



Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes –November 20, 2024

President Pro tem Jacqueline Dye 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 (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)	
Marisol Leyva	Vice-President		X
Anita Miller	Member	X	
Lori Parthimos	Treasurer	X (arrived 6:31 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, Diana Vergara – Principal at Blackhawk Middle School, Jeff Kersten – Principal Tioga School, Carlos Patiño – Principal W.A. Johnson School

Community Members: Chris McCullough, Mark & Carol Campagnola & Renee Coniglio

Others: Dan Shaw – Accountant , Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Dye led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing - 2024 Tax Levy

- A. Ms. Dye opened the Public Hearing on the 2024 Tax Levy at 6:31 p.m.
- B. Presentation of 2024 Tax Levy – Mr. Novack reviewed the proposed tax levy.
- C. Audience Participation – Ms. Dye asked if anyone from the board or audience had questions or needed clarification. One resident inquired on how much her taxes would go up.
- D. Ms. Dye closed the Hearing and returned to the Regular Board Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Public Hearing - on the Permanent Transfer of funds from the Education Fund to Operations & Maintenance Fund

- A. Ms. Dye opened the Public Hearing on the Permanent Transfer of funds from the Education Fund to Operations & Maintenance Fund at 6:36 p.m.
- B. Presentation of 2024 Tax Levy – Mr. Novack reviewed the Permanent Transfer of funds.

- C. Audience Participation – Ms. Dye asked if anyone from the board or audience had questions or needed clarification. There were none.
- D. Ms. Dye closed the Hearing and returned to the Regular Board Meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Public Comments:

- none

Celebrations

- November 15 was School Board Member Day in Illinois. Dr. Katie McCluskey, Superintendent of Schools, presented each Board member with a journal honoring them for their commitment to public education and to the BSD2 community.
- The Administration and Board celebrated three employee recognition days in November, a short picture montage was viewed:
 - National School Psychology Week (November 11-15),
 - American Education Week (November 18-22),
 - Education Support Professionals Day (November 20).

Presentations

- A. **Presentation of Annual Audit** – Mr. Novack reported that the District’s financial statements for the 2024 fiscal year have been audited by the firm of Lauterbach & Amen. This is their second year as the District’s auditors. Mr. Don Shaw reviewed the audit results with the Board. The auditors concluded that the financial statements’ information is presented fairly, in all material respects.
- B. **Academic Update - School & District (Report Card Presentation)** - Dr. Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning reported all three BSD2 schools achieved “Commendable” designations this year in Illinois State Report Cards. The report cards are compiled using a variety of state assessment data, and they include summative designations that account for each school’s overall performance, as well as the performances of seven demographic subgroups of students. In English Language Arts, District 2 exceeded the state’s growth for all of its students, as well as for students with special needs and English Learner students. In math, the District exceeded the state’s growth for all students and students with special needs. Additionally, the District made exceptional progress on the state’s science assessment. The District credits this growth to its intentional focus on “progress over proficiency,” and to its staff’s hard work, responsiveness to data, and differentiation for students’ needs. Each of the principals reviewed their school’s growth, celebrated the impact of their positive growth and reported the action steps toward continued growth.

Board Committee Reports

- A. **Announcements** – Mrs. Gonzalez reported that there were over 400 coats distributed at the Bensenville Community Foundation Coat Drive and over 1000 clothing items were also distributed to District 2, District 100 and District 7 families.
- B. **IASB 2024 Proposed Constitutional Amendment & Resolutions.** Mrs. Dye reported that she will be voting on the proposed amendments and resolutions at the Triple I conference and wanted board feedback on the items. The Board agreed with the IASB recommendations.

Administrative Reports

- A. **Announcements** - Dr. McCluskey reported that the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) Committee held its third meeting on November 12. The FLES committee has researched how the District could add an elementary Spanish program to the school day, and may be prepared to present a recommendation at the Board’s December 18th meeting. Dr. McCluskey also reported that the Superintendent’s Parent Safety Advisory Committee held its first meeting on November 14.
- B. **FOIA** – Mr. Novack reported that there was one FOIA; RJB Properties Commercial Copies of ABM contract and six recent invoices. Completed 10/17/2024.
- C. **Construction Update** – Mr. Novack reported that the work on the new small gym at Blackhawk Middle School is complete, but several small punch list items must still be completed throughout the school. Completion of internal

courtyard renovations has been pushed back until spring due to supply chain delays. As a result, the District has postponed the open house it had tentatively planned for this fall, and will invite the community to see the renovated Blackhawk Middle School in the spring when the entire project is complete.

- D. Social Emotional Learning – Student Report** – Mr. Berman, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported that BSD2 administers social emotional surveys to students twice per year to provide insight into the well-being of our students as well as to inform efforts in creating a more effective learning environment for all students. These surveys help identify areas for improvement, inform targeted interventions, monitor the impact of current programming, and promote a positive school climate.
- E. Financial Forecast (5-Year Plan)** – Mr. Novack presented a forecast of revenues and expenses for the years 2025-26 through 2029-30. In the forecast period, the District expects to have enough revenue to continue its regular activities.

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 16, 2024

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

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

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

C. Personnel

I. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Laurie Karaujalis, Special Education PreK One-on-One Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective October 28, 2024.
2. Laura Navarrete, Infant/Toddler Specialist, Tioga School, effective December 2, 2024.
3. Mona Shamseldin, 6th Grade One-on-One Paraprofessional, Blackhawk Middle School, effective December 3, 2024.

II. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Deborah Dunn Wargaski, Long-term substitute for a Social Worker at Blackhawk Middle School, starting November 16th for twelve weeks.

III. Approval of Long-Term Substitute-Classified Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Sandra Ocasio-Hansson, Long-term classified substitute for an Occupational Therapist at Tioga, starting November 14th for six weeks.

