



Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Special Meeting

Minutes – June 18, 2025

President James Stoltman 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	Member	X	
Victoria Gonzalez	Secretary		X
Robert Laudadio	Member	X	
Milton Mercado, Jr.	Member		X
Anita Miller	Vice-President	X	
Maria Cristina Reyes	Member	X	
James Stoltman	President	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, Tania Gomez, Community Relations Coordinator, Nancy Quinn & Jay Pasternak Community Members.

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

Public Hearing for 2025-26 Budget

- Mr. Stoltman opened the Public Hearing on the 2025-26 Budget at 6:31 p.m.
- Mr. Novack presented on the 2025-26 Budget - The budget projects a \$46,000 surplus, with expenditures and revenues roughly balancing at \$47 million.
- Audience Participation – questions and clarification – there were none.
- Mr. Stoltman closed the hearing and returned to the regular board meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Public Comment:

- none

Presentations

A. End of Year Academic Update – In the absence of Dr. Paonessa, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Dr. McCluskey reviewed how the District’s growth and achievement scores in NWEA MAP tests compare to other schools nationwide, and how its English Learner (EL) students performed on the Illinois ACCESS English language proficiency test. She also reviewed ways that teachers and administrators will use this assessment data to continue to support student academic growth across the District.

- Blackhawk Middle School maintained slightly above average growth scores and average achievement scores in MAP math assessments. Also, in MAP English-language arts assessments, Blackhawk maintained average growth and achievement scores. Blackhawk’s ACCESS testing scores showed a continued increase in the number of

students exiting English language services.

- Tioga School maintained slightly above average growth scores while increasing its achievement scores to slightly above average in MAP math assessments. Also, in MAP English-language arts assessments, Tioga maintained average growth and achievement scores; in Spanish-language arts, growth scores remained average and achievement scores remained slightly below average. Tioga's ACCESS testing scores showed a continued increase in the number of students exiting English language services.
- W.A. Johnson School maintained slightly above average growth scores and average achievement scores in MAP math assessments. Also, in MAP English-language arts assessments, Johnson maintained average growth and achievement scores; in Spanish-language arts, Johnson's growth and achievement scores remained slightly below average. Johnson's ACCESS testing scores showed strong gains in students' growth in English language development, exiting an additional 10 students from EL services.

B. Student Panorama Data – Mr. Berman reported that the Panorama survey was administered this spring to 1,153 students in Grades 3-8. The survey measures students' perceptions about their competency and wellbeing, and their feelings about their school environment. It was also administered to these students in fall. Decades of research have shown that students' perceptions strongly correlate with learning outcomes and can be an important improvement tool for schools. While a majority of students submitted favorable ratings in every category of the survey, several categories stood out:

- Supported Relationships: Scores for students in Grades 6-8 ranked in the top 1 percent of schools with comparable free and reduced-price meal populations. Scores for students in Grades 3-5 ranked in the top 10 percent.
- Positive Feelings: Scores for students in Grades 6-8 ranked in the top 10 percent of schools with comparable free and reduced-price meal populations. Scores for students in Grades 3-5 ranked in the top 40 percent.
- Social Awareness: Scores for students in Grades 6-8 ranked in the top 30 percent of schools with comparable free and reduced-price meal populations

Board Committee Reports

A. Announcements - none

Administrative Reports

A. Announcements - none

B. FOIA Report – Mr. Novack reported on the FOIA's received through June 12, 2025.

Requestor	Type	Received	Completed
● Civic IQ Purchasing records for 2022 and later years	Commercial	5/9/25	6/10/25
● SmartProcure Purchasing records from 2/14/2025 to present.	Commercial	5/12/25	5/16/25
● BBSCoach Names and contact info for administrators and teachers	Commercial	5/29/25	Pending
● Public Info Access Names and contact info for administrators	Commercial	5/30/25	Pending

C. Hiring Report – Dr. McCluskey reported that the District currently has the following positions to fill for the 2025-2026 school year:

- **Blackhawk Middle School:** two English Learner teachers, an instructional coach, an ACE math teacher, an Academic Life Skills special education teacher, a library aide, and a crossing guard.
- **W.A. Johnson School:** a library aide, two instructional aides, two special education aides, and two lunch/recess supervisors.
- **Tioga School:** a bilingual speech-language pathologist and two instructional aides.

D. Summer Project Update -Dr. McCluskey reported that at W.A. Johnson School work is underway to enclose two spaces for use by ACE classes. At Blackhawk Middle School, work is underway to replace the Fitness Center's sound system and to replace outdated vinyl floor tile and cabinetry in classrooms at the building's west end.

