



## Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Special Meeting  
Minutes – October 15, 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:

| <b>Board of Education</b> | <b>Title</b>                                                       | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 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              |               |
| <b>Administration</b>     |                                                                    |                |               |
| 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              |               |
| <b>Other Staff</b>        |                                                                    |                |               |
| Cindy Snyder              | Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent<br>& Clerk of the Board | X              |               |
| Tania Gomez               | Community Relations Coordinator                                    | X              |               |

**Others Present:** Jay Pasternak - Community Member

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

**Public Comment** - None

**Celebrations-** Dr. McCluskey celebrated the following with a short Thank you video.

- Bus Driver Appreciation
- Lunch Supervisor
- National Physical Therapy Month
- Custodian Appreciation
- Principal Appreciation

### **Presentations**

- 2025-2026 District Strategic Plan - (Finance and Retention)** - Dr. McCluskey, Superintendent presented BSD2's Finance and Retention priorities from our Strategic Plan. The district shared the enhancements of learning environments by converting ACE spaces at WAJ into classrooms, utilizing the 2025 IL Maintenance Grant, and implementing recommendations from facility inspections, all while aligning with the Climate & Culture Action Plan. Financial stability will be maintained through a balanced budget, strong reserves, and strategic planning. Business operations will be strengthened by standardizing procedures, launching a districtwide work order system, and managing technology assets with lifecycle planning. To support staff retention and recruitment, the district will expand outreach efforts, provide targeted professional

development, and continue implementing training and resources for both new hires and substitutes.

- B. **BOE Policy 101** - Mr. Keeley, CSBO presented Board Policy 101 to the school board, highlighting the significance of the policy review process in effective district governance. School boards operate through written policies that ensure legal compliance, define procedures, articulate district goals, delegate authority, and set operational limits. These policies stem from a combination of board input, community needs, legal requirements, and resources like IASB's PRESS, which provides most policy templates. Management of policies involves regular reviews driven by PRESS updates (issued three times a year) and in consultation with legal counsel. Any changes are processed through a two-step board approval: a First Reading for review and questions, followed by a Second Reading for final adoption.
- C. **Presentation of Annual Audit - Lauterbach & Amen, LLP.** - Macade Thorpe, a representative from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP presented the results of the District's audit for the 2025 fiscal year, marking their third year as the District's auditors. He reviewed the findings, highlighting that the audit received the highest level of assurance, confirming the financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects. The District continues to demonstrate strong financial health, with a net financial position increase for the 22nd consecutive year, approximately \$39.9 million in cash and investments, and a strong AA+ bond rating.

#### **Board Committee Reports**

- A. **Announcements – none**
- B. **2025 Resolutions Committee Report Proposals** - Ms. Dye requested that the Board review the 2025 Resolutions Committee Report and provide feedback on how they would like to proceed with their vote. Board members are encouraged to read the report thoroughly and share their input or preferred voting direction with Ms. Dye and the full Board ahead of the upcoming decision in November.

#### **Administrative Reports**

- A. **Announcements-none**
- B. **FOIA** - Mr. Keeley reported that there were two FOIA's
  - 1. DG Counseling - Name and Contact info of various employees - Commercial - completed 9/19/2025
  - 2. Steve Watts - Name, title, email, work site and current annual salary of all employees - Resident - BSD2.org shows the requested information, so the request is denied. 10/8/2025
- C. **1st Quarter Financial Update** - Mr. Keeley presented the 1st Quarter report, reporting that overall revenue and expenditures are slightly lower than the prior year (when excluding construction expenses).
- D. **Enrollment Report** - Dr. McCluskey reported that school enrollment is not drastically lower compared to previous years. This indicates overall stability in student numbers across the district.
- E. **Absenteeism & Truancy Update** - Mr. Dustin Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, presented data showing daily attendance improvements over the last five years, highlighting a 2% improvement among students with IEPs and English Learners, and a 3% improvement among Pre-K students. Despite these gains, Pre-K and Kindergarten continue to show the highest absenteeism rates. The District remains focused on consistent daily monitoring, early intervention, a tiered support system, and strong collaboration and communication to address these challenges. Dr. McCluskey also shared information about the collaboration with PTA involvement and the local library in supporting efforts to maintain and improve the positive trajectory of student attendance.

#### **Consent Items**

- A. **Approval of Minutes**
  - 1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 17, 2025
  - 2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 17, 2025 – closed session

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

## **B. Approval of Financial Reports**

### **1. Bills September 2025**

- a) Accounts Payable
- b) Imprest Checks
- c) Advanced Checks
- d) Credit Card Payments

### **2. Financial Statements as of September 30, 2025**

### **3. Quarterly Investment Report** – Mr. Keeley reported that the District holds a variety of instruments at Fifth Third Securities, Inc. and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC. Results are reported after the end of each quarter, in accordance with Policy 4:30.

**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 this resignation.

- 1. Nguessan Kouame, Bus Driver, Bensenville School District 2 has submitted his resignation effective September 30, 2025.

