

Bensenville Elementary School District 2

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes – February 18, 2026

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 (left 7:13 p.m.)	
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	

Others Present: Shyla Kinhal - Curriculum Director, Shannon Steen - MTSS & Assessment Coordinator, Carlos Patiño – Principal W.A. Johnson School, Dr. Jeff Kersten – Principal Tioga School, Diana Vergara – Principal Blackhawk Middle School.

Community Members: Jay Pasternak

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

Public Hearing - E-Learning Plan

- Mr. Stoltman opened the Public Hearing for 2026-2029 E-Learning Plan at 6:31 p.m.
- Dr. McCluskey presented the 2026-2029 E-Learning Plan. The Board of Education reviewed the Bensenville School District 2 eLearning Plan in alignment with guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education. The plan ensures continuity of learning when emergency closures occur by providing at least five hours of instruction, access to non-electronic materials when needed, monitoring of student participation, and appropriate support for students with special needs. For the 2026–2029 school years, the plan establishes a districtwide framework featuring approximately 70% synchronous instruction and 30% asynchronous learning, with developmentally appropriate models for Pre-K, grades K–5, and grades 6–8.
- Mr. Stoltman asked if any audience members or board members had any questions or needed clarification: A question was asked pertaining to Pre-K.
- Mr. Stoltman closed the Hearing and returned to the Regular Board Meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Public Hearing - Permanent Transfer of Funds

- Mr. Stoltman opened the Public Hearing for Permanent transfer of funds at 6:36 p.m.
- Mr. Keeley presented the information on the Permanent transfer of funds. The Board of Education reviewed the proposed Transportation Fund adjustment for Bensenville School District 2. Due to planned expenditures for replacement school buses, the Transportation Fund would otherwise end the fiscal year with a deficit. The public hearing was held to consider a permanent transfer of \$650,000 from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund, as permitted under Illinois law. The transfer ensures a positive year-end balance for Transportation while maintaining adequate resources in the Education Fund to meet future needs.
- Mr. Stoltman asked if any audience members or board members had any questions or needed clarification: A question was asked pertaining to money needed for buses.
- Mr. Stoltman closed the Hearing and returned to the Regular Board Meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Public Comments

- Mr. Pasternak expressed his concern regarding the Lifetouch memo that was sent out.

Celebrations

- Congratulations to our Blackhawk Middle School dance team for winning 1st place at the Wood Dale Poms Competition

Presentations

- A. Summer School Proposal** – Mrs. Shyla Kinhal, Curriculum Director, presented BSD2’s 2026 Summer School Proposal. Bensenville School District 2 will offer Traditional Summer School and Summer Enrichment this summer to support student growth in reading and math. Both programs will run Monday through Thursday, July 6–23, from 8:00–11:30 a.m. at Wesley A. Johnson Elementary School.
- The Traditional Summer School program is designed for select students who need additional support in reading and math and includes a daily enrichment period. Families of students identified for this program will be notified during parent-teacher conferences on February 20, and the registration deadline is March 18.
- The Summer Enrichment program is open to all other students and provides fun, grade-level rotations of enrichment activities. Registration for enrichment opens March 2 on a first-come, first-served basis, with a deadline of March 18. Invitations for both programs are issued in February, and families will receive enrollment confirmations in April. There are no fees for these programs.
- B. MAP Presentation** – Mrs. Lydia Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Shannon Steen, MtSS and Assessment Coordinator, presented the Winter MAP growth and achievement update for the Board. Principals from Blackhawk Middle School, W.A. Johnson Elementary School, and Tioga Elementary School also presented their school-specific data. Across the district, NWEA results show steady improvement in math and reading, with notable gains in higher growth percentiles and significant progress in Spanish reading at Tioga. With encouraging trends underway, we are well-positioned to build on this momentum and further elevate overall achievement levels. Schools will continue to strengthen progress through intentional curriculum implementation, consistent instructional walkthroughs, targeted professional learning, enhanced PLC data practices, tiered supports informed by universal screening, and dedicated support for multilingual learners and students with diverse needs.