E. First Student Routing Analysis Results: – Dr. McCluskey reported that First Student, a national school bus services provider, partnered with District 2 and Fenton District 100 to review bus route design and related practices in response to ongoing bus driver shortages affecting both districts. The joint analysis identified potential efficiency improvements in bus stop locations and routing strategies for each district to consider. While First Student will develop the routes for the 2025–2026 school year, each district will retain its own separate routes; they will not be combined.

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Special Board of Education Meeting - May 21, 2025
2. Special Board of Education Meeting - May 21 2025 - Closed Session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

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

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

C. Personnel

I. Resignation of Certified Staff

1. Laura Negrete, Kindergarten Dual Language Teacher, Tioga School.

Recommendation: No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations

II. Resignation of Classified Staff

1. Sindy Guerra, Special Education Paraprofessional, Johnson School.
2. Jaaziely Llanes, Special Education Paraprofessional, Johnson School.
3. Diana Loza Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Tioga School.

Recommendation: No action by the Board of Education is necessary for these resignations.

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

1. Natalia Santana, Bilingual Speech Pathologist, Johnson School, effective 8/14/2025.
2. Evelyn Gallardo, Kindergarten Dual Language Teacher, Tioga School, effective 8/14/2025.
3. Jordan Ailes, 7th Grade EL Math Teacher, Blackhawk Middle School, effective 8/14/2025.

IV. Summer School – Kindergarten Jumpstart 2025

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of the following 2025 summer school Kindergarten Jumpstart Teachers.

Teacher	Assignment	Teacher	Assignment
Blanca Delgado	Jumpstart Kindergarten-Monolingual Classroom	Bridget Tello	Jumpstart Kindergarten-Dual Language Classroom
Kristi Mullen	Jumpstart Kindergarten-Monolingual Classroom	Angela Campanile	Social Worker
Kattya Esparza	Jumpstart Kindergarten-Monolingual Classroom	Meredith Barrett	Jumpstart Kindergarten SEL Teacher

Teacher	Assignment	Teacher	Assignment
Jaime Cazares	Jumpstart Kindergarten-Dual Language Classroom	Julie Bartoski	Jumpstart Kindergarten Occupational Therapist

V. Approval of Compensation – Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve the compensation for Lydia Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning as presented, effective July 1, 2025.

D. Designate Freedom on Information Officer

Recommendation: That the Board of Education designate the Chief School Business Official as the Freedom of Information Officer as provided in FOIA and policy 2:250, effective July 1, 2025.

E. Designated Person for Asbestos Management

Recommendation: That the Board of Education designate the Manager of Buildings & Grounds as the designated person in accordance with Illinois law.

F. Ratify Purchase of Wireless Access Points

Wireless Access Points: bids were solicited in January and February for 186 Cisco-branded WAPs with five years' of support. Cisco owns the Meraki brand, which the District has used since 2012. It is the market-leading brand. The units are cloud-managed, as were both of the prior generations of Meraki units.

Five firms submitted proposals, as shown below. The recommended bidder is ACP CreativIT for \$208,320. Two bids were disregarded because they offered different product than was specified. Of the remaining three, ACP CreativIT was the lowest bidder.

Firm	Purchase Price before 85% E-rate	Comments
ACP CreativIT	\$208,320	This bid is recommended. It is the lowest price for the specified combination of Meraki equipment and support. ACP has successfully worked with the District in other years.
Coquina	\$206,919	This bid is not recommended, because support was not included although it was specified.
DGS	\$240,829	This bid is not recommended, because of the price.
SHI	\$243,474	This bid is not recommended, because of the price.
Bit Direct	\$132,996	This bid is not recommended, because the bid did not offer the Meraki product that the District specified.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratify the purchase of 189 Cisco wireless access points from ACP CreativIT.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Laudadio, Reyes, Dye, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Items

A. Approval of Employment Resignation Agreement – Dr. McCluskey presented a resignation agreement for approval.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education approve the Resignation Agreement for Marianne Baglarz as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Dye, Laudadio, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado

Motion Carried.

B. Adoption of 2025-26 Budget – Mr. Novack reported that:

- the Board held a public hearing concerning the budget on June 18, 2025,
- Public review of the tentative budget began on Monday, May 19. The required notice was published on May 14, 2025,
- After publication of the tentative budget, both revenues and expenses have been further revised for the final budget.

Mr. Novack presented a summary of the proposed budget. The full budget document is linked *here*.

