Bensenville Elementary School District 2
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Minutes – March 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	
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	

BMS Staff Members Present: Victoria Mazzone, Dustin Sublett, & Bill Winters BMS Band Director
Community Members: Jay Pasternak, Raquel Sandoval, Joshua & Ann Dakins
Students: Abrianna Sandoval, Sierra Wheatland, Isabella Flores, Ally Dakins
Others Present: Deputy Chief Dooley, Officer Banks

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

Public Comments - none

Celebrations

- Members of Blackhawk Middle School Solo & Ensemble performed for the Board.
- Congratulations to Blackhawk Middle School student Abrianna Sandoval for being selected to be a part of the Governor's Girls to Lead program.
- Congratulations to Deputy Chief Dooley on his retirement from the Bensenville Police Department.

Presentations

A. **Middle School Health Curriculum Update** Mrs. Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented an update on the current middle school Health curriculum. The current Glencoe Teen Health textbooks (from 2003) lack topics like vaping and recent ISBE instructional mandates. In collaboration with the Teaching & Learning department, BMS health teachers unanimously chose to adopt the newest version of the same resource. The updated curriculum will better address key issues like substance use, vaping,

bullying, and Erin's Law while aligning with state requirements and engaging students. The 3-year, $18,509.30 investment includes new textbooks, digital resources for students and teachers, and teacher training to improve instruction and support diverse student needs.

B. **Student Services Update** Mr. Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, presented a department update. The district is adding a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to strengthen social-emotional and behavioral support systems. This role will focus on understanding behavior, implementing evidence-based strategies, and improving student engagement through assessments, intervention plans, staff training, and collaboration with families and IEP teams. The initiative also expands the special education program to provide individualized support across multiple developmental areas, including an additional ALS (Adaptive Learning Services) classroom to better support students with more intensive needs, a new K–1 "Foundations" program to support early learners build skills in routines, academics, and social development, with the goal of increasing success in general education settings.

Board Committee Reports

A. Announcements – Mrs. Gonzalez reported that the Bensenville Community Foundation is looking for sponsors to support organizations that make Bensenville and Wood Dale wonderful places to live, learn, and grow. A flier was available to distribute.

Administrative Reports

A. **Announcements** – Dr. McCluskey reported that World Down Syndrome day is March 21. BSD2 staff and students will celebrate "Rock Your Socks" on Monday, March 23 by wearing our colorful socks in support of those who have Down Syndrome and to celebrate uniqueness.

B. FOIA – Mr. Keeley reported that there was one FOIA from Autumn Cuccio requesting copies of documents while employed and working at BSD2.

C. 8th Grade Trip – Dr. McCluskey reported that the 8th grade trip will be an Architectural Boat Tour in Chicago.

D. 8th Grade Promotion – Dr. McCluskey reported that 8th grade promotion will be held on June 1, 2026 at Fenton High School in the Field House.

Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – February 18, 2026

2. Regular Board of Education Meeting – February 18, 2026 - Closed Session

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

B. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills February 2026
   a) Accounts Payable
   b) Imprest Checks
   c) Advanced Checks
   d) Credit Card Payments
2. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2026

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

C: Personnel

I. Resignation of Administrative 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 30, 2026:

1. Sarah Commike, Student Services Coordinator, Johnson Elementary School.
2. Kristine Stalzer, Student Services Coordinator, 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. Autumn Cuccio, Special Education Aide - Pre-K, Early Learning Center, effective March 6, 2026.
2. Amanda Gerstmayr, Breakfast/Lunch/Crossing Guard, Tioga Elementary School, effective March 20, 2026.
3. Laura Navarrete, Infant Toddler/Specialist, Early Learning Center, effective March 6, 2026.
4. Stephanie Rosas, Special Education Aide - Pre-K, Early Learning Center, effective March 3, 2026.

III. Ratification of Employment for 2026-2027 Administrative Staff

Recommendation: That the Board of Education approves the employment of the following certified staff members:

1. Nichole Zipprich, Assistant Principal of Social Emotional Learning, Blackhawk Middle School effective 2026-2027 school year.