Board Committee Reports

- A. Announcements - none**

Administrative Reports

- A. Announcements – none**

- B. FOIA – Mr. Keeley reported that there were 4 FOIA’s: (see attached)**
1. Community High School District 230 – pertaining to certain emails sent by employee
 2. Sunlight Access – copies of recent vendor contracts
 3. Michael Henry – name of District’s Primary Attorney, Information on Background checks
 4. Michael Henry – verification and determination pertaining to school board members are not sex offenders, resident in the district, are registered to vote and are US Citizens and over 18 years of age.

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 21, 2026
2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 21, 2026 - Closed Session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills January 2026
 - a) Accounts Payable
 - b) Imprest Checks
 - c) Advanced Checks
 - d) Credit Card Payments
2. Financial Statements as of January 31, 2026

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

C. Personnel

I. Resignation of Certified Staff

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

The following certified staff members have submitted their resignations effective June 2, 2026.

1. Shayna Lee, K-5 Music Teacher, Tioga Elementary School.
2. Stephanie Fitch, Special Education Teacher, Tioga Elementary School.

II. 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. Michael Madea, Crossing Guard, Blackhawk Middle School, effective January 20, 2026.
2. Mahi Moorthy, Instructional Aide, Johnson School, effective February 9, 2026.

III. Leave of Absence - Extended Sick Leave

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves 24 days of extended sick leave for Amanda Hisaw.

IV. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Michelle Tsipianitis, 3rd grade long-term Substitute Teacher at Tioga Elementary School, effective approximately February 25, 2026 through June 2, 2026.

D. Approval of 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:</i> Lanyard, etc. package Gym Suit package	\$10.00 \$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.
Lost/Damaged Books, Materials, Supplies, Tech Devices, Equipment, etc.	Variable	McKinney-Vento Students are exempt from these fines/fees.
Transportation Fees	N/A	The district has not offered paid for service bus transportation for those that are within walking distance to school since the 2019-2020. This does not impact any special education students that require transportation per their IEP nor any student who should receive transportation based on their distance from school or who live in a hazard zone.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education adopts the 2026-2027 Fee Schedule as presented and that fees are paid at the time of registration.

E. Bensenville Park District Before/After School Program Bus

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize transportation in 2026-2027, 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.

F. 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.

G. Approval of Updated Authorized Advanced Check List

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve the amended Advance Check List as presented.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Laudadio, Miller, Reyes, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

At 7:13 p.m. Mr. Laudadio excused himself from the meeting.

Conference/Action Items

- A. Approval of the 2026-2029 E-Learning Plan** – Dr. McCluskey reported that the Board of Education reviewed the 2026–2029 eLearning Plan for Bensenville School District 2 in alignment with guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education. The plan ensures continuity of learning during emergency closures by providing at least five hours of instruction, access to non-electronic materials when needed, monitoring of student participation, and appropriate support for students with special needs. Instruction will follow a districtwide framework of approximately 70% synchronous learning and 30% asynchronous learning, with developmentally tailored models for Pre-K, grades K–5, and grades 6–8.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education approve the Bensenville School District 2 eLearning Plan as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Reyes, Dye, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

- B. Approval of School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding** – Dr. McCluskey reviewed with the Board the Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of Bensenville and the Bensenville School District 2 in regards to the SRO position in the district.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of Bensenville and the Bensenville School District 2 in regards to the SRO position in the district.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Reyes, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

- C. Approve New School Calendar Approval** – Dr. McCluskey reviewed with the Board the 2026-2027 school calendar. The administration shared draft calendars with BEA and the Board to solicit feedback. The Fenton High School and District 2 calendars were reviewed and aligned to maximize consistency across the two districts as much as possible.

Here are key dates from the draft calendar for 2026-2027:

- **First day of student attendance**
 - Wednesday, August 19
- **Last day of school without emergency days**
 - Thursday, June 3, 2027

A motion was made by Mrs. Reyes and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education approve the proposed 2026-2027 School Calendar as per attached.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Reyes, Miller, Dye, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

D. 2nd Reading Policy Revisions & Adoption – Mr. Keeley reported that at the January 21, 2026 meeting the Board reviewed the recommended revisions of the following policies. No further changes have been made to the proposed policy revisions and the administration recommends the adoption of the revised policies as presented.