- An operating surplus is projected of about \$46,000, or less than 0.1% of revenue. See page 2. This is an improvement from the small deficit projected in the tentative budget.
- Revenues are detailed on page 3.
 - Basic Operating Revenues are projected to increase by \$0.1 million from the prior year, or about 0.3%.
 - Special-purpose federal grants (mostly food service) are projected to decrease about 28%, to \$1.6 million. Except for food service, these grants were always known to have a limited life and have been planned for accordingly.
- Expenses are detailed on page 4.
 - Staff costs, the largest category of expense, are projected to increase about 1.9% (ignoring contingencies). Typical increases in individual salary and benefits are partly offset with staffing reductions and retirements. Vehicle purchases and other capital costs increase \$400,000. All others costs are projected to increase about 4% over the prior year if no contingencies are spent.
 - Contingencies of \$806,000 are included in the expense section of the budget.
- Fund balances are shown on pages 5 and 6.
 - All funds will have positive balances on June 30, 2025.
 - The District's fund balances comply with limitations in School Code that took effect last year. See page 6.

Mr. Novack reported that since the Tentative Budget was released in May, a decrease in expenses has been proposed of \$252,000. Vehicle purchases are reduced \$260,000; NDSEC tuition is reduced \$65,000; technology equipment purchases are increased \$160,000; and several smaller changes were made as well.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education (1) adopt the 2025-26 Budget as presented; and (2) note that the cash balance of its operational funds at June 30, 2023 is less than 2.5 times the average spending in those funds for the three-year period ended on the same date.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Dye, Laudadio, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado

Motion Carried.

C1. 1st Reading of Revised Policies: 5:310 - Compensatory Time-Off - Mr. Novack reported that the District's wage and payment practices are subject to a Federal law, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), as well as to various state laws. The FLSA requires most employers to pay time-and-a-half whenever workers exceed 40 worked hours per week. The District

and other state governments can instead offer compensatory time off in lieu of a cash payment. Staff may accept either the time off or the pay.

The current Policy 5-310 mostly incorporates default provisions from the FLSA. The Administration recommends revising these default provisions as explained below.

In the current policy, employees may accumulate compensatory time from one year to the next. Administration recommends adopting a requirement that compensatory time be either used or paid out by the end of each year. Carryover will no longer be permitted.

In the current policy, employees may accumulate up to 160 hours of overtime, which equals 240 hours of compensatory time. Administration recommends that this limit be changed to 13.3 hours of overtime, which equals 20 hours of compensatory time. Employees will automatically be paid time-and-one-half if they work overtime hours whenever their comp time balance exceeds 20 hours. Overtime hours and compensatory time always require a manager's approval.

The proposal for a revised policy is here. (redlined version) (clean version)

Mr. Novack reported that these changes are permitted but not required under the FLSA. The changes will prevent the accumulation of large amounts of compensatory time.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education review the revised Policy 5-310 for First Reading in anticipation of adoption at a future board meeting.

C2. 1st Reading of Revised Policies: 7:190 – Student Behavior - Mr. Berman reported that Policy 7:190 – Student Behavior, the policy, Legal References and footnotes are updated.

- The addition of a definition for sexting and criminalizing the non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions; defining corporal punishment;
- Permitting school employees to only use reasonable force with respect to a student as permitted under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33;
- Requiring the superintendent to annually report to ISBE by July 31 certain incidents on school grounds involving firearms, drugs, and battery against staff members;
- Updating academic dishonesty to include use of writing service and/or generative AI technology.
- and Continuous improvement.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education review Policy 7:190 for First Reading in anticipation of adoption at a future board meeting.

D. Approval of Student Handbook Discipline Section – Dr. McCluskey reported that under Policy 7-190, the Board shall review and approve the District's disciplinary rules as presented in the student handbook. The relevant handbook sections are attached. They state the behavior guidelines for students.

The handbook's guidelines are based on Policy 7:190. That policy is the Board's official description of prohibited student conduct and possible disciplinary measures. The student handbook reflects board policy and cannot override the official statements in Policy 7-190.

The handbook's guidelines were reviewed and revised by the BSD2 Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee on Student Discipline on May 21.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reyes and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education approves the disciplinary rules presented here.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Reyes, Laudadio, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado
Motion Carried.

- E. Designate Interest Income** – Mr. Novack reported that the District earns interest income and apportions the income among the Education Fund, the Construction Fund, and the other funds. About \$2,000,000 of interest income will be earned in the 2024-25 year

The School Code permits the Board to transfer interest income among funds, although transfers may not be made from the Construction fund, the Safety fund, or in most cases from the Tort and Social Security/IMRF funds. The transfers can be made in the same year the interest accrues, or in a later year provided the Board had previously resolved to carry over the designation of the earnings as interest income.

