



Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Rescheduled Regular Meeting
Minutes – April 9, 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	

Others Present: Tim Waldorf, Community Relations Coordinator, Community members; Mr. & Mrs. Siekierski & Jay Pasternak

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

Public Comment

Mr. Jay Pasternak – spoke to the board pertaining to a letter sent to the State Commission by the Department of Education.

Celebrations

- Dr. Katie McCluskey, BSD2 Superintendent of Schools, recognized Terina Siekierski for her dedicated service to District 2 at Wednesday’s annual DuPage IASA Annual Recognition and Awards Breakfast. During this event, school superintendents recognize individuals who have made a tremendous and lasting impact on the success of their students and schools. Terina’s leadership as a PTO president has made a lasting impact at both W.A. Johnson School and Blackhawk Middle School. As a devoted advocate for students, staff, and families, she has worked tirelessly to enhance school events, foster community engagement, and support countless initiatives that have enriched our schools. With four children that have gone through District 2 - her youngest now graduating from eighth grade - she has been a steadfast presence in our schools, always leading with passion, commitment, and an unwavering belief in the power of community. Her contributions will leave a meaningful legacy that will continue to benefit students for years to come.
- **Celebration - Rock Your Socks Day:** BSD2 students and staff recently rocked their socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. Every year on March 21, people all around the world come together to raise awareness of Down Syndrome by wearing brightly colored, mismatched socks. The "Rock Your Socks" campaign was created because chromosomes are shaped like socks, and people with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome. Dr. McCluskey thanked Jason Loebach, Vice President of the Glen Ellyn School District 41 Board of Education, for once again donating pairs of socks to BSD2 administrators and for a classroom of students for the annual celebration. Before joining District 2 three years ago, Dr. McCluskey worked in District 41, where every year Mr. Loebach, whose son has Down Syndrome, donates enough colorful socks for the entire district to celebrate the occasion.

- **Celebration - Future Chef:** Eight students competed on Saturday, March 22, in District 2's second-annual "Future Chefs National Challenge" sponsored by Sodexo, the District's food service provider. They each prepared their favorite recipe from home during a live cook-off in the kitchen and cafeteria at Blackhawk Middle School. Johnson fifth grader Ava Alanis earned the competition's grand-prize with her recipe for Cilantro Lime Mango Blaze Chicken.

Presentations

- A. **ACE Presentation:** Dr. Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, updated the Board on the District's Accelerated Curriculum and Enrichment (ACE) Program for students in Grades 3-8. Dr. Paonessa reviewed the program's definition and mission, as well as the process for identifying ACE students. She also explained how the pull-out program's curriculum and instruction builds upon what elementary ACE students learn from their classroom teachers, and progresses as they move into middle school and high school. Additionally, she emphasized that enrichment activities similar to those offered in the ACE program are also built into daily ELA and math instruction throughout all BSD2 classrooms to ensure that the District is extending the learning of all students who demonstrate mastery of grade-level standards.

Board Committee Reports

- A. **Announcements:** none

Administrative Reports

- A. **Announcements:** none

- B. **FOIA Report:** Mr. Novack reported that there were 13 FOIA since last meeting:

Requestor	Records Requested	Type	Comments	Received	Completed
Irene Brown Kelley	Records about policies and about a particular student matter	Resident	Provided documents except as exempt under sections 7(1)(l). Also provided some student records.	3/11/2025	3/18/2025
Irene Brown Kelley	Health records about a student	Resident	Provided a student records request form and denied the FOIA request, because all requested records are student records.	3/13/2025	3/18/2025
Sheet Metal Workers Local 265	Planned or awarded contract information for construction or maintenance work in trades related to the requestor	Union	Annual request	3/14/2025	3/19/2025
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2024, 2014, and 2004	Commercial	The District returned the request on March 21 for five clarifications.	3/17/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2019, 2009, and 1999	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/24/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2020, 2010, and 2000	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/24/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2021, 2011, and 2001	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/25/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2022, 2012, and 2002	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/26/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2023, 2013, and 2003	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/27/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2018, 2008, and 1998	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/28/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2015 and 2005	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/31/2025	Pending

Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2016 and 2006.	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/31/2025	Pending
Ad.Cuius.Bonum	Certain vendor payment records, not clearly described, from fiscal years 2017 and 2007.	Commercial	Same as the March 17 request but for different years.	3/31/2025	Pending

- C. **Third Quarter Financial Report:** Mr. Novack reported that through the third quarter of the 2024-205 fiscal year, revenues and expenses are generally coming in as forecasted, with positive variances providing a slightly better surplus than forecasted in the original budget.
- D. **Quarterly Investment Report:** Mr. Novack reported that the District holds a variety of investments at Fifth Third Securities, Inc. As of March 31, its portfolio was valued at about \$31.8 million, and its yield was 4.15 percent based on each investment’s original purchase price.
- E. **Health Insurance Rates 2025-26 for Classified Staff:** Mr. Novack reported that District 2 contributes a portion of the medical insurance premiums for classified staff. For 2025-2026, the Board’s contribution is proposed to increase by 6.2 percent. This is the premium increase for the HMO Blue Advantage plan, which is the most popular of the 10 plans offered by the District. A classified staff member choosing that plan will have the same 6.2 percent increase in their share of the premium. Staff choosing less expensive plans will see smaller increases, while those choosing more expensive plans will see larger increases.

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – March 19, 2025
- 2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – March 19, 2025 - closed session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

- 1. Bills March 2025
 - a) Accounts Payable
 - b) Imprest Checks
 - c) Advanced Checks
 - d) Credit Card Payments
- 2. Financial Statements as of March 31, 2025

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

C. Personnel

I. Resignation of Administrative Staff

Anne Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning has submitted her resignation effective June 30, 2025. No action by the Board of Education is necessary for this resignation.

II. Resignation of Certified Staff

The following certified staff members have submitted their resignations effective the end of the 2024-25 school year. No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

- 1. Diana Cavanaugh, 6th grade ACE Math Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School.
- 2. Julia Cygnar, Bilingual Speech and Language Pathologist, Johnson School.
- 3. Kathy Karagiannis, 7th grade EL Math Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School.
- 4. Aubrey Smith, Instructional Coach, Blackhawk Middle School

II. Resignation of Classified Staff

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

1. Gabriela Escobar Hernandez, Bilingual Community Relations Coordinator for the District. Mrs. Escobar Hernandez is moving out of the United States to explore new adventures. Her last day of service will be June 6, 2025.
2. Lynda Gatto, Learning Center Aide, Johnson School. Mrs. Gatto is retiring June 30, 2025, after 27 years of service with the District.
3. Paula Fritz, Learning Center Aide, Blackhawk Middle School. Mrs. Fritz is retiring at the end of the 2024-25 school year, after 27 years of service with the District.

III. Resolution Regarding Non-Renewal and Honorable Dismissal of Teachers

Recommendation: That the Board of Education adopts the Resolution regarding Non-Renewal and Honorable Dismissal regarding the following teachers:

1. Jennifer Carlson, 5th Grade Teacher, Johnson School.
2. Cristina Nambo, ESL Teacher, Johnson School.

IV. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Nancy Ruiz, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Tioga School, effective April 7, 2025.
2. Tania Gomez, Communications Director for the District, effective June 3, 2025.
3. Samantha Santizo, Accounts Payable/Purchasing for the District, effective June 16, 2025.

V. Teacher Tenure

The following teachers have achieved either Proficient or Excellent ratings since beginning at District. Under Illinois law, they will enter continued contractual service (tenure) at the end of this school year subject to having worked at least 120 days this year. No Board action is necessary.

