes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education adopt a resolution finding that the site of the former Mohawk School has become unnecessary, unsuitable and inconvenient for the District’s uses and directing Administration to work with the Village to arrange the sale of the 2.2 acres.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Dye, Laudadio, Leyva, Parthimos

Nay: None

Abstain: Gonzalez
Absent: Stoltman
Motion Carried.

D. Approval of Carnegie K-5 Math Resource - Dr. McCluskey reported that the District has selected Carnegie Clear Math to be the math curriculum starting next year for grades K-5. Blackhawk already uses Carnegie Math so this will allow for cohesive math instruction through 8th grade. The selection process and Carnegie’s advantages were presented to the Board at the April 10, 2024, meeting.

The proposed contract is presented here for approval. The purchase will serve about 1,100 students at W.A. Johnson and Tioga Schools. It includes physical items (student workbooks and manipulatives), online materials, and teacher training. Additional teacher training is expected but is not included in this contract, so that it can be paid as used instead of upfront.

The best price available was for a 5-year license for the online materials. The payment schedule proposed is as follows:

Date	Payment	Comments
June 21, 2024	\$71,010.25	Year 1 licensing and partial payment for manipulatives.
Dec. 15 ,2024	\$70,000.00	Student guides and remainder of manipulatives and student workbooks.
June 21, 2025	\$40,277.25	Year 2 Licensing and student workbooks.
June 21, 2026	\$40,277.25	Year 3 Licensing and student workbooks.
June 21, 2027	\$40,277.25	Year 4 Licensing and student workbooks.
June 21, 2028	\$40,277.25	Year 5 Licensing and student workbooks.

Dr. McCluskey reported that the proposed structure gives the best value. The five-year payment schedule permits the District to lock in its price now, to spread the cost over five years, and to earn interest on funds held for future payments. Shorter licenses and other payment terms were considered but did not lock in the price for five years.

A motion was made by Mrs. Leyva and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education approve the purchase of Carnegie Clear Math for school years 2024-25 through 2028-29 and the June 21, 2024 payment listed above.

Roll Call Vote:
Aye: Leyva, Parthimos, Dye, Gonzalez, Miller, Laudadio,
Nay: None
Absent: Stoltman,
Motion Carried.

New Business: none

Closed Session: none

Adjournment
At 7:15 p.m. motion was made by Mrs. Dye 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 7:15 p.m.

President

Secretary