No transfer among funds is recommended at this time. However, it is useful to retain the option to make such a transfer at a future time. To preserve this option, the Board must adopt a resolution to carryover the interest designation to the next fiscal year. Without such a resolution, the funds could not be transferred at a future date.

Mr. Novack reported that without either transferring interest income now, or carrying over the designation as interest to next year, then transfers of this year's interest could no longer be made.

A motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution designating as interest all interest income earned in fiscal 2025 and all interest income earned in a prior year and previously so designated.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Laudadio, Miller, Dye, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado

Motion Carried.

- F. Approve Purchase of Buses** – Mr. Novack reported that the District owns 17 operating buses, 12 of which are in good condition. Five other buses, although used much of this year, have severe engine issues that have eliminated their resale value. They are recommended for scrap. Finally, two other buses are not operating and will be sold for scrap.

A 16-bus fleet would meet the District's goals. This number would permit offering 13 routes each day, running an after-school athletic trip bus for the middle school sports teams, and having two buses in reserve. Four buses need to be purchased in order to have 16 operating buses.

The District has purchased only used buses since at least 2013, with good results. Used buses still have a long remaining life and offer a slight discount compared to new buses.

The District has identified four used buses for purchase from Midwest Transit. All are from model year 2021 with mileage under 40,000 miles. The per-bus price is about \$81,000, offset by a \$1,250 credit for the per-bus scrap value of four trade-ins. The District has purchased from Midwest Transit for many years. Midwest claims to be the largest bus dealer in the United States.

New buses cost about \$125,000. A lease of a new bus costs \$27,000 per year for a five-year lease. Purchasing used buses therefore takes much less capital than purchasing or leasing new buses.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education approve the purchase of four buses for \$81,000 each and the payment of the purchase price immediately upon delivery later this summer.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Miller, Laudadio, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado

Motion Carried.

G. Approval of Title I 1003a Improvement Plan for BMS – Dr. McCluskey reported that per the School Improvement Grant program requirement, schools in improvement status (BMS, subgroup EL) with a designation of targeted must provide to ISBE a school improvement plan that has been approved by the LEA’s Board of Education. While it was determined that BMS was not in targeted status for the 2024-25 school year, the district still receives funding for the next two years and the status is evaluated for four years (through the 2026-27 school year). The 2025-26 school year will be the District’s 3rd year as part of the School Improvement Grant so it is still required for the district to complete a plan that is submitted to ISBE.

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 2026 funding.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Dye that the Board of Education approve the Title 1 1003a Improvement Plan for BMS as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Dye, Laudadio, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado

Motion Carried.

H. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for School Resource Officer – Dr. McCluskey reported that a village police officer has served as a school resource officer in District 2 for the past 16 years. The officer is onsite full-time during the school year. The District and the Village renew their intergovernmental agreement annually.

Dr. McCluskey reported that the administration recommends renewing the agreement for the 2025-26 school year.

The School Resource Officer works with the students, families, administration and staff to support a safe learning environment. For at-risk students, the officer establishes rapport and trust and provides interventions to them and to their families to help them be successful. These actions build trust between community members and the police department by demonstrating how a police department is a community resource for all.

The SRO is also a key member of the District’s safety plans. He is a member of the District’s threat assessment team, which are convened whenever students exhibit concerning behavior. He is of course on-site in case an emergency arises. He coordinates emergency training with the Bensenville Police Department.

The District pays 70% of the officer’s annual salary and benefits, equipment and uniform costs. For next year, these are the District’s costs:

Salary and Benefits	\$114,592.76
Equipment	\$6,250.30
<u>Uniform</u>	<u>\$875.00</u>
Estimated Total Cost	\$121,718.06

The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement is the same agreement that has been in place since 2009. A copy of the agreement is attached.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education approves the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and the District for the 2025-26 school year.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Reyes, Laudadio, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado
Motion Carried.

New Business

Dr. McCluskey introduced Tania Gomez, the new Community Relations Coordinator.
Dr. McCluskey recognized and thanked Paul Novack, Chief Financial Officer for the work he has done over the past 15 years for BSD2 and wished him well in retirement.

Closed Session

At 7:22 p.m. motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Laudadio, Dye, Reyes, Stoltman
Nay: None
Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado
Motion Carried.

At 7:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education adjourn from closed session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 7:26 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No further business appearing, Mr. Stoltman adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

President

Secretary