- 2:120, Board Member Development
- 4:30, Revenue and Investments
- 5:100, Staff Development Program
- 5:220, Substitute Teachers
- 6:40, Curriculum Development
- 6:280, Grading and Promotion

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

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Reyes, Dye, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

E. 1st Reading Policy Revisions – Mr. Keeley reported that the Board’s role in creating and revising the Policy Manual is described here.

These policies are being recommended for reasons stated below:

<u>3:50, Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent</u>	The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/24A-15, amended by P.A. 104-20, making student growth an optional, rather than required, component of principal and assistance principal evaluations, and for continuous improvement.
<u>4:140, Waiver of Student Fees</u>	The Legal References and footnotes are updated in response to: 1. 105 ILCS 5/27-815, renumbered by P.A. 104-391; 2. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, amended by P.A. 104-391, requiring districts to waive fees for textbooks and instructional materials when a student’s parents/guardians are unable to afford them, and prohibiting any discrimination, punishment, or penalty of a student for an unpaid balance or because parents/guardians cannot pay fees or fines for lost school property, replacing in part 105 ILCS 5/28-19.2, repealed by P.A. 104-391; and 3. Continuous improvement.
<u>5:120, Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest</u>	The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated in response to Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/11-25, amended by P.A. 104-245, eff. 1-1-26, specifying that <i>grooming</i> is perpetrated by someone five years or more older than a child, or holding a position of trust, authority or supervision in relation to the child at the time of the offense, and for continuous improvement.

<u>5:185, Family and Medical Leave</u>	<p>The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated in response to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Military Leave Act, 820 ILCS 151/12, added by P.A. 104-78, requiring a covered employer to provide paid leave for an employee to participate in a funeral honors detail for up to 8 hours per month for a maximum of 40 hours per calendar year, or more if authorized by the employer or a collective bargaining agreement; 2. U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour opinion letter 2023-1-A, clarifying when an employee may be permitted to work on an intermittent or reduced-leave schedule in accordance with federal rules; and 3. Continuous improvement.
<u>5:200, Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal</u>	<p>The policy and footnotes are updated in response to NMWA, 820 ILCS 260/10, amended by P.A. 104-76, eff. 1-1-26, requiring that an employee be compensated during a break to express breast milk. The footnotes are also updated for continuous improvement.</p>
<u>6:130, Program for the Gifted</u>	<p>The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated. The policy and Legal References are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/14A, amended by P.A. 104-129, eff. 1-1-26, removing references to State funding for gifted programs and related requirements. The footnotes are also updated for continuous improvement.</p>
<u>6:135, Accelerated Placement Program</u>	<p>The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/14A-32, amended by P.A. 104-261, eff. 1-1-26, providing that for the 2023-2024 through the 2026-2027 school year, a district's accelerated placement policy must allow a student who exceeds State standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science to automatically enroll into the next most rigorous level of advance coursework offered by the high school, and for continuous improvement.</p>
<u>6:160, English Learners</u>	<p>The policy and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. The footnotes are also updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/14C-3, amended by P.A. 104-261, eff. 1-1-26, addressing requirements for transitional bilingual education.</p>
<u>6:210, Instructional Materials</u>	<p>The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated for the reasons stated in 6:40, <i>Curriculum Development</i>, above. Additionally, an option is added to footnote 5 for boards that only wish to approve primary instructional materials, rather than all instructional materials.</p>
<u>6:240, Field Trips</u>	<p>The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated in response to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 105 ILCS 5/29-6.3, amended by P.A. 104-367, eff. 1-1-26, allowing districts to transport students in multifunction school activity buses (MFSABs) for school sponsored activities; 2. IVC, 625 ILCS 5/11-1414.1, amended by P.A.s 104-256, eff. 7-1-26, and 104-367, eff. 1-1-26, allowing for the use of an MFSAB for curriculum-related or career-related activities subject to certain conditions; and 3. Continuous improvement.
<u>6:260, Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs</u>	<p>The Legal References and footnotes are updated for the reasons stated in 6:40, <i>Curriculum Development</i>, above, above.</p>
<u>7:150, Agency and Law Enforcement Requests Police Interviews</u>	<p>RENAMED AND REWRITTEN. This policy is renamed and rewritten in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-105, added by P.A. 104-288, eff. 1-1-26, requiring districts to establish a policy by 7-1-26 regarding agency and law enforcement requests at school, and for continuous improvement.</p>

