



Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Special Meeting
Minutes – September 17, 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. Tim Keeley	C.S.B.O	X	
Ms. Lydia Ryan	Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning	X	
Mr. Dustin Berman	Assistant Superintendent for Student Services	X	
Other Staff			
Cindy Snyder	Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent & Clerk of the Board	X	
Tania Gomez	Community Relations Coordinator	X	

Staff Present: Meredith Barrett, Lara Schwarz, Sue Vitale, Lisa Simoncelli, Carlos Patiño, Principal Johnson School, Diana Vergara Principal Blackhawk Middle School and Jeff Kersten, Principal Tioga School.

Others Present: Jay Pasternak - Community Member, Justin Petrarca - Legal Counsel

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

Public Comment - None

Celebrations- Dr. McCluskey celebrated:

- A. The [CARE Program 30th Year](#) - The district will be celebrating 30 years of the CARE program. Lara Schwarz, CARE Facilitator, reported on the history of CARE.
- B. ChatBot on the website - Tania Gomez, Community Relations Coordinator reported that a new AI Chatbot is now available on all BSD2 webpages. A demonstration of the new chatbot was given.

Presentations

- A. [2025-2026 District Strategic Plan](#) – Dr. McCluskey presented the BSD2's Teaching & Learning and Climate & Culture topics from our Strategic Plan, emphasizing that we are committed to engaging all students with a diverse, appropriately aligned, and challenging curriculum. BSD2 is committed to ensuring that all students receive a high-quality, challenging, and inclusive education. To make this happen, our strategies include strengthening core instruction (Tier I), providing tailored interventions (Tier II) that meet students' needs, utilizing data to guide decision-making, and improving professional learning for staff in special education, behavior supports, and sheltered instruction. At the same time, we will work on school culture,

communication with families, attendance, and consistent special education programming to ensure equity and access.

B. School Improvement Plans

- [Blackhawk Middle School](#) – Diana Vergara Principal Blackhawk Middle School presented their Climate and Culture Action Plan and their Strategic Priority – Teaching & Learning.
- [Tioga School](#) - Jeff Kersten, Principal Tioga School presented their Climate and Culture Action Plan and the Academic Priorities and Actions.
- [W.A. Johnson School](#) - Carlos Patiño, Principal Johnson School their Climate and Culture Action Plan and the Academic Goals.

Board Committee Reports

A. Announcements - none

Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements** – Dr. McCluskey reported that the administration has started the process of RFQ for Architects. A proposed schedule for the selection of firms to provide architectural services was reviewed. A tentative plan is to select a firm at the December meeting.
- B. FOIA** – Mr. Keeley reported that there was one commercial FOIA received from Allium Data, requesting copies of current property and casualty insurance policies, including premium information, or a summary document that outlines coverage, carrier, limits, deductibles and premium.
- C. Sumer Programs Parent Survey Results** – Ms. Ryan reported that following the 2025 summer programs, a survey was sent to families to gather their input on the successes of the summer programs as well as changes they would like to see in the future. Overall, families were satisfied with the summer program options. Families suggested we run a longer program in the future, and that we offer additional extracurricular options, including field trips.

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting - August 20, 2025

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

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

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

C. Personnel

I. Resignation of Classified Staff

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

The following classified staff members have submitted their resignations:

1. Helen Garcia, Secretary/Office Manager, Blackhawk Middle School is retiring effective June 30, 2026.

2. Nicolette Rakowski, Special Education Paraprofessional, Tioga School is leaving the District effective October 3, 2025.

II. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Gia Avino, Special Education Paraprofessional in ALS, Johnson School, effective August 25, 2025.
2. Ciara Patterson, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Tioga School, effective September 10, 2025.
3. Elizabeth Villegas, Dual Language Paraprofessional - Kindergarten, Tioga School, effective September 2, 2025.

D. Non-Resident Tuition and Designation of Hearing Officers

Recommendations: That the Board of Education (1) designate the principals and assistant principals of each school as Hearing Officers for that school to determine residency of their students, each able to conduct hearings individually; and (2) establish an annual tuition rate for non-resident students of \$21,278 for 2025-26.

E. Compensation Report of Administrators and Teachers

Recommendation: That the Board of Education acknowledge review of the compensation report as presented and direct the administration to post on the website.

F. Shared Service Report

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve the Shared Service Report as presented.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Dye, Mercado

Motion Carried.

Conference/Action Items

- A. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Revised Policies** – Mr. Keeley reported that at the August 20, 2025 meeting the Board reviewed the recommended revisions of the following policies. No further changes were proposed to the revisions, the administration recommended the adoption of the revised policies as presented.

