

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170  
Dixon, Illinois  
AMENDED BUDGET HEARING  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
June 26, 2024

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with an Amended Budget Hearing first followed by the Regular meeting following the budget hearing. Notification of the meeting together with an agenda and other Board material had been electronically downloaded to the individual Board members on Friday, June 21, 2024 and to the news media on Monday, June 24, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President, Linda Wegner at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was video streamed through YouTube and the link to the video was on our website and social media sites prior to the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Physically Present: Mrs. Linda Wegner, President; Mr. Brandon Rogers, Vice President, Mr. David Fritts, Mrs. Melissa Gates, Mrs. Kathleen Schaefer, and Mr. Jon Wadsworth

Electronically Present: None

Absent: Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, Secretary

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 & Grounds; Mr. Matt Magnafici, Principal of Reagan Middle School; Mr. Joey Sagel, Principal at Madison School; Mrs. Crystal Thorpe, Principal at Jefferson School; Mr. Jeff Gould, Principal of Washington School; Mr. James Manley, IT Director and Mr. Kymin Hussung, Tech; staff, and community members.

Electronically present: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jeff Gould led the Board of Education, administrative staff, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Empen asked for a volunteer to be Secretary Pro-Tem, due to Linda LeBlanc-Parks absence. Mr. David Fritts volunteered to be Secretary Pro-Tem.

Mrs. Wegner memorialized Mr. Larry Reed, former Board member, who passed away recently. She also asked for a moment of silence to remember Larry. She also recognized Larry Chidley, long-time teacher at Dixon High School, who recently passed away.

AMENDED BUDGET HEARING

Board President, Mrs. Linda Wegner, declared the Amended Budget Hearing open at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Campbell provided a copy of the budget and a memo with a summary review of the budget. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions.

There being no questions or comments concerning the FY'24 amended budget, a motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to declare the hearing closed at 6:16 p.m. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

Board President, Mrs. Linda Wegner, declared the regular meeting open at 6:17 p.m.

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Approved the minutes of May 15, 2024;
- b. Approved the Treasurer's Report and the monthly bills;
- c. Approved the Balance Sheet and the monthly expense report;
- d. Approved the LCSEA Treasurer's report;
- e. Approved the Enrollment & Discipline report;
- f. Approved the Monthly Website & Social Media Activity;
- g. Building Reports

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Empen and the Board honored Mr. Jeff Gould, Principal at Washington School, for his years of service to Dixon Public Schools. Mr. Gould is retiring at the end of June. Mr. Gould thanked the Board and the Administration and stated that he felt the District is heading in the right direction.

### CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

### CORRESPONDENCE

None

### ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to recommend the renewal agreement between the Dixon Public Schools and the Dixon Athletic Booster Club, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the FY'24 amended budget as presented. Mr. Campbell went over the next steps. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the LCSEA Financial/Payroll Management Agreement for the 24-25 fiscal year, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the LCSEA Lease Agreement for the 24-25 fiscal year, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the LCSEA Memorandum of Understanding for the 24-25 fiscal year, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to authorize the Treasurer of the District to make a permanent transfer of the Working Cash Fund interest, as presented. This motion was submitted to a

roll call vote with the following results: Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Resolution for Expenditure of Funds prior to adoption of the FY'25 budget, as presented. Mr. Campbell went over the process. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the Resolution verifying continued hazardous school crossings, as presented. Mr. Campbell explained the process and next steps for adding crossings. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Insurance Renewal for the 2024-25 school year, as presented. Mr. Campbell provided information on the renewal for the Board. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the Lunch Fee Prices for the 2024-25 school year, as presented. Mr. Campbell shared information on these prices and how the State calculates them. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Bid for painting the gym at Thomas J. Dempsey Therapeutic Day School, as presented. Mr. Campbell explained the bid process. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to table the Bid for Ceiling Tiles & Grid at Thomas J. Dempsey Therapeutic Day School, as presented. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Schultz provided information on why they asked for this bid to be tabled. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to table the Bid for the Gym Flooring at Thomas J. Dempsey Therapeutic Day School, as presented. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Schultz provided information on why they asked for this bid to be tabled. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Schaefer, Rogers, 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 Plan for Jefferson School, as presented. Mrs. Empen and Mrs. Thorpe provided the Board with information on this process. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the School Improvement Plan for Madison School, as presented. Mr. Sagel shared what his staff has been doing to create this plan. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the District's School Improvement Plan, as presented. Mrs. Empen went over how the items that the District has implemented this plan. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Joint Use Facilities Agreement with FFA Alumni and Supporters for Brinton Ave. & Nachusa Campus, as presented. Mrs. Empen went over the agreement. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the Learning Partner for Jefferson & Madison in Association with their Comprehensive Status for the 2024-25 school year, as presented. Mrs. Empen provided information and was available to answer questions from the Board. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to approve the Elementary Student Handbooks for the 2024-25 school year, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the RMS Student Handbook for the 2024-25 school year, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve DHS Student Handbook for the 2024-25 school year, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to approve the DPS Athletic Handbook for the 2024-25 school year, as presented. Mrs. Empen explained how Mr. Fegan combined both the DHS and RMS Athletic Handbook. She also explained that the IHSA form in the handbook is also used for the Middle School. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the Candidates for the NIA Executive Board, as presented. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the MOU with DEA for the Special Ed. Hard to Fill Stipend, as presented. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Gates, Schaefer, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over highlights of his Business Report. Some of the areas he highlighted were: The State Budget was approved; the Transportation budget still struggles; update on the electrical buses; the Property Tax bills went out and that the District's taxing rate went down – the property taxes went up due to assessments; the working cash transfer did not need to take place; updates of the bids for the CTE renovations; bond

repayments and updates on the bonds; legislative action on the bonds; the cuts to CPPRT; and the insurance expenses and updates.

