



Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Minutes – August 21, 2024

President Bob Laudadio called the regular 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:

Board of Education	Title	Present	Absent
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 6:43 p.m.)	
James Stoltman	Member	X	
Administration			
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, Monica Loveshe – Asst. Principal at Tioga, Mary Hamilton – Student Services Coordinator at Blackhawk, Jacqui Le-Mon- Asst. Principal for Curriculum & Instruction at Blackhawk Middle School, Diana Vergara – Principal at Blackhawk Middle School,

Community Members: Sergio Gonzalez

Others: Courtney Stillman, Legal Council

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

Public Comments: None

Celebrations

- **Start of the 2024-2025 School Year:** Classes for students in Grades K-8 began Wednesday, August 21. Dr. Katie McCluskey, Superintendent of Schools, reported it was a fantastic start to the year, and it was great to see students and teachers back in our schools.
- **New Administrators:** Dr. McCluskey introduced the Board to four new school administrators who introduced themselves to the BSD2 community as the school year begins:
 - ❖ **Diana Vergara**, Blackhawk Principal
 - ❖ **Jacqueline Le-Mon**, Blackhawk Assistant Principal for Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment

- ❖ **Mary Hamilton**, Blackhawk Student Services Coordinator
- ❖ **Monica Loveshe**, Tioga Assistant Principal

Presentations

- C. **Strategic Plan Update**: Dr. McCluskey & Dr. Paonessa updated the Board on the District's five-year strategic plan, outlining the 2024-2025 implementation steps for Teaching & Learning, Staff Retention, Climate & Culture, and Finance & Resources.

Board Committee Reports

- A. **Announcements** - none

Administrative Reports

- A. **Announcements**
 - Dr. McCluskey reported that she will be engaging parents this year in two new committees that will explore topics that are very important to the BSD2 community. The **Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) Committee** will meet once a month throughout the school year to research how the District could potentially add an elementary Spanish program to the school day. The Superintendent's **Parent Safety Advisory Committee** will assist in planning parent engagement events and discuss topics relative to school safety.
- B. **FOIA** – Mr. Novack reported that there is (1) pending – Emails & texts to or from Chris McCullough from John Jacobs.
- C. **Construction Update** – Dr. McCluskey reported that Blackhawk Middle School opened its doors to students and staff as scheduled Wednesday. Nearly \$10 million of work was completed this summer. All inspections, from an outside firm and the DuPage County Regional Office of Education, were passed. Work on the interior courtyards and the gymnasium addition will be complete in October. The entire BSD2 community will be invited then to see the newly-renovated school and celebrate this accomplishment.

Consent Items

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – July 17, 2024
2. Regular Board of Education Meeting - July 17, 2024 - Closed Session
3. Regular Workshop Board of Education Meeting – August 7, 2024

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

B. **Approval of Financial Reports**

1. Bills July 2024
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Credit Card Payments
 - e. Construction Checks
2. Financial Statements as of July 31, 2024

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

C. **Personnel**

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

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

1. Kelly Gutierrez, 2nd Grade Dual Language Teacher, Tioga School, effective August 15, 2024.
2. Angelica Perez, Physical Education Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 15, 2024.
3. James Robinette, 7th Grade EL Science Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective August 15, 2024.

II. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Jaaziely Llanes, Academic Life Skills Paraprofessional, effective August 19, 2024.
2. Diane Steciak, Lunch Recess Supervisor/Morning Crossing Guard, Tioga School, effective August 21, 2024.
3. Michaela George, Academic Life Skills Paraprofessional, effective August 22, 2024.

III. Resignation of Classified Staff

Laurie Batura, Crossing Guard, Johnson School has submitted her resignation, no action by the Board of Education is necessary for this resignation.

IV. Approval of Professional Development Plan

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the professional development opportunity for Mr. Jamie Hogue, Assistant Principal for SEL, through Concordia University.

V. Authorize Stipend Appointments for Certified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the creation of all the stipend positions to be filled by teachers selected by the principals and subject to the Superintendent’s approval.

D. Hazardous Transportation Routes

Recommendation: That the Board of Education resolve that the presently approved safety hazard transportation conditions remain unchanged and that free transportation for the identified population be approved for the 2024-25 school year as presented and attached.

E. Non-Resident Tuition and Designation of Hearing Officers

Non-residency Hearings: The District sometimes finds that families have not proved residency. These families are informed they may not attend District 2. Illinois law permits them to request a hearing. The Board may conduct these hearings itself, but typically appoints a hearing officer instead. The officer hears the evidence presented and makes a report to the Board of Education. The Board uses the report to consider the family’s appeal.

Tuition: The District must charge tuition to non-resident students if any enroll. Tuition must be between 100% and 110% of the operating costs per pupil from the second prior year. The Board’s practice is to set the maximum charge allowed by statute. ISBE determines operating cost per pupil for all districts. The recommended annual tuition amount is \$15,788. This is based on the District’s 2022-23 costs, as required by statute and as analyzed by ISBE.

Recommendations: That the Board of Education (1) designate the principals and assistant principals of each school as Hearing Officers for that school to determine residency of their students, each able to conduct hearings individually; and (2) establish an annual tuition rate for non-resident students of \$15,788 for 2024-25.

