



## Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Minutes – August 7, 2024

President Bob Laudadio called the regular workshop meeting of the Bensenville Elementary School District 2 Board of Education, DuPage County to order at 6:30 p.m., at the Educational Administration Center, 210 S. Church Road, Bensenville, IL

Roll call verified that there was a quorum of the Board present with the following members present and absent as listed below:

<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
<b>Administration</b>			
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

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Laudadio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments:** None

**Celebrations**

- Mr. Tim Waldorf introduced the new website.

**Board Committee Reports**

- A. Announcements** - none

**Administrative Reports**

**A. Announcements**

- Dr. McCluskey reported that the District has partnered with Hamdard to assist with physicals and immunizations for students. The events have been very well attended.
- Dr. McCluskey invited Board members to tour BMS on Wed. 8/14/2024 at 4:00 p.m. to get a first look at the renovations.

- B. Annual Report of the Emergency Crisis Meeting** – Mr. Berman reported on the Annual Review & Emergency Crisis Response Plans. The meeting was held on August, 7, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. BSD2 Staff and Administration, Bensenville Police Department representatives and Bensenville Fire Department and Bensenville Emergency Management were in attendance. The agenda consisted of:

- Emergency Operations Plan: Standard Response Protocol (Action response to emergencies within BSD2)
  - Agency involvement
  - Discuss the DuPage Safety Drill reporting act concerning activating panic alarms and emergency equipment during law enforcement drills and checking the Knox Box keys by the fire departments.
  - Review threat assessment team procedures and process
- B. Hiring Report** – Dr. McCluskey reported that we have 2 teachers at Blackhawk, 1 teacher at Johnson and 2 teachers at Tioga to hire and 2 SpEd aides at Blackhawk, 3 SpEd aides at Johnson and 3 aides and 3 Lunch aide/crossing guards at Tioga still to hire. Interviews are on-going and teaching positions are projected to be filled before the start of school.
- C. Construction Update** – Mr. Novack reported whiteboards are up, painting is done, new floors have been installed. Furniture is being moved in as each room is completed. The partitions are on backorder. Courtyards will be completed in September as well as the small gym.

## Consent Items

### A. Personnel

#### I. Resignation of Certified Staff

The following certified staff members have submitted their resignations. No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

1. Sarah Diaz, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Dual Language Teacher, Tioga School.
2. Perry Finch, Certified staff member, Blackhawk Middle School.
3. Janet Kutter, District Nurse
4. Le-Ann Roper, Grades 3-4 ISP Teacher, Johnson School.
5. Shannon Surell, Instructional Technology Specialist, Tioga School.
6. Argiro Vranas, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade EL/English Language Arts Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School.

#### II. Resignation of Classified Staff

The following classified staff members have submitted their resignations. No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

1. Lynda Gordon, Special Education Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School.
2. Akela Hauslein, Bus Driver for the District.
3. Geoffry Leedom, Math Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School.
4. Maria Cristina Reyes, Office Manager, Johnson School.
5. Ysdeyny Rivera, Special Education Paraprofessional, Johnson School.
6. Courtney Southwick, Lunch Aide, Johnson School.
7. Guadalupe Vallejo, 6<sup>th</sup>/ 7<sup>th</sup> ISP Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School.

#### 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. Diana Cavanaugh, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 15, 2024.
2. Eileen Gutrich Walsh, Primary ALS Special Education Teacher, Johnson School, effective August 15, 2024.
3. Kathy Karagiannis, Middle School Math Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 15, 2024.
4. Catherine McGovern, Special Education ISP Teacher Grades 3-4, Johnson School, effective August 15, 2024.
5. Autumn Palacios, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Tioga School, effective August 15, 2024.

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

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

1. Eliana Barrera, Special Education Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 19, 2024
2. Laurie Batura, Crossing Guard, Johnson School, effective August 21, 2024.
3. Andrea Campos Huante, Dual Language Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective August 19, 2024.
4. Sylwia Kasperski, Instructional Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective August 19, 2024.
5. Sindy Perez, Dual Language Paraprofessional, Johnson School, effective August 19, 2024.
6. Miljana Simonovic, PreK Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective August 19, 2024.