IV. Ratification of Employment – Classified Staff

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

1. Jaila Mitchell, Special Education Paraprofessional - Pre-K, Early Learning Center, effective March 9, 2026.
2. Michael Wood, Director of Technology, District-wide effective, March 9, 2026.

V. Approval of Long-Term Substitute

Recommendation: That the Board of Education ratifies the employment of Ellen Forster Long-term Special Education Resource Substitute Teacher at Tioga Elementary School, effective approximately April 7, 2026 through June 2, 2026.

D. NDSEC Lease Agreement

Recommendation: That the Board of Education authorize execution of the lease agreement with NDSEC for two rooms for the 2026-2027 school year.

E. Gift Acceptance

Recommendation: That the Board of Education accept the restricted donations from the following:

1. $2,400 from DuCAP for the Blackhawk Scholastic Bowl Team
2. $2,000 from DuCAP for the Blackhawk Dare to Dream Support

F. Appointment of Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee on Student Discipline

Recommendation: That the Board of Education appoint the following as members of the P/T Advisory Committee.

Dustin Berman, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Tania Gomez, Community Relations Coordinator
Maria Cristina Reyes, School Board Member
Diana Vergara, Principal – Blackhawk Middle School
Mary Hamilton, Special Services Coordinator – Blackhawk Middle School
Julie Zabel, Teacher – Blackhawk Middle School

Michelle Juran, Parent – Blackhawk Middle School
Carlos Patiño, Principal – WA Johnson School
Saul Melendez, Assistant Principal - WA Johnson School
Meredith Barrett, Teacher – WA Johnson School
Brittany Pufundt, Parent – WA Johnson School
Dr. Jeff Kersten, Principal – Tioga School separate
Monica Loveshe, Asst. Principal – Tioga School,
Miranda Spal, Teacher – Tioga School
Sharon Benavente, Parent – Tioga School

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

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

Conference/Action Items

A. 2nd Reading Policy Revisions – Mr. Keeley reported that at the February 18, 2025 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.

- 3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent
- 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees
- 5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
- 5:185 Family and Medical Leave
- 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- 6:130 Program for the Gifted
- 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program
- 6-160 English Learners
- 6:210 Instructional Materials
- 6:240 Field Trips
- 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs
- 7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests Police Interviews
- 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

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

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

B. 1st Reading Policy Revisions – Mr. Keeley presented policy **6:60, Curriculum Content** for 1st reading revisions: **Recommendation:** That the Board of Education consider for First Reading the policy above, in anticipation of possible adoption at a future board meeting.

C. Authorize Purchase of Internet Service for Blackhawk School – Mr. Keeley reported that bids were solicited in January and February for contracts of varying lengths (1 year, 2 years, 3 years) to allow for the best market data for a final decision. The solicitation also requested varying bandwidth options for the same reason (1GB, 2GB, 5GB) to provide 1GB service to Blackhawk School. Three firms submitted proposals and based on the data, the team determined that a 2 year contract for 1GB of service would best meet our needs.

Firm	Annual Cost before 90% E-rate	Comments
AT&T	$9,057.60	This bid is recommended. AT&T is a reliable area provider and offers the most economical solution
Comcast	$15,180.00	This bid is not recommended due to the price.
Net56	$107,976.00	This bid is not recommended due to the price. This vendor's proposal included equipment and management services related to a new firewall.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reyes and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez that the Board of Education authorize the Administration to enter into a contract with AT&T to obtain two years' internet service at Blackhawk School.

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

D. Adopt Budget Preparation Resolution – Mr. Keeley reported that the school district has an annual revenue and expense budget that the Board of Education adopts every year. The budget is based upon the expectation of receipt of various revenues and incurring various expenses for operating the school district. The budget is the basis for the tax levy.

School code requires the school board to adopt an annual budget that it deems necessary to defray all necessary expenses and liabilities of the District. School code directs the Board to appoint one or more individuals to prepare a tentative budget. The tentative budget must be available for public review at least 30 days prior to final action, and at least one budget hearing must be held prior to final action.