F. Review Closed Session Minutes & Destruction of Tapes

Recommendation: 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) determine that 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 donations from:

1. Roesch Ford in the amount of \$800.00.
2. Adherex Specialty, (130) 2 oz. hand sanitizer and 10 individual thermometers

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Items

A. Approval of School Improvement Plan (Targeted Designation) for Blackhawk Middle School – Dr. McCluskey reported that per the School Improvement Grant program requirement, schools in improvement status with a designation of targeted must provide to ISBE a school improvement plan that has been approved by the LEA Board of Education. Each school's plan must address all components included in the Illinois School Improvement Process. The school improvement plan is a part of the grant agreement and must be approved by the LEA Board of Education prior to the release of FY 2025 funding.

Dr. Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning reported that this plan has been developed with input from BMS teachers and both BMS and BSD2 administrators. The Targeted Status Improvement Plan includes professional development, instructional resources, materials, and parent engagement to improve the outcomes for our Multilingual Students (MLs). [\(Plan attached here\)](#)

Targeted Status funds from ISBE support implementation of the Targeted BMS SIP.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education approve the BMS Targeted School Improvement plan as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez

Motion Carried.

B. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Policy Revisions

1. 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure
2. 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

Mr. Novack reported that:

1. Policy 2-265 was presented for Second Reading and Adoption. The Board considered First Reading at the August 7, 2024 meeting. Policy 2-265 is revised to follow new Federal regulations concerning investigations of sex-based harassment. The regulations, implementing Title IX, provide elaborate

rules that became effective August 1, 2024. Administration met with counsel to consider the policy. One change is made here compared to First Reading. Although the other document will be an informal resource for staff charged with implementing Policy 2-265, neither the Administration nor District counsel believe it needs to be adopted.

2. Policy 2:270 was presented for Second Reading and Adoption. The new policy concerns unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Basic rules of behavior are not changed, but new steps are added for implementation and for raising awareness. These steps replace procedures the District would otherwise follow under Policy 2:260. Those new steps must be adopted in District policy effective August 1, 2024. It was presented for adoption without change from First Reading.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education adopt the proposed revisions to Policy 2:265 and the new new Policy 2:270 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez

Motion Carried.

- C. 1st Reading Policy Revision, 7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited** – Mr. Novack reported that modest revisions to Policy 7:20 are presented for First Reading. Policy 7:20 prohibits harassment of students. Its counterpart, 5:20, prohibits harassment of staff.

Illinois adopted a new statute requiring certain investigative and other procedures when someone alleges unlawful discrimination because of race, color, or national origin. To create those procedures, the Board is already considering proposed Policy 2:270.

Corresponding changes are presented here for Policy 7:20. That policy already prohibits unlawful discrimination because of race, color, or national origin. The main proposed change is to refer such cases to the specialized procedures in new Policy 2:270 instead of to the standard grievance procedures in Policy 2:260.

That the Board of Education consider the proposed changes to Policy 7:20 with adoption at the September 18th meeting.

- D. Tentative Budget for 2024-2025** – Mr. Novack reported that the tentative budget's 30-day period for public review began on Monday, August 19. On September 18, the Board will hold a public hearing and consider the budget for adoption.

Blackhawk renovation costs are excluded from the following items. The renovation costs about \$10.8 million.

All amounts are tentative. Further review will occur before the budget is presented for approval next month.

- An operating surplus is tentatively projected of about \$700,000, or 1.7% of revenue.
- If renovation costs are included, the overall deficit is about \$10M. The District has cash on hand to pay the cost without impacting regular operations.

- Revenues
 - Basic Operating Revenues are projected to increase by \$1.1 million from the prior year, or about 2.5%.
 - Special-purpose federal grants are projected to decrease about \$1.2 million. These grants were always known to have a limited life and have been planned for accordingly.
- Expenses
 - Staff costs, the largest category of expense, are projected to increase about 6.5%. The increase is from salary and benefit increases and from in-sourcing positions that were contracted out in the prior year. Debt service will increase by about \$1.5 million, as anticipated. All others costs are projected to decrease about \$1 million over the prior year if no contingencies are spent.
- Fund balances
 - All funds will have positive balances on June 30, 2025. A transfer to the Operations & Maintenance Fund will be proposed for the October Board meeting to replenish that Fund's balances after paying for Blackhawk Middle School renovation costs.
- Contingencies of \$921,000 are included in the expense section of the budget.

No action is necessary at this meeting.

- E. Johnson School Courtyard Repairs** – Dr. McCluskey reported that after years of wear and tear, the solar system sculptures in the internal courtyard at W.A. Johnson School need repair and/or replacement. The Board discussed options for this space, and instructed the Administration to begin exploring attractive yet cost-efficient solutions to the issue.
- F. Mohawk Park** – Dr. McCluskey reported that the District completed its planned sale of one-third of the Mohawk Park property to the Village of Bensenville. For the other two-thirds, the District is seeking ways to preserve the entire site as green space. The Park District has been approached as the government body best-suited to achieve that goal. The Village has begun its work at the site to improve storm water management in the neighborhood. During this work, an underground fuel tank was found. The District plans to remove the tank. Soil near the tank will be tested.

New Business – none

Closed Session

At 7:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of: *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).*

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez

Motion Carried.

At 7:48 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 7:48 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Stoltman 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 7:48 p.m.

President

Secretary