- [4:15 - Identity Protection](#)
- [4:60 - Contracts](#)
- [4:80 - Accounting & Audits](#)
- [4:120 - Food Services](#)
- [7:270 - Administering Medicines to Students](#)
- [8:30 - Visitors to and Conduct on School Property](#)

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Gonzalez, Reyes, Laudadio, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Dye, Mercado

Motion Carried.

B. 1st Reading Policy Revisions: Mr. Keeley reported that the following revised policies are being presented for 1st reading:

- 5:60, Expenses
- 5:100, Staff Development Program
- 6:150, Home and Hospital Instruction
- 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 7:60, Residence
- 7:70, Attendance and Truancy
- 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- 7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Recommendation: That the Board of Education consider for First Reading the nine policies revisions listed above, in anticipation of possible adoption at a future board meeting.

C. Approval of Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement - Bespoke Community Cooperatives, LLC. – Mr. Keeley reported that Bespoke Community Cooperatives is a public benefit corporation powering community purchasing groups across the country. While Bespoke itself is not a cooperative, it provides administrative support so agencies can purchase cooperatively. Cooperative contracts may result in better contracts for the entire community, including the agencies that lead them, the schools that utilize them, and the businesses that participate in them.

Mr. Keeley also reported that the Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (MICPA) is a document that must be signed by all districts that want to participate in or utilize Illinois Collaborates contracts. The MICPA acknowledges the mutual benefits of cooperative purchasing and that all procurements should be conducted in accordance with relevant statutes. This document also indemnifies both the district leading bids on behalf of Illinois Collaborates and those districts benefiting from the hard work of their peers.

Mr. Keeley reported that by agreeing to this MICPA, the Board will be able to utilize the benefits of peer procurement solicitations while maintaining compliance with statutory requirements related to public bidding. This agreement was reviewed by legal counsel to ensure local compliance.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education ratify the MICPA with Bespoke Community Cooperatives, LLC as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Gonzalez, Miller, Laudadio, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Dye, Mercado

Motion Carried.

- D. Approval of Bespoke Community Cooperatives, LLC Paper Bids** – Mr. Keeley reported that the District currently purchases copy paper off of the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Contract. The Board recently authorized the MICPA with Bespoke Community Cooperatives, LLC, which gives the district access to publicly bid contracts from local peer agencies.

Mr. Keeley also reported that Barrington School District 220 publicly bid for copy paper earlier this year. The lowest responsible, responsive bidders were awarded the contracts. Garvey's Office Supplies and Midland Paper Company were jointly awarded the contracts, giving members of Bespoke access to multiple options for their paper needs at competitive prices that are currently lower than the state contract.

Mr. Keeley also reported The Board could go out to bid as a sole entity, but the volume would be considerably lower than the Barrington 220 bid, which would likely result in less of an economic benefit.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mr. Stoltman that the Board of Education approve the attached contracts as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Gonzalez, Stoltman, Laudadio, Miller, Reyes

Nay: None

Absent: Dye, Mercado

Motion Carried.

- E. Resolution Re-Authorizing Participation in the ISDLAF+ Fund** – M. Keeley reported that the District is a long-standing member of the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus (ISDLAF+). We recently re-engaged with PMA, the financial advisory firm to the fund, to provide cashflow management services to the district. Best practice dictates that the Board re-authorize the resolution with ISDLAF+, considering the initial resolution is believed to date back to the 1980's.

Mr. Keeley reported that the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus is an inter-governmental investment program for school districts and community colleges in Illinois. Co-sponsored by Illinois ASBO, IASA, and IASB, the ISDLAF+ Fund offers opportunities to school districts to invest and manage funds.

Mr. Keeley also reported that since 1984, ISDLAF+ has earned a well-deserved reputation among Illinois school districts and community colleges. The Fund is known for its excellent performance built around the safety, liquidity and yield that school officials want. As an ISDLAF+ Participant, you can benefit from a full range of cash management and investment services designed specifically for school districts. These include: • Banking and Cash Management • Cash Flow Management • Bond Proceeds Management (PMA Securities) • Money Market and Liquid • Fixed Income Investment • Credit Risk Analysis.

Mr. Keeley reported that there is no cost to the district to engage with ISDLAF+ and PMA. ISDLAF+ has a fee agreement with PMA, whereby modest fees are charged to the client only when investments are made.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education approve the Re-Authorization Resolution as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Gonzalez, Reyes, Laudadio, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Dye, Mercado
Motion Carried.

New Business - None

Closed Session

At 8:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education go into Closed Session for the purpose of .

- A. Collective negotiating matters** *between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2). and*
- B. To consider the performance of certain staff.** *(Personnel - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.)*

At 8:43 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio 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.

Adjournment

At 8:44 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Reyes 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 8:44 p.m.

President

Secretary