V. **Ratification of Employment – Administrator Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Kathryn Adduci, Coordinator of Health Services for the District, effective August 19, 2024.

VI. **Approval of Long-Term Substitute**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Michelle Connolly, Long-term substitute for a Science/Social Science teacher at Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 19<sup>th</sup> for eight weeks.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Leyva

**Motion Carried.**

**Conference/Action Items**

A. **Approval of Schoolwide Title I Plans for Tioga & W.A. Johnson Schools** – Dr. Anne Paonessa reported that Tioga Elementary School, with a low-income population of 65%, qualifies for Title I status as does Johnson Elementary School with a low-income population of 63% . The purpose of these federal funds is to improve educational opportunities for students at low income schools.

She also reported that these plans have been developed with input from teachers, administrators, and parents. These funds, if granted, would be used towards items such as; professional development, instructional resources, materials, and parent engagement.

- [Tioga School Title I Schoolwide Program Plan](#)
- [W.A. Johnson School Title I Schoolwide Program Plan](#)

**A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education approve the Tioga and Johnson Elementary School Title I plans as presented.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Leyva

**Motion Carried.**

B. **Pre-K Transportation** – Dr. McCluskey reported that the District’s buses are not available on Tuesday afternoons to serve both the middle school, elementary, and the Pre-K program. The middle school’s early dismissal that day conflicts with the regular dismissal time for the Pre-K program. The Pre-K dismissal time cannot be made earlier on Tuesday because of state requirements for the length of the school day. In past years, the result has been that no bus service was offered for Pre-K on Tuesdays. The Preschool for All program needs to offer arrival and dismissal bus service for all school days.

Dr. McCluskey reported that to provide this service on Tuesday, the Administration considered several options: combining routes; making other route changes; obtaining help from Fenton High School or Wood Dale; and hiring outside companies.

Only the outside company solution is workable. A proposal was sought from First Student, because it has other routes near Bensenville.

Dr. McCluskey also reported that First Student has agreed to provide four routes each Tuesday afternoon for \$125 per route. In its business model, this service is an extra route for drivers already working that afternoon. Septran charges NDSEC a similar price for mid-day routes; that is, routes for which drivers are already working for that day. A regular route would be about 60% more for either First Student or Septran.

**A motion was made by Ms. Parthimos and seconded by Mr. Stoltman that the Board of Education approve the District's plan to contract with First Student for Tuesday afternoon bus service for the Pre-K program.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Leyva

**Motion Carried.**

- C. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy Revision – 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure** – Mr. Novack reported that Policies 5:20 and 7:20 prohibit harassment of staff and students, respectively. If the type of harassment is sex-based, then investigation and discipline follows the grievance procedures in Policy 2:265. For other kinds of harassment, another grievance procedure is used – Policy 2:260.

The grievance procedures in Policy 2:265 for sex-based harassment implement elaborate rules created by regulations issued under Federal Title IX. Those regulations were extensively modified effective August 1, 2024. The Board previewed the changes [here](#).

Mr. Novack also reported that PRESS issued a proposed revision to Policy 2:265 this month. The proposed revision is attached, showing changes from the prior version.

Administration is reviewing the draft with counsel. Any further revisions will be discussed at the August 21 meeting when Second Reading occurs.

Policy 7:20 will be proposed for amendment at the August 21 meeting, since the definition of sex-based discrimination has been broadened.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education consider the proposed changes to [Policy 2:265](#).

- D. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy Revision – 2:270 - Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited** – Mr. Novack reported that various Illinois and Federal laws prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, and national origin and also prohibit retaliation for making a complaint about any of those. District Policies [5:10](#), [5:20](#), [7:10](#), and [7:20](#) implement those laws.

