

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois REGULAR BOARD MEETING April 16, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President, Linda Wegner. Notification of the meeting together with an agenda and other Board material had been electronically downloaded to the individual Board members on Friday, April 11, 2025, and to the news media on Monday, April 14, 2025.

The meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the Dixon Public Schools YouTube channel the day after the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Physically Present: Mrs. Linda Wegner, President; Mr. Brandon Rogers, Vice President; Mrs. Linda LeBlanc-Parks, Secretary; Mr. David Fritts; Mrs. Kathleen Schaefer; and Mr. Jon Wadsworth

Electronically Present: None

Absent: Mrs. Melissa Gates

Also present were: Mrs. Margo Empen, Superintendent; Mr. Doug Stansford, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Marc Campbell, Chief School Business Official; Mr. Kevin Schultz, Director of Building and Grounds; Mr. John Tate, Assistant Principal of Dixon High School; Mr. Matt Magnafici, Principal of Reagan Middle School; Mrs. Kylie Downie, Assistant Principal at Reagan Middle School; Mrs. Kellie Glenn, Principal of Washington School; Mr. Joey Sagel, Principal of Madison School; Mrs. Crystal Thorpe, Principal of Jefferson School; Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President; Mr. Jim Manley, Technology Director; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; Officer Ryan McWethy, School Resource Officer at Reagan Middle School; media, parents, staff and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Wegner, Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Wadsworth (the four re-elected Board members) led the Board of Education, administrative staff, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approve DPS & LCSEA Treasurer's Report and Monthly Bills
- C. Approve Balance Sheet and Monthly Expense Report
- D. Discipline Report
- E. Staff Development Report
- F. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- G. Building Reports

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Magnafici announced the April Students of the Month as Irelyn Shaw and Colton Simpson; and the May Students of the Month as Rylee Van Oosten and Jacob Wendt. All students were acknowledged for their leadership, character, academic excellence, and involvement in activities at Reagan Middle School. All students provided a video for the Board to view.

Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President, announced the April teachers of the month – Stacie McCullough, Sarah Schmidt, Carmen Heim, Maria Peterson, Clara Haas, Carie Ramirez, Jen Kuehl, Suzanne Weaver, Candace Buikema twice, Kelsey Stone twice, 3rd Grade Team, Keely Dewey, Paige Cater, Lauren Merrill, Kim Bork, Melissa Guthrie, Kelly Reul, Greer Collins, Rachel LeSage twice, Allie Goley, Jen Page, Jenny Gasso, Candy Lind, Lynn Longan, Reni Metzler, Amber Whitcombe, Eric Ferguson, Amanda Sawyer, Brigitte Becker, Nate Geeves, Tyler Matteson, Julia Thornton, Chris Hansen, and Kim Munson.

CITIZEN’S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you note from Mrs. Dianne Frye and family

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the Vision 2030 resolution. Mrs. Wegner read the resolution. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the baseball and softball fields agreement with the Dixon Park District. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the bid for ceiling tile and grid at Dempsey Therapeutic School. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the bid for gym flooring at Dempsey Therapeutic School. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Wadsworth, Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the food service management contract. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the implementation of a high deductible healthcare plan with health savings account. The Board was able to ask questions and make comments. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the purchase and construction of playground equipment at Dempsey Therapeutic School. The Board was able to ask questions and make

comments. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the termination of all agreements with Econergy. The Board was able to ask questions and make comments. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report and a financial update for the District. Areas he highlighted: A request for proposal for copier services for the District that will be presented at the next meeting; an update on transportation costs and the contract with Illinois Central that would provide \$700,000 in yearly savings with a six-year extension; additionally county facility sales tax breached \$200,000 in December.

Mr. Campbell stated ISDA, our insurance provider through ISBE, offered the Board members the opportunity for a spot on the ISDA Board. More information will be provided to Board members if interested.

Mr. Campbell also shared an update on Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP) for the District. CEP allows a school District to provide free or reduced breakfast and lunch to all students. Mr. Campbell outlined the requirements for a school District to be eligible for CEP. If the District implemented CEP, it would cost the District \$130,000 a year for a minimum of four years. Mr. Campbell does not recommend implementing CEP for next year and instead, continuing with our current process.

Mrs. Empen and building Administrators presented plans for how the added 30 minutes to the school day for the 2025-2026 school year would be implemented. Mrs. Empen emphasized that the 30 minutes will be added to academic time.

Mrs. Empen highlighted programming changes for the 2025-2026 school year. New programming for the 2025-2026 school year includes Transition or Junior Kindergarten, a Functional Communication class for K-2nd grade with Mrs. Miller, and finally an Early Foundations class for K-2nd grade with Mrs. Folgers.

Board members who attended other committee meetings had the opportunity to share discussions from those meetings.

Mrs. Wegner shared building updates from the DEA PRC that met on April 7th. The Staff General Information Bulletin was reviewed for any questions or potential changes for next year. Discussion continued for a shared activities calendar for the District.

Mr. Rogers shared information from the Curriculum Committee on April 10th. He highlighted the Pathways Program and the Second Step Program.

Mr. Wadsworth shared information from the Community Engagement Committee that met on April 15th. Sauk Valley Media presented a campaign partnership with the Committee to promote attendance education and awareness.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen discussed the plan for the reorganization meeting for the District. She congratulated the four re-elected Board members. Votes will be certified 21 days after the April 1st election. Three things are done at the reorganization meeting: certifying the vote, voting for Board officers, and to confirm the dates and times for the upcoming year's Board meetings. A Special Meeting date will be set once the votes are certified.

We have had 11 FOIA requests since the last Board meeting. ACB (ad.cuius.bonum@proton.me) submitted 10 requests for annual expenses paid to vendors, firms, and individuals for fiscal years 1999 through 2024; and David Arvayo from Painters District Council No. 30 requested invoices for paint purchases made by the school district to maintain or improve school district buildings or facilities since January 1, 2025. We have complied with all requests.

PERSONNEL REPORT (new hires, resignations, retirements, and coaches & others)

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the following personnel items. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Wadsworth, Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

New Hires

Adam Gerber, 4th Grade Special Education Resource Teacher at Madison School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Grace Klein, Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Dixon High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Cameron Yeater, Driver's Ed/Physical Education Teacher at Dixon High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Julia Powers, Lunchroom Attendant at Madison School, effective May 1, 2025

Resignations

Amanda Spohn, Principal's Secretary at Dixon High School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Erin Rogers, Choir Teacher at Dixon High School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Brittany Barlow, K-1st Teacher at Dempsey Day School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Retirements

Dee Lahey, Paraprofessional at Dixon High School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

2024-25 Dixon High School Coaches/Activities

Brad Winterland, Spring Head Strength Coach, effective for the 2024-25 school year

Zack Heitz, Spring Assistant Strength Coach, effective for the 2024-25 school year

Nadia Wirchnianski, Accompanist – 2 stipends, effective for the 2024-25 school year

Heidi Spotts-Manthey, Accompanist – 1 stipend, effective for the 2024-25 school year

2024-25 Coaching/Activities Resignations

Leslie Butler, DHS Softball, effective March 19, 2025

Jon Empen, DHS Football, effective immediately

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to adjourn to executive session at 7:54 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; Student disciplinary cases.

This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea- Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, and seconded by Mr. Rogers to return to Open Session at 10:31 p.m. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Fritts, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, seconded by Mr. Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary