



Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes – January 15, 2025

President Robert 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	
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, Anne Paonessa - Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Dustin Berman - Assistant Superintendent for Student Services.

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

Public Comments: none

Celebrations

1. **Celebration - On Stage With Andrea Bocelli:** When Andrea Bocelli took the AllState Arena stage December 11, performing for more than 18,000 fans, Emily Morrison, a music teacher at W.A. Johnson was on stage with him. Ms. Morrison was singing in the backing choir made up of members of City Voices, a Chicago-area chamber chorus selected to accompany Bocelli during his performance. Ms. Morrison called the exciting experience a "whirlwind" she'll always remember, and said at times the crowd was roaring so loud for Bocelli's brilliant performance that she couldn't even hear herself singing!
2. **Celebration - Student Attendance:** Daily student attendance is improving all across District 2. This year, 54 percent of BSD2 students have no attendance issues, meaning they've been absent less than 10 percent of the school year. That's a 9 percent improvement over last year, and an 18 percent improvement from 2022-2023. BSD2 schools are aiming to build on that growth by recognizing

students who show up on time and ready to learn each day, and by helping families build good attendance habits.

3. **Celebration - Reduction of Referrals and Suspensions:** At Blackhawk Middle School, office referrals for behavior issues are down 62 percent this year, and suspensions have decreased 88 percent. These reductions are attributed to the school's increased emphasis on clearly and consistently communicating behavior expectations to students, providing positive reinforcements for meeting those expectations, and using restorative practices when behavior interventions are necessary.

Board Committee Reports

- A. **Announcements** – none

Administrative Reports

- A. **Announcements** – none
- B. **FOIA** – Mr. Novack reported that there were 2 FOIAs:
 1. SteepSteel - Contracts and payment records for cell towers and similar - No records exist
 2. SEIU Local 73 - For custodial and maintenance employees: name, position, hourly rate, employment info - The District is not the employer
- C. **Mid-Year Financial Report** – Mr. Novack reported midway through the year, operating revenues are 3.5 percent higher than budget, mostly from interest income, and operating expenditures are 1.8 percent less than budget, mostly from unspent contingencies. Accounting for about \$10.6 million in construction costs paid from cash reserves, the District's overall surplus is ahead of budget by about 5 percent.

Consent Items

- A. **Approval of Minutes**
 1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 18, 2024
 2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 18, 2024 closed session

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

- B. **Approval of Financial Reports**
 1. **Bills December 2024**
 - a) Accounts Payable
 - b) Imprest Checks
 - c) Advanced Checks
 - d) Credit Card Payments
 2. **Financial Statements** as of December 31, 2024
 3. **Quarterly Investment Report** – Mr. Novack presented the quarterly investment report. The District holds a variety of instruments at Fifth Third Securities, Inc. At December 31, 2024, the portfolio's value was \$39,047,481. The portfolio's yield is 4.19%, based on each instrument's original purchase price.

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

- C. **Personnel**
 - I. **Ratification of Employment – Administrator (CSBO)**

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratify the employment of Timothy Keeley, Chief School Business Official, Bensenville School District 2, effective July 1, 2025.

II. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of the following long-term substitutes:

1. Erida Dalanaj Shingjini, long-term substitute for a 6th grade EL/ELA teacher at Blackhawk Middle School starting January 6, 2025, through approximately February 5, 2025.
2. Cecilia Garcia Morales, long-term substitute for a Kindergarten teacher at Tioga School for 12 weeks starting immediately.

D. Approval of Bensenville Arts Council Membership & Fee

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve the 2025 fee for the Bensenville Art Council in the amount of \$3,000.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Leyva

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Policy Revisions

- **7:100 - Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students**
- **7:270 - Administering Medicines to Students**
- **4:170 - Safety & Security**

Dr. McCluskey reported that the following policies were presented at the December 18, 2024 meeting for first reading.

- **Policy 7:100** -The policy was revised to establish that the first day of school should be the exclusion date. No further revisions have been made since first reading.
- **Policy 7:270** – The policy was revised (1) adopt an optional practice of having a supply of asthma medicine; and (2) implement a required practice of having a supply of opioid-responsive medication. No further revisions have been made since first reading.
- **Policy 4:170** – The policy was revised to include the above-mentioned revisions. No further revisions have been made since first reading.

A motion was made by Ms. Dye and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopt revised policy 7:100 - Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Leyva

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Parthimos and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education adopt revised policy 7:270 - Administering Medicines to Students as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Leyva

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education adopt revised policy 4:170 - Safety & Security as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Leyva

Motion Carried.

B. 1st Reading Policy Revision 7:160 Student Appearance – Mr. Novack presented **Policy 7:160** – Student Appearance, the policy and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.25b, amended by P.A. 103-463, prohibiting schools from denying students the right to wear or accessorize their graduation attire with items associated with their culture, ethnic, or religious identity, or other characteristic or category protected under the IHRA. Continuous improvement updates are also made to the footnotes.

No action needed: Policy 7:160 First Reading in anticipation of possible adoption at a future board meeting.

C. Waiver of Professional Services Selection Act – Dr. McCluskey reported that at Johnson School, instruction for accelerated reading and math is provided in open areas at the end of the 4th and 5th grade wings. The District proposes to enclose those two open areas this summer, converting each into one small classroom. Architectural services are needed to design this work. This same work was done on the ACE classrooms at Tioga last summer.

Architects and engineers for this project must be selected in accordance with Illinois law and with Policy 2-170. The requirements are different for larger projects than for smaller ones.

- Mr. Novack reported on options considered: For larger projects (fees to exceed about \$50,000), several steps are required. The District must invite firms to submit proposals that exclude pricing and focus on qualifications and experience. The District must rank the firms based on qualifications and then negotiate only with the highest-ranked firm.
- For smaller projects (fees less than about \$50,000), the Board can waive those steps.

The large-project process could be adopted. This process takes 2 to 4 months to complete. Completing the Johnson School project this summer is unlikely if an architect is not selected until March or later. Mr. Novack reported that the administration recommends using the process for smaller projects.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Ms. Dye that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution waiving the requirements of Sections 4, 5, and 6 of the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act on that basis that the cost of architectural, engineering, and land surveying services for the W.A. Johnson School 2025 classroom project is expected to be less than \$50,000.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Leyva

Motion Carried.

New Business - none

Closed Session - none

Adjournment

At 6:43 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Dye 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 6:43 p.m.

President

Secretary