Although the Board is not required to discuss or vote on the tentative budget, it is District 2's practice to do so about one month before adoption of the final budget. Adoption of a final budget is required by school code no later than September 30. Administration recommends the following timelines:

Recommended Dates for Required Budget Steps

March 18, 2026	FY27 Budget Calendar Approved
April 8, 2026	Pre-adoption spending authority approved by Board
July 15, 2026	Present Tentative Budget
July 16, 2026	Tentative Budget Available for public inspection for 30 days before adoption of Final Budget
Before August 14, 2026	Publish Notice of Hearing for September Meeting
September 16, 2026	Budget Hearing held. Board adopts Final Budget

A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education adopts a resolution designating the Chief School Business Official as the preparer of the tentative budget; to schedule the presentation of the tentative budget on July 15, 2026; to authorize the placement of the notice of the budget hearing on August 14, 2026; and to hold the budget hearing and adopt the final budget on September 16, 2026. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

E. Approval of Budget Development Calendar – Mr. Keeley reported that the Board adopts a budget for each school year. Based upon the expected revenues, the budget authorizes the expenses for operating the District.

A tentative budget must be available for public review at least 30 days prior to final action, and at least one budget hearing must be held prior to final action. Administration recommends the following schedule for preparing the budget:

March 18, 2026	FY27 Budget Calendar Approved
April 8, 2026	Pre-adoption spending authority approved by Board
July 15, 2026	Present Tentative Budget
July 16, 2026	Tentative Budget Available for public inspection for 30 days before adoption of Final Budget
Before August 14, 2026	Publish Notice of Hearing for September Meeting
September 16, 2026	Budget Hearing held. Board adopts Final Budget

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mr. Laudadio that the Board of Education adopt the recommended schedule for budget development as presented. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

F. Food Service Contract Award – Mr. Keeley reported that Sodexo provides the District's food service. Students eat for free under a USDA program. Staff prices are about the same as the USDA reimbursement rate for students.

Sodexo sells all the meals to the District, which then resells them to students and staff. This memorandum concerns the price that the District pays to Sodexo. A second memorandum later this summer will ask the Board to establish prices at which meals will be sold to staff.

The District's initial contract with Sodexo began August 1, 2024, and expired July 31, 2025. Up to four one-year renewals are permitted under rules issued by the USDA and the ISBE. Last year, the Board exercised the first renewal year. The 2026-2027 school year would be the second of four allowable annual renewal periods.

Renewal is recommended for one year to be effective August 1, 2026.

The contract permits a price increase of 4.1% for this renewal, which is the "Food-Away-from-Home" component of the 2025 Consumer Price Index.

	2025-26 Price	Increase for 4.1% CPI	Proposed Price, 2026-27
Breakfast	1.9684	0.0807	2.0491
Lunch	3.8052	0.1560	3.9612
A la Carte equivalent	3.8052	0.1560	3.9612
After-School Snack	1.1914	0.0488	1.2402
CACFP meals for Head Start	Same as above		
Summer Breakfast & Lunch	Same as above		

A motion was made by Mr. Laudadio and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education approve a one-year renewal with Sodexo America, LLC, for 2026-27 at the prices described above.

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

G. Adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Notice to Remedy – Dr. McCluskey reported that all teachers must maintain professional conduct in the classroom and the District.

Tenured teachers who fail to do so may be recommended to receive a Notice to Remedy. A tenured teacher who has received such a Notice could later be dismissed if s/he does not correct the deficiencies listed in the Notice.

Only the Board of Education can issue a Notice to Remedy. Dr. McCluskey reported that closed session is appropriate to discuss the proposed Notice; action upon this matter, if any, would be taken afterwards in open session.

New Business

Dr. McCluskey welcomed new administrators Mr. Mike Wood, Technology Director who started March 9th and Nichole Zipprich BMS Asst. Principal for SEL who will start August 3rd.

Closed Session

At 7:08 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. Personnel - *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.*

And

B. The setting of a **price for sale** or lease of **property** owned by the public body. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
Roll Call Vote:
Aye: Miller, Gonzalez, Laudadio, Reyes , Stoltman
Nay: None
Absent: Dye, Mercado,
Motion Carried.

At 7:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Miller that the Board of Education adjourn from Closed Session. Upon voice vote, all board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Reyes that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Notice to Remedy for Tiffany Riding.

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

Adjournment
At 7:36 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Reyes and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez 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 7:36 p.m.

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President

_____
Secretary