7:290, Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

- The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated in response to:
1. 105 ILCS 5/27-215, added by P.A. 104-391, requiring education for students on mental health and illness;
 2. 105 ILCS 5/27-215, added by P.A. 104-391, adding student protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education;
 3. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.81, amended by P.A. 104-264, eff. 1-1-26, requiring districts to insert the same contact information for suicide prevention helplines required for student ID cards on employee ID cards for employees serving any of grades 6 through 12; and
 4. Continuous improvement.

The Board of Education reviewed for First Reading the above policies, and anticipates possible adoption at a future board meeting.

F. Abatement Resolution for Series 2016 and 2020 bonds / Alternate Revenue Bonds – Mr. Keeley reported that 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

Mr. Keeley reported that this abatement is in relation to 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 2025-26, the pledged revenues are greater than the debt service obligation. 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.

Mr. Keeley reported that the administration recommends that no second-priority taxes be collected this year. The current Bond Fund balance 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. Reyes and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution abating all 2025 taxes (collected 2026) previously levied for these bonds: Series 2016 and Series 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Reyes, Miller, Dye, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

G. Approval of Permanent Transfer of funds from Education Fund to Transportation Fund – Mr. Keeley reported that the Transportation Fund's expenditures were budgeted at a higher than usual level, primarily due to the purchase of replacement vehicles over the summer. To fund these excess costs, the budget calls for a transfer of \$650,000 in funds from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund. As you can see below, without this transfer, the Transportation fund would be in a deficit state.

Balance at July 1, 2025	387,547
Revenues	1,285,795
Vehicle Purchases	(399,000)
Other Expenditures	(1,648,906)
Tentative Year-End Balance at June 30, 2025, before transfer	(374,564)
Transfer from Educational Fund	650,000
Tentative Year-End Balance at June 30, 2025, after transfer	275,436

A permanent transfer into Transportation from another fund can eliminate the tentative negative balance. Illinois law permits interfund transfers among the District's three main operating funds: the Education Fund, the Operations & Maintenance Fund, and the Transportation Fund. These transfers can be made by the Board for any reason following a public hearing.

Mr. Keeley reported that a public hearing was conducted at the Board meeting to consider a permanent transfer of \$650,000 from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund.

After the transfer, the Education Fund will have adequate resources to meet its future objectives.

Mr. Keeley reported that a loan from Education to Transportation could instead be made. A loan would have to be repaid eventually. The proposed transfer is preferred because it is simpler. Amounts in the Education Fund may be used for any District purpose, including Transportation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board approves a resolution authorizing a permanent transfer of \$650,000 from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Dye, Reyes, Miller, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

H. Approval of Interfund Loan from Working Cash to IMRF – Mr. Keeley reported that the District's Working Cash fund, established under School Code, has a balance of \$466,000. The School Code permits loans from

Working Cash to other Funds as needed to meet expenses; the loans are repaid as soon as tax receipts are available in the fund. This practice permits the timely payment of expenses even if the tax collection dates for a Fund do not match the dates on which expenses are paid.

Mr. Keeley also reported that the Municipal Retirement/Social Security fund is expected to need short-term advances from the Working Cash fund. The advances are expected each month from February to June, with a cumulative total of about \$225,000. Repayment is expected in June from tax receipts.

Mr. Keeley reported that our auditors recommend that loans be made so that a fund does not have a negative balance.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing occasional loans from Working Cash to the Municipal Retirement / Social Security Fund, such that the unpaid balance of such loans does not exceed \$200,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Reyes, Dye, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

New Business - none

Closed Session

At 7:24 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Reyes that the Board of Education go into Closed Session for the purpose of:

- A. **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.*

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Miller, Reyes, Dye, Stoltman

Nay: None

Absent: Gonzalez, Laudadio, Mercado,

Motion Carried.

At 7:42 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 7:43 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Dye and seconded by Mrs. Reyes 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 7:43 p.m.

President

Secretary