



Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Rescheduled Regular Meeting

Minutes – February 26, 2025

President Robert Laudadio called the rescheduled 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 6:31 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, Carlos Patiño - WAJ Principal, Jeff Kersten – Tioga Principal, Diana Vergara – BMS Principal, Meredith Barrett, Sarah Taylor & Lauren Engle – certified staff members.

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

Public Hearing

Mr. Laudadio opened the Public Hearing on the Permanent Transfer of funds from the Education Fund to Operations & Maintenance Fund at 6:31 p.m.

- A. Presentation of Permanent Transfer of funds from the Education Fund to Operations & Maintenance Fund – Mr. Novack reviewed the information.
- B. Audience Participation – Mr. Laudadio asked if anyone from the board or audience had questions or needed clarification. None.
- C. Mr. Laudadio closed the hearing and returned to the Regular Board Meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Public Comments: none

Celebrations

- **BMS Athletics:** Dr. McCluskey celebrated and thanked BMS’s athletic directors. In their first year as Blackhawk Middle School’s co-athletic directors, Lauren Engle and Sarah Taylor have already made a significant impact on the school’s athletic program. They’ve organized spirit wear sales, pack-the-stands promotions, a breast cancer awareness campaign, a pep band performance, and even halftime games of horse and Bozo Buckets. In addition, they have begun hosting season-ending celebrations to recognize eighth-graders for their hard work and dedication, and to thank the parents, family, friends, coaches, and staff for their vital role in making these opportunities possible

for our students. They have also worked hard at meeting students' individual health needs to ensure they can participate safely in sporting events they are passionate about.

Presentations

- A. MAP Data Presentation:** Dr. Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, and principals from all three schools presented a summary of the District's scores in NWEA MAP testing. Those scores in math and literacy all showed encouraging growth year over year. Teachers and administrators have already dug into the MAP data and used their analysis of these test scores to develop exciting and detailed plans to inform and target their instruction. This data-driven approach to school improvement, as well as recent and upcoming adoptions of new math and literacy programs, have positioned the District to build on this progress and continue increasing students' growth and achievement moving forward.
- B. Literacy Adoption Update:** Dr. Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, updated the Board on the Bensenville 2 Literacy Committee's work to adopt new K-8 literacy resources. This year, the District has piloted two literacy programs and, based upon the committee's recommendation, will adopt new K-8 literacy resources from HMH for introduction in the 2025-2026 school year. The HMH program stood out because it featured research-based literacy instruction in both Spanish and English, culturally-responsive and engaging texts, writing instruction, bilingual and biliteracy support, embedded English language development strategies, a combination of print and digital resources, data-driven personalization, and teacher support and professional development. In addition, Fenton has also adopted HMH which will allow for both districts to collaborate through a comprehensive K-12 literacy continuum. The funding for HMH literacy program will be presented to the Board for review and approval in March.

Board Committee Reports

- **Appointment of Bensenville Community Foundation Representative:** James Stoltman was appointed to serve as the Board representative to the Bensenville Community Foundation.

Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements – none**
- B. FOIA – Mr. Novack reported that there were 2 FOIAs:**
1. DuPage Policy Journal - Emails & memoranda referring to Lucy Calkins or to Units of Study
 2. Allium Data - Insurance renewal summaries regarding property & casualty insurance.
- C. 5Essentials Survey Reminder – Dr. McCluskey reported that the 5Essentials Survey opened on February 18th and will close on March 31.**

Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 15 , 2025
 2. Regular Workshop Board of Education Meeting - February 5, 2025
 3. Regular Workshop Board of Education Meeting - February 5, 2025 - closed session
- Recommendation:** The Board of Education approves the above listed minutes as presented and attached.
- B. Approval of Financial Reports**
1. Bills January 2025
 - a. Accounts Payable
 - b. Imprest Checks
 - c. Advanced Checks
 - d. Credit Card Payments
 - e. Board Member Reimbursements
 2. Financial Statements as of January 31, 2025

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

C. Bensenville Park District Before/Afterschool Program Bus

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize transportation in 2025-2026, to and from the Bensenville Park District’s Deer Grove Center, for before- and after-school programs for up to sixty (60) District 2 students.

D. Review Closed Session Minutes & Destruction of Tapes

Recommendations: 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) find the need for confidentiality still exists as to all of its closed session minutes.

E. Gift Acceptance

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accept the following donations:

1. Unrestricted donation from Tioga Post 2149 V.F.W. for \$500.00.
2. Restricted donation of items from St. Peter’s UCC Church having a monetary value of \$1,736.

F. Approval of 2025-26 School Fees

Activity	Proposed Fee	Comment
<i>Registration</i>	None	No fee is recommended, because about half of the students receive fee waivers.
<i>Field Trips</i>	None	No fee is recommended, because about half of the students receive fee waivers.
<i>BMS Supplies: Lanyard, etc. package Gym suit package</i>	\$11.00 \$15.00	All students must have a gym suit and must purchase a package of lanyard, ID card & agenda. The lanyard package fee is waived for students eligible for a fee waiver, but the gym suit is not.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education adopts the 2025-2026 Fee Schedule as presented and that fees are paid at the time of registration.

G. NDSEC Lease Agreement

Recommendations: That the Board of Education authorize execution of the lease agreement with NDSEC for two rooms for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Permanent Transfer from Educational Fund to Operations & Maintenance Fund &

B. Permanent Transfer from Operations & Maintenance Fund to Debt Service Fund – Mr. Novack reported that the District makes annual debt service payments on its Series 2016 and 2020 Bonds. To make these payments, the District has reserved certain revenue sources. The Board relies on this reserve to abate (waive) property taxes each year that would otherwise be needed to pay the debt service.