### **II. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff**

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

- 1. Aleksandra Milanova, Instructional Paraprofessional, Tioga School, effective October 8, 2025.
- 2. Delia Palacios, Lunch Recess Supervisor, Johnson School, effective September 22, 2025.
- 3. Alex Pineda, Dual Language Aide, Tioga School, effective October 14, 2025.
- 4. Katerina Pineda, Special Education Aide, Tioga School, effective October 14, 2025.
- 5. Marisol Villegas, Lunch Recess Supervisor, Tioga School, effective September 22, 2025.

### **III. Approval of Long-Term Substitute**

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

- 1. Aury Bailon, 2nd Grade Dual Language Long-Term Substitute teacher at Tioga Elementary School, from October 2, 2025 through November 7, 2025.
- 2. Entela Dedja, 3rd Grade Dual Language Long-Term Substitute teacher at Tioga Elementary School, from October 6, 2025 through December 19, 2025.
- 3. Ellen Forster, Resource Teacher 3-5th Grade Long-Term Substitute teacher at Johnson Elementary School, from September 22, 2025 through November 21, 2025.

## **D. Approval of Frontline Analytics Solution License** – Mr. Keeley reported that Frontline Analytics is an industry-leading data analytics software that is used in many school districts across the country. It provides both a monthly and long-range projection and budget monitoring solution that allows the CSBO to quickly and effectively review data exported from the general ledger.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Education approve the Frontline Analytics Solution License as presented.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

#### **Conference/Action Items**

**A. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Revised Policies** – Mr. Keeley reported that at the September 17, 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.

- 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

**A motion was made by Ms. Dye and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education adopt the above revised policies as presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

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

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

- 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 7:200, Suspension Procedures
- 7:210, Expulsion Procedures
- 7:250, Student Support Services
- 7:255, Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence
- 7:310, Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools
- 7:340, Student Records

**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. Authorization to Submit FY26 School Maintenance Project Grant Application** – Mr. Keeley reported that the ISBE School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) is an annual grant that is available to districts in amounts up to \$50,000 on a dollar for dollar match basis for qualified projects. The district applied for and received the maximum grant award in each of the last four years.

Mr. Keeley also reported that the District may submit an application for multiple projects, but awards are limited to one per District per award round. The final allocation for the program has yet to be determined, but

we will ensure maximum potential funding by submitting an application that includes the replacement of end of life HVAC equipment.

**A motion was made by Ms. Dye and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education grant the Administration authority to submit applications for funding under the 2026 SMPG program as outlined above.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Aye:** Dye, Laudadio, Mercado Stoltman

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Gonzalez, Miller, Reyes,

**Motion Carried.**

**D. Approval of Resolution to Estimate 2025 Tax Levy** – Mr. Keeley presented a proposed resolution estimating the 2025 tax levy.

The resolution is the first step to collect property taxes for the 2025 tax year. In this step, the Board estimates the amounts to be raised by property taxation. The next two steps occur in December. The Board will consider a resolution to levy the tax for the 2025 tax year.

Separate levies will be estimated in the resolution for seven of the District’s eight funds. The Bond Fund levy is not estimated here because no estimate is required. Bond Fund levies are created by a different process than the other levies.

Mr. Keeley also reported that the resolution is an estimate rather than the actual levy. The actual tax levy will be proposed in December.

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Inflation Rate, 2024                | 2.90%        |
| New Construction Estimate           | 0.64%        |
| <b>District’s Likely Increase</b>   | <b>3.54%</b> |
| Cushion (see Options section)       | 1.40%        |
| <b>Estimate</b> Amounts are rounded | <b>4.94%</b> |

Individual taxpayer results will vary depending on valuation changes for their individual parcel. *Valuation increases in existing parcels do not add to the District’s total tax.* They only affect how the total tax is divided among all property owners.

Mr. Keeley reported that this estimate proposes a cushion in addition to the 3.54% likely increase.

The cushion serves two purposes: (1) if new construction is higher than estimated, then the District can fully increase its levy; and (2) it creates flexibility for the District next spring to adjust individual fund levies up or down as needed without changing the total levy.

The aggregate cushion can only be levied if new construction exceeds estimates.

**A motion was made by Ms. Dye and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education adopts the resolution estimating money necessary to be raised by taxation in tax year 2025 (collected in calendar year 2026) as presented and attached.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Aye:** Dye, Laudadio, Mercado Stoltman

Nay: None  
Absent: Gonzalez, Miller, Reyes,  
Motion Carried.

New Business - None

Closed Session

At 7:23 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mr. Mercado 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: Laudadio, Mercado, Dye, Stoltman  
Nay: None  
Absent: Gonzalez, Miller, Reyes,  
Motion Carried.

At 7:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mr. Mercado that the Board of Education adjourn from Closed Session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 7:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mr. Mercado that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

With no further business appearing, Mr. Stoltman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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President

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Secretary