IV. Resignation of Classified Staff

Recommendation: No action by the Board of Education is necessary for this resignation

1. Steven Demma, Lunch Supervisor, Johnson School.
2. Gloria Arzet, Language Assistant, Johnson School.

D. Authorize District’s Application for the School Maintenance Project Grant

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the projects above, reserve the local funding as described, authorize the President to make the certifications required by ISBE, and authorize Administration to complete all other portions of the grant application.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Items

A. Resolution Adopting 2024 Tax Levy – Mr. Novack reported taxes considered to be collected in 2025 and applied to costs in the 2025-26 school year. Cash balances and other information was presented.

In \$000s Spending Purpose	Cash Balance at Oct. 31, 2024	Levy Proposed
Education and any other District purpose	42,081	25,946
Special Education	N/A	3,230
Operations & Maintenance	830	3,765
Illinois Municipal Retirement (IMRF)	423	45
Social Security		320
Transportation	691	1,003
Working Cash	466	2
Tort & Insurance	49	216
Total without Bond Fund (\$000s)	44,541	34,527

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mr. Stoltman that the Board of Education adopt the Tax Levy Resolution, specifying the amount to be levied in each of the funds for the 2024 Levy to be collected in 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Gonzalez, Stoltman, Dye, Laudadio

Nay: Miller, Parthimos

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

B. Resolution Approving Transfer from Education Fund to Operations & Maintenance Fund – Mr. Novack reported that the renovation of Blackhawk Middle School adds about \$5.5 million to expenditures in the Operation & Maintenance Fund’s expenditures this year.

A deficit will occur at year-end in the Fund unless a transfer is made. Here is the Fund’s budget for 2024-25 without the transfer proposed below:

Balance at July 1, 2024		2,995,866
Property Tax & Other Revenues	4,197,200	
Proceeds, Mohawk Sale	335,748	
Blackhawk MS Renovations	(5,488,000)	
Other Expenditures	(3,740,066)	
S/T, the net for 2024-25		(4,695,118)
Tentative Balance at June 30, 2025		(1,699,252)

A permanent transfer into O&M is proposed to eliminate the tentative negative balance. Illinois law permits interfund transfers among the District’s three main operating funds: the Education Fund, the Operations & Maintenance Fund, and the Transportation Fund. These transfers can be made by the Board for any reason following a public hearing.

A public hearing was held to consider a permanent transfer of \$5,000,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund. The Education Fund will still have adequate resources after the transfer to meet its future objectives.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board approves a resolution authorizing a permanent transfer of \$5,000,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

C. Approve Property Tax Relief Grant – Mr. Novack reported that the District can apply for a grant to offset a property tax reduction. Mr. Novack also reported that the District’s tax rate is probably not high enough to receive an award, because the funding is limited. The application costs nothing, however, Board authorization is required to apply for the grant and to establish the amount to be requested.

An application is recommended, despite the lack of State funding, because of the advantages to local taxpayers.

If the Board chooses to apply, then the grant application must specify the tax reduction, in any amount up to \$2,310,285. Some of the possible amounts are shown on page 4 in the slide deck. Nearly all applicants apply for their maximum amount.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education select an application amount of \$2,310,285 and authorize Administration to apply for the Property Tax Relief Grant.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

D. 1st Reading Policy Revision - 7:340 - Student Records – Dr. McCluskey reported that Policy 7:340, Student Records, primarily recites State and Federal legal requirements concerning student records. An optional statement about *directory information* has appeared in the policy for many years. It permits *directory information* to be released

without parent authorization, unlike other student records. This facilitates publication of a student directory, which the District does not create. It is not limited, however, to student directories.

Most revisions proposed here will incorporate statutory changes enacted since the last revision in 2013. The revisions appear in the policy itself and in the legal references.

The Board of Education reviewed Policy 7:340 for First Reading in anticipation of possible adoption at a future Board meeting.

E. 1st Reading Policy Revision - 7:50 - Student Admissions and Transfers – Dr. McCluskey presented revised minor updates proposed for Policy 7-50, concerning Student Admissions and Transfers.

A revision is recommended since the policy hasn’t been updated since 2019, but not required. The policy will be audited by the Regional Office of Education this year during its compliance visit.

The Board of Education reviewed Policy 7:50 for First Reading in anticipation of possible adoption at a future Board meeting.

F. BMS Construction Change Orders – Mr. Novack reported that the Board awarded 20 contracts for the renovation of Blackhawk Middle School this summer. Work is complete except for courtyard furnishings.

No new changes are presented here. Two changes presented earlier with tentative amounts are presented again here with updated amounts.

Description of the Change	Contractor’s Name	Amount	Rationale for Approval
Repair an existing ceiling condition that became known during construction, to improve airflow between rooms and hallways and install closers in openings to be activated in case of fire. The number of openings increased to 25 since last reviewed by the Board.	Admiral Heating	\$35,974	Germane to the original contract and in the District’s best interest.
New cabinets will be installed in 12 classrooms in the building’s original wing. They replace 1960s-era cabinets that were in poor condition. This need was not identified during the design phase.	Carroll, as subcontractor to DBM Services	\$26,819	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 Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education approve the changes described above for the specific reasons noted.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

New Business - none

Closed Session

At 8:20 p.m. motion was made by Ms. Parthimos and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of the discipline and performance of certain staff.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

At 8:38 a motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

G. Adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Notice to Remedy – Mrs. Dye reported that during closed session discussion was held pertaining to the Notice to Remedy.

At 8:39 p.m. motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Notice to Remedy for Laura Negrete.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

Adjournment

At 8:39 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education adjourned the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No further business appearing, Ms. Dye adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

President

Secretary