

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 19, 2026

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Notification of the meeting together with an agenda and other Board material had been electronically downloaded to the individual Board members on Friday, August 14, 2026, and to the news media on Monday, August 17, 2026.

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. Melissa Gates, Secretary; Mr. David Fritts, Mrs. Linda LeBlanc-Parks, Mrs. Kathleen Schaefer, and Mr. Jon Wadsworth (in at 6:02 p.m.)

Electronically Present: None

Absent: None

Also present were: Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent; Mr. Doug Stansford, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Marc Campbell, Chief School Business Official; Mr. Kevin Schultz, Director of Building and Grounds; Mr. James Manley, Director of Technology; Mr. Jared Shaner, Principal of Dixon High School; Mr. Matt Magnafici, Principal at Reagan Middle School; Mr. Joey Sagel, Principal of Madison School; Mrs. Crystal Thorpe, Principal of Jefferson School; Mrs. Kellie Glenn, Principal at Washington School; Mrs. Janine Huffman, Principal at Thomas J. Dempsey School; media, staff, and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Mandy Dallas, Mrs. Hele Rowley, and Mrs. Carie Ramirez led the Board of Education, administrative staff, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approve DPS and LCSEA Treasurer's Report and DPS Monthly Bills
- C. Approve Balance Sheet and Monthly Expense Report
- D. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- E. Fuel Purchase
- F. Approve the After-Care Agreement with the YMCA for the 26-27 School Year
- G. Sick Leave Bank Allotment

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Shaner recognized the AP teachers from Dixon High School for the outstanding AP scores for the 25-26 school year.

Mrs. Mandy Dallas, Mrs. Hele Rowley, and Mrs. Carie Ramirez provided a Tools for Schools updated from the August 6th event. The event was able to provide supplies to 564 students.

CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner read a thank you from the Dixon FFA alumni and supporters.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to establish the fiscal year 2027 Budget Hearing, as presented. Mr. Campbell gave an overview of how the budget hearing process works. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to approve the mentor service agreement, as presented. Dr. Huyett explained what the purpose of the agreement is, and how it will be utilized between Dr. Huyett and Mrs. Empen. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the school improvement plans for Washington School, Reagan Middle School, Dixon High School, and Dempsey Therapeutic Day School, as presented. Mr. Stansford highlighted the changes in the school improvement plans. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the District improvement plan, as presented. Mr. Stansford highlighted the changes in the District improvement plan. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. He highlighted the following: an update in CCPRT, and an update on workers compensation and property and casualty insurance.

Mr. Schultz gave an update on the lightning strike at Madison School/Reagan Middle School, and the impact it had on the electrical system in both buildings. Mr. Schultz also gave an update on the solar installation throughout the District. Mr. Schultz recognized the maintenance staff for keeping up on the extensive mowing efforts throughout the District.

Mr. Stansford, Mr. Magnafici, and Mr. Shaner provided an update from summer school.

Dr. Huyett provided an update on sixth day enrollment numbers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Huyett provided information on the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation STEM Center at RMS.

Dr. Huyett provided information on the upcoming April 2027 Board of Education elections. Mr. Fritts, Mrs. Gates, and Mrs. Schaefer are up for re-election.

Dr. Huyett asked the Board to consider if they would like to remain representatives on their current District committees.

Dr. Huyett outlined a proposed RMS Athletic Director stipend. The stipend will be on the September Board meeting as an action item.