Illinois has adopted a new law concerning how schools implement these prohibitions. Basic rules of behavior are not changed, but new steps are added for implementation and for raising awareness.

Those new steps must be adopted in District policy effective August 1, 2024.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education consider the proposed new [Policy 2:270](#) and plan to adopt it at the August 21, 2024, meeting.

- E. Change Orders** - Mr. Novack reported that the Board has awarded 20 contracts for the renovation of Blackhawk Middle School this summer. Work is underway.

Additional work is commonly added to this kind of project as it proceeds. In some cases, unknown conditions are discovered during construction, the repair of which requires additional work. In other cases, the District sometimes identifies optional work that was not included in the original contracts but which would be valuable or convenient if completed now.

The Board is asked in many cases to approve these changes. Under Illinois law, changes are carefully regulated to protect the integrity of the bidding process. A change order that exceeds \$25,000 (recently changed from \$10,000) can be accepted only if it meets one of these requirements:

- It is in the District’s best interest, or
- It is germane to the original contract, or
- It was not reasonably foreseeable at the time the contract was signed.

Mr. Novack also reported that the following changes are proposed to be added to the contracts for the renovation. Some of them may fit within allowances already included in the contracted amounts. If not, then the contract amount will increase.

<b>Description of the Change</b>	<b>Contractor’s Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Rationale for Approval</b>
Install new drain pipes for classroom heating units that face the west courtyard, to replace original drains covered by courtyard improvements.	Admiral	TBD, by time & materials	Germane to the original contract and in the District’s best interest.
Courtyards: install gravel subsurface and artificial turf surface. This aspect of the project was always planned but was mistakenly left out of the bid solicitations issued in December 2023.	Kautz Flooring	\$155,890. The cost is below the architect’s budget estimate.	In the District’s best interest.
From July meeting: Remove locker tags; purchase and install new locker tags; and install new room numbers. Locker and room numbers changed throughout the building.	DBM Services	\$14,730	Germane to the original contract and in the District’s best interest.
Open walls above the classroom ceilings to improve airflow between rooms; and, where required, install closers in openings to be activated in case of fire.	Admiral Heating	\$21,000	Germane to the original contract and in the District’s best interest.
Add drywall and tack panels in hallway outside school office, replacing existing bulletin boards.	DBM Services	\$5,018	Germane to the original contract and in the District’s best interest.
Repair wood and cabinet trim at six prior small interaction spaces that were removed and consolidated into the adjoining classrooms.	DBM Services	\$6,465	Germane to the original contract and in the District’s best interest.
From June meeting: in about 12 classrooms, construct re-designed soffits and other structures after initial demolition revealed different sub-wall and ceiling structures than anticipated.	DBM Services	\$63,760	Not reasonably foreseeable when the contract was signed; germane to the original contract; and in the District’s best interest.
Floor protection in hallways and other spaces. This cost was always planned for. It was originally assigned	DBM Services	\$13,339	Germane to the original contract and in the District’s best interest.

Description of the Change	Contractor's Name	Amount	Rationale for Approval
to Construction Manager's reimbursable expenses.			
Install whiteboards and install mounting brackets for classroom monitors.	DBM Services	\$13,499	Germane to the original contract and in the District's best interest.

Mr. Novack reported that the District's construction manager carefully monitors these possible changes and consults frequently about them with the Superintendent and the Chief Financial Officer. Different solutions are always discussed before selecting the recommended one.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education approve the changes described above for the specific reasons noted.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nay: None**

**Absent: Leyva**

**Motion Carried.**

**New Business** –

Dr. McCluskey reported that the Village had a need to complete a sewer project in the Mohawk area that would mitigate flooding for the residents. The purchase and easement agreement for Mohawk property has been finalized. They paid us the total amount of \$335,748. The Village has begun their work in that area.

**Closed Session** - none

**Adjournment**

**At 7:08 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adjourned the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.**

No further business appearing Mr. Laudadio adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

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President

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Secretary