For the Series 2016 Bonds, the tax can be waived whether or not funds are held in reserve. For the Series 2020 Bonds, a minimum reserve should be held at the time of the abatement. This year, the minimum reserve is \$4,730,803.14.

Two transfers are proposed to increase the Bond Fund to this minimum balance. The transfers are permitted by Illinois School Code. First, the Board may, after a public hearing, transfer funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. Second, the Board may transfer funds from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Bond Fund.

For the first transfer, the public hearing was conducted earlier in the meeting. The hearing considered a proposed transfer of \$1,250,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. If the transfer is approved, the Education Fund will still have adequate resources after the transfer to meet its future objectives.

For the second transfer, the amount is \$1,431,478. No public hearing is required. If the transfer is approved, the Operations & Maintenance 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 adopt a resolution authorizing a permanent transfer of \$1,250,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

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

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board adopt a resolution authorizing a transfer of \$1,431,478 from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Bond Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

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

C. Abate Taxes for Alternate Revenue Bonds – Mr. Novack reported these are the District’s bond issues:

Bond Series	Financial support	Final Maturity	Comments
2016	Alternate Revenue	2046	Most interest is paid by the Federal government; the District’s share is at a rate below 1%.
2020	Alternate Revenue	2045	Constitutes 81% of the District’s debt. The effective interest rate is about 2.8%.
2023	Tax-supported	2043	Issued to support the 2024 renovations at Blackhawk Middle School

This concerns the 2016 and 2020 series, both of which are “alternate revenue bonds.” An alternate revenue bond earmarks two different sources of funds to assure bondholders that payment will be made.

These two sources operate in a particular order. The first-priority source is a pledge of identifiable District revenue. In 2024-25, the pledged revenues are nearly four times greater than debt service. These are the first-priority sources pledged to the District’s outstanding alternate revenue bonds:

Pledged Revenue Source	2016	2020
Corporate Replacement Tax	X	X
Evidence-Based Funding	X	X
Property Tax in Operations & Maintenance Fund	X	

The second-priority source is an additional property tax. This tax is abated whenever the first-priority revenue is adequate. No second-priority taxes have ever been collected in the District on any alternate revenue bond.

The administration recommends that no second-priority taxes be collected this year. The Bond Fund balance, including amounts proposed for transfer at tonight's meeting, is enough to pay all debt service through the end of calendar year 2026.

Board action is needed to abate the tax, because the taxes are already levied for all years through the bonds' final maturity in 2046. This advance levy made the bonds more marketable.

An abatement is required by the terms of the bond offering if sufficient pledged revenues are available.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution abating all 2023 taxes (collected 2024) previously levied for these bonds: Series 2016 and Series 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Motion Carried.

D. Approval of Health Insurance for Bus Drivers – Mr. Novack reported that the District has been unable to recruit enough new bus drivers in the past several years. At least 14 drivers are recommended for the routes now in place. Only 10 drivers are now employed. The District employed 18 drivers as recently as the year 2019-20. Mr. Novack gave more background information.

Mr. Novack reported that health insurance coverage is recommended for drivers assigned at least 20 hours per week during the regular school year, for both continuing drivers and newly-hired drivers beginning July 1, 2025.

The District's contribution towards the premium is recommended to be 85% of the single-coverage contribution for full-time staff. Drivers typically work between 60% and 80% of the hours that many of the District's full-time staff work.

The District's estimated cost is between \$60,000 and \$100,000 for 2025-26. The cost varies depending on how many drivers elect coverage. The District's contribution will be based on single coverage. Drivers will have the option to pay for additional family members if they so choose.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Ms. Dye that the Board of Education authorize insurance eligibility beginning July 1, 2025, for bus drivers who are assigned at least 20 hours per week with a Board premium contribution for all coverages equal to 85% of the single-coverage contribution offered to full-time staff.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Motion Carried.

E. 1st Reading Policy Revisions – Dr. McCluskey reviewed with the board five policies, most of which have not been reviewed in recent years. She reported that the Regional Office of Education noted that the policies are compliant but that laws have changed or that a periodic review is recommended.

These policies have been reviewed and changes are proposed.

- Policy [4-110](#) - Transportation. The proposed changes incorporate School Code requirements to offer bus service in areas affected by gang crime.

- Policy [5-90](#) - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting. The proposed changes incorporate School Code requirements concerning notice to a student’s parents upon allegations of employee sexual misconduct with that student or upon changes in employment status following such allegations.
- Policy [6-150](#) - Home and Hospital Instruction. The proposed changes acknowledge School Code requirements that advanced practice nurses and physician assistants are authorized to provide medical directives to the District.

These policies have been reviewed and no change is recommended.

- Policy [6-30](#) - Organization of Instruction.
- Policy [6-110](#) - Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program.

No action is due at this time the five policies above are being considered for First Reading in anticipation of adoption at a future board meeting.

New Business

Dr. McCluskey reported that Martha Medina, a Sodexo employee, who worked in the Tioga Cafeteria passed away on February 25, 2025. She dedicated 21 years of service to District 2 and had a passion for working with our students. She also worked at Chippewa School in the Past. Dr. McCluskey would like a plaque put up in the cafeteria to honor her memory and years of dedicated service.

Closed Session

At 7:23 p.m. motion was made by Ms. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of personnel.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

And a motion was made by Ms. Dye and seconded by Ms. Parthimos that the Board of Education go into closed session to discuss matters pertaining to an individual student.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

At 7:48 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Parthimos and seconded by Mrs. Leyva that the Board of Education adjourned 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 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 7:48 p.m.

President

Secretary