There have been 14 FOIA requests since the last Board meeting: Daniel Cramer from Upgraid RE requested utility statements and invoices for district facilities for the last 12 months and the most recent facility condition assessment; Autumn Hayes from the Data Breach Research Team requested contracts, purchase orders, or FRPs from CDW Government, Xerox, MGT Impact, and Lead Public Schools; Catarina Macarenhas from Judiciocracy requested documentation on compliance with FOIA requests; Colby Lawson from The Data Branch requested contracts, agreements, or purchase orders for ESS/ESI, Kokua Education, Scoot Education, Zed Educate, and BuildEd; Preston Monroe from The Data Branch requested all purchase orders from January 1, 2023 to present; Terry Houston requested policies regarding metal detecting and digging on school property; Corey Spaulding requested policies regarding how finances and funds are accounted for in the District; Madeline Porter from The Data Branch requested contracts, agreements, or purchase orders for Rapid Identity, Tools4Ever, Classlink, Clever, Learn21, ManageAD, Tenfold Security, CPSI Publishing; Genevieve Harper from The Data Branch requested contracts, agreements, or purchase orders for 95 Percent Group, Core Learning Edmentum, iStation, IXL Learning, Amplify, Curriculum Associates, Imagine Learning; Mackenzie Johnson from The Data Branch requested contracts, agreements, or purchase orders for Centegix, Raptor Technologies, Singlewire, Boxlight, Quicklert, Audio Enhancement, CareHawk, and Valcom; Colleen Draper from The Data Branch requested contracts, agreements, or purchase orders for Edgenuity, Accelerate Education, Bright Thinker, Pearson, Stride, Edmentum, Imagine Learning, and Subject AI; Hallie Bennett from The Data Branch requested contracts, agreements, or purchase orders for Texthelp, Read and Write, GoGuardian, iBoss, Lightspeed Systems, Linewize, and Securly; Emma Brown from Energy RFPS requested electric utility bills for DHS and RMS; and Brent Williams from MRFFC requested documents pertaining to the parking lot crack fill and seal coating project. We have complied with all requests.

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

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

New Hires

Trinity Harshman, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective Aug. 10, 2026

Bryce Heeter, Paraprofessional at Dixon High School, effective Aug. 10, 2026

Debbie Johnson, Part-Time Health Assistant at Reagan Middle School/Madison School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Michael Mayes, Custodian at Jefferson School, effective August 20, 2026

Janice Rustad, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective Aug. 10, 2026

Chloe Welch, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Aug. 10, 2026

Jennifer White, Office Assistant at Washington School effective Aug. 5, 2026

Jody Wolf, Bus Supervisor at Washington School, effective Aug. 10, 2026

Jody Wolf, Lunch Assistant at Reagan Middle School, effective 10, 2026

New Facilitators

John Barker, 5th Grade Facilitator at Madison School .5 stipend, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Resignations

Gina Brown, Lunch Assistant at Reagan Middle School, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year

Marcia Comer, Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School, effective Aug. 4, 2026

Amanda McArthur, Custodian at Dixon High School, effective Aug. 6, 2026

Jared Shroyer, Paraprofessional at Madison School, effective Aug. 3, 2026

Anna Sirotsinska, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective July 29, 2026

Jody Wolf, Office Assistant at Jefferson School, effective July 30, 2026

Katelyn Wood, 4th Grade Teacher at Madison School, effective Aug. 5, 2026

Facilitator Resignations

Annalee Kelly, 5th Grade Facilitator at Madison School, effective June 23, 2026

Dixon High School Coaches/Activities

Leslie Haenitsch, Assistant Girls Tennis Coach, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Ben Lightner, Set Builder, Spring 2026 Musical

JD Gieson, Assistant Football Coach - .5 Stipend, effective for the 2026-27 school year

Reagan Middle School Coaches

Cassie Buhlig, Volleyball Coach, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Kolten Dorty, Volleyball Coach, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Maggie Love, Cross Country Coach, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Don Randick, Volleyball Coach, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Evan Thorpe, Cross Country Coach, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Sarina Venier, Volleyball Coach, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Coaching/Activities Resignations

Matt Coffey, DHS Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately

Terry Fuger, Lighting and Sound, effective immediately

Sam Ramirez, Assistant Softball Coach, effective June 30, 2026

Brandon Woodward, Class Officer Advisor, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to adjourn to executive session at 6:56 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; Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; Student disciplinary cases. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea- Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, and seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to return to Open Session at 7:53 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary