

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

“A Place to Grow”

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Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent
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Marc Campbell, Business Manager

TO: Board of Education Members
FROM: Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent & Marc Campbell, Chief School Business Official
DATE: September 23, 2026
RE: Natural Gas Purchase

In accordance with Dixon Public Schools #170 Board Policy 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education, the Board is responsible for entering into contract in accordance with the applicable federal and State law, including using the public bidding procedure when required. In Illinois, school districts generally must competitively bid contracts for supplies, materials, or work that exceed \$35,000 (or a lower threshold established by local board policy). However, the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21) provides several specific exemptions that allow districts to purchase goods and services without formal bidding. One common exemption is fuel purchases, including: Natural gas.

NextEra Energy is currently offering a rate of \$0.414 per therm. For comparison, the District paid \$0.561 per therm last January and used 20,385 therms during that month alone. The proposed rate of \$0.414 per therm is based on an estimated purchase quantity that should meet the District's natural gas needs through the winter season and into April 2027.

The proposed agreement with NextEra Energy is exempt from the competitive bidding requirements of Section 10-20.21 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21), which exempts contracts for the purchase of fuel, including natural gas. The administration recommends approval of the contract to lock in a favorable natural gas rate for the District's projected winter usage as part of the consent agenda.

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.