<u>Blackhawk Middle School</u>	<u>W.A. Johnson</u>	<u>Tioga School</u>
Rosalia Cotsiomitis	Mercedes Childress	Cameron Becker
Edith Navar	Zulema Davalos	Jose Galvan
Michael Verardi	Ashley Dolce	Stacen Hodgetts
	Chelsea Gnan	Carolyn Schmidt
	Jessica Hurtado	Rachel Recinos
	Marlen Ojeda	Kelly Slosar
	Cami Philgreen	Kelly Wallner

VI. Re-employment – Certified Staff

The following teachers, not yet tenured, are renewed for 2025-26. No Board action is necessary.

<u>Blackhawk Middle School</u>	<u>W.A. Johnson</u>	<u>Tioga School</u>
Emma Alberico	Emily Bajzek	Erika Arroyo
Angela Campanile	Kattya Esparza	Mariana Arruabarrena
Lauren Cunniff	Nisa Fayyaz	Elizabeth Callahan-Maciasz
Giovanna Foss	Eileen Gutrich-Walsh	Jose Carrera
Concetta Gaspar	Catherine McGovern	Jennifer Gutierrez
Amal Ghanimah	Sigal Orgad	Kelly Gutierrez
Zuzzana Godawski	Sara Robles	Gina Guyer
Sara LaPrall	Mayra Rojas	Chloe Hlustik
Monika Lupa	Nicole Simmons	Shayna Lee
Barbara Mellody-Pizzato	Carolina Trujillo-Cervantes	Kelly Lukanich (.4)
Hannah Minucci		Allison Morley
John O'Brien		Alicia Palacios
Angelica Perez		Autumn Palacios
Monika Piekutowski		Nilda Pantaleon

VI. Re-employment – Certified Staff (continued)

<u>Blackhawk Middle School</u>	<u>W.A. Johnson</u>	<u>Tioga School</u>
Jacqueline Ponce		Samantha Patterson
Matthew Ramel		Monzerraht Rios Carreon
James Robinette		Alejandra Santos
Jessica Seiglie-Quinones		Francis Segura
Dustin Sublett		Katherine Smith
Jack Sullivan		Miranda Spal
Stacey Villalobos		Lorraine Winter

VII. Compensation for Administrators and Principals

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratify the proposed pay amounts for administrators and other members of the leadership team and approve one-year contracts for the following: Mr. Berman, Ms. Commike, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Hogue, Mr. Kersten, Ms. Le-Mon, Ms. Loveshe, Mr. Melendez, Dr. Ortiz, Mr. Patino, Ms. Poli, Ms. Stalzer, Ms. Steen, and Ms. Vergara .

VIII. Summer Special Education Evaluations

Student Services staff need to evaluate students each summer who may be eligible for Special Education upon reaching their third birthday. The Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Coordinator of Birth to 5 work with staff members to schedule this work. **4-6** days are recommended for this summer for evaluations.

Recommendation: The Board of Education approves the estimated days for evaluations.

D. Approval of Budget Development Calendar

Administration proposes this schedule to complete the budget before June 30.

- May 19, 2025 - Publish tentative budget for public review.
- May 21 Board meeting - Present preliminary budget overview.
- Between May & June meetings - Revise tentative budget based on discussion at May 21 Board meeting.
- June 18 Board meeting - Hold budget hearing and consider budget for adoption.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve the budget development schedule proposed above.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Item

A. Award NDSEC Transportation Contract – Dr. McCluskey reported that the District is a member of North DuPage Special Education Cooperative (NDSEC). Transportation is among the services that NDSEC coordinates for the District. A single provider enters into identical contracts with the member districts. NDSEC staff handles scheduling arrangements, reviews invoices, and forwards invoices to the District for payment.

Septran has been the provider since 2012, including a three-year contract awarded in 2020 and a two-year extension entered into in 2023. The District’s cost for 2024-25 is projected to be about \$450,000. Septran’s contracts with the NDSEC members will expire this summer. On behalf of the members, NDSEC sought sealed bids for a new contract covering the period August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2028.

Three companies submitted bids: Septran, Safeway, and Yellow Bus. Septran is the bidder recommended to this Board by the NDSEC Operational Board.

Service quality is considered first and then price when evaluating transportation bids. This order follows a School Code section that applies uniquely to transportation contracts. Septran’s service quality is rated the highest of the three bids. NDSEC staff reports they are satisfied with Septran’s service. Yellow Bus does not yet have a local terminal from which to serve NDSEC. The NDSEC staff therefore is concerned that Yellow might not be ready to operate by August. Safeway has recently had service issues that caused mid-contract terminations at other districts. The NDSEC staff does not recommend taking the risk that service quality from Safeway would be adequate.

Here are the projected bid amounts submitted for Year 1, 2025-26. Actual costs will vary depending on the exact number and type of routes that the District requires each month. In Years 2 & 3, costs will increase by the Consumer Price Index.

Bidder	Grand Total Year 1 All Member Districts
Safeway	\$5,432,653
Yellow Bus	\$5,700,126
Septran	Originally \$5,926,212 Revised to \$5,823,292

The Operational Board selected Septran as the recommended provider, considering the original price listed above. After that selection, at the request of Mr. Novak, Septran lowered its bid price by about 1.75%, as shown above. Considering both service and price, Septran is recommended. NDSEC’s Operational Board unanimously supported this recommendation.

Septran’s bid included alternate terms that the NDSEC Operational Board has rejected. Septran has agreed to perform the contract terms as NDSEC proposed them.

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education accepts Septran, Inc.’s, bid for transportation services for special education students from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2028, and rejects the “Clarifications” proposed by Septran in its bid, both as recommended by NDSEC’s Operational Board.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

B. Adopt Resolution Approving Proposed Amendments to the DuPage/West Cook Intergovernmental Agreement. – Dr. McCluskey reported that the DuPage West Cook Board (DWC) provides programming for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Vision Impairment through SASSED and LADSE. NDSEC member districts currently have 4 students in these programs.

At the February 13 Board meeting, a quorum of voting members passed a resolution to amend the DWC Intergovernmental Agreement changing it from a formal board to an oversight committee. Therefore, The Association has proposed revisions to its Intergovernmental Agreement.

Member district boards need to approve the DWC Member School District Resolution. This resolution approves amendments to the DWC Intergovernmental Agreement that eliminate the formal Board and have it instead serve as an Oversight Committee.

The North DuPage Special Education Association’s Director is in favor of this change. He is a Board member of DWC and supports the transition.

A motion was made by Ms. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution approving proposed amendments to the DuPage/West Cook Regional Special Education Association’s Intergovernmental Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None
Absent: Leyva
Motion Carried.

C. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Policy Revisions – Dr. McCluskey reported that these policies revisions have been reviewed as 1st reading at the March 19th meeting. No further changes are recommended to the above policies.

- Policy 6-135 - Accelerated Placement Program
- Policy 6-230 - Library Media Programs
- Policy 6-280 - Grading and Promotion
- Policy 7:260 - Exemption from Physical Education

A motion was made by Mr. Stoltman and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education adopt the revised policies as presented for 2nd Reading:

- Policy 6-135 - Accelerated Placement Program
- Policy 6-230 - Library Media Programs
- Policy 6-280 - Grading and Promotion
- Policy 7:260 - Exemption from Physical Education

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Leyva

Motion Carried.

New Business

- Dr. McCluskey reported that the District received a \$97,755 grant from the Illinois Council on Teaching Foreign Languages. The funding will be put toward Year 1 implementation costs for the District’s new elementary Spanish program, which is set to launch next year. Separate from the District’s current dual-language program, the new elementary Spanish program will begin with first grade and roll up through eighth grade in subsequent years. Through the program, all elementary students will learn how to speak, read, and write in Spanish for 25 minutes on regular school days. Both language programs will ultimately provide the District’s elementary students the opportunity to leave BSD2 schools in eighth grade ready for advanced Spanish classes and the potential to obtain the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy in high school.
- Dr. McCluskey reminded board members that the reorganizational meeting will be held on Wed. April 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Closed Session - None

Adjournment

At 7:17 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Parthimos and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No further business appearing, Mr. Laudadio adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

President

Secretary