The Board received information on the Open Houses at each building for the 2024-25 school year. Mrs. Empen went over the schedule for the beginning of the school year.

The Spring All Conference Scholar Athletes & BNC All Conference Athletes was shared with the Board.

The Spring Sports summary was shared with the Board. This information included the ticket sales and a 4-year comparison.

Board members had an opportunity to share information from Committee meetings that they attended in May: Mrs. Wegner gave an update on the Insurance Committee meeting that was held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Empen mentioned that some of the committees chose not to meet in May, starting with the 24-25 school year, due to the busyness of the end of the school year.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen went over the E-Learning Process with the Board and asked the Board for input. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Mr. Manley provided some updates on the back up plan in the event the internet goes down.

Mrs. Empen discussed with the Board the next steps for the Superintendent Search process. She asked the Board if they would be interested in bringing in a representative in the Fall from IASB to a Special Board meeting to discuss the layout and timeline. The Board discussed some options and ideas. Mrs. Empen will check with IASB to see what options are out there and bring it to the Board at the August meeting.

We have had no new FOIA requests since the last Board meeting.

Mrs. Empen asked the Board how many would be available on Wed., July 31<sup>st</sup> for a Special Board meeting for hiring new staff, and approve the Dempsey Day School Handbook. Most of the Board would be available on that day.

There was discussion on how the staffing for the Thomas J. Dempsey Therapeutic Day School was going.

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

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

#### New Hires

James Hodder, Full-time custodian at DHS, effective July 1, 2024;  
Tayla Schwarz, Social Studies Teacher at DHS, (pending Cert.) effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Beth Dennis, Special Ed. Teacher at DHS, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Christopher Hansen, 5/6 Band at RMS, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Natalie DeWitt, Science Teacher at RMS (pending IL Cert.), effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Ashley Baert, Science Teacher at RMS, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Gabby Kitzman, Special Ed. Teacher at RMS (pending IL Cert.), effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Lani Rogers, Physical Ed. Teacher at RMS, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Christopher Bishop, grades 6-8 Technology Teacher (pending Cert.), effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Kolten Dorty, 6-8 Physical Ed. Teacher at RMS, (pending Cert.), effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Debbie Sneek, Secretary/Office Asst. at RMS, effective Aug. 2, 2024;  
Sydney Bittner, Secretary/Office Asst. at RMS, effective Aug. 2, 2024;  
Damien Beck, Paraprofessional at RMS, effective Aug. 12, 2024;

Carissa Aldridge, Paraprofessional at RMS, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Bernadette Lybarger, Lunchroom Assistant at RMS, effective Aug. 14, 2024;  
April Sharp, Nurse/Health Asst. at Washington School, effective Aug. 5, 2024;  
Christine Olson, Paraprofessional at Thomas J. Dempsey Day School, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Rhonda Zink, Paraprofessional at Thomas J. Dempsey Day School, effective Aug. 12, 2024;

### **Resignations**

Michael Breedlove, Part-time custodian at DHS, effective May 24, 2024  
Jack Doane, Full-time custodian at Washington School, effective May 22, 2024;  
Jerry Jones, Lunchroom Attendant at Jefferson School, effective May 30, 2024;  
Courtney Fiedler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher at Jefferson School, effective Aug. 11, 2024

### **Facilitators**

Jamie Brigl, Math Dept. Facilitator at DHS, effective starting with the 2024-25 school year;  
Wendy Fitzanko, Electives Dept. Facilitator at DHS, effective starting with the 2024-25 school year;  
Sara Dunne, K-12 Music Facilitator, effective starting with the 2024-25 school year;  
Jessica Martin-Graber, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Facilitator, effective starting with the 2024-25 school year;  
Ashley Almquist, PE/Specials Curriculum Facilitator at RMS, eff. starting with the 2024-25 school year;

### **Change in Status**

Megan Hildreth, from PE Teacher at RMS to PE Teacher at Madison School, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Charlie Bishop, from Tech Teacher at RMS to Business/Technology Teacher at DHS, effective Aug. 12, 2024  
Nicole Huys, from paraprofessional at Madison to paraprofessional to Washington, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Ruth Straw, from paraprofessional at Madison to paraprofessional to Washington, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Billie Martoccia, from paraprofessional at Madison to paraprofessional to Washington, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Brianna DeWaele, from paraprofessional at Washington to paraprofessional at Jefferson, effective Aug. 12, 2024  
Clara Thorpe, from PreK Teacher at Washington to Kdg. Teacher at Washington School, effect. Aug. 12, 2024;  
Alyssa Bonnette, from Kdg. Teacher to PreK Teacher at Washington School, effective Aug. 12, 2024;  
Stacie McCullough, from PreK Teacher at Washington to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Jefferson, effective Aug. 12, 2024;

### **Coaching/Volunteers/Stipend**

#### **2024-25 Dixon High School Coaches**

Ben Lightner – Fall Play Producer – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Grace Wadsworth – Asst. Fall Play Producer – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Zack Heitz – Head Summer Strength Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Brad Winterland – Assistant Summer Strength Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Tyler Matteson – Assistant Summer Strength ½ Stipend - effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Darien Thorpe – Assistant Summer Strength ½ Stipend - effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Jared Shaner – Head Football Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Brad Winterland – Assistant Football Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Brandon Woodward – Assistant Football Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Luke Ravlin – Assistant Football Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Kyle Lawrence – Assistant Football Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Tyler Matteson – Assistant Football Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Laiff Jacobson – Assistant Football Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Jon Empen – Assistant Football Coach ½ Stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Zack Heitz – Assistant Football Coach ½ Stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Alicia McPhillips – Head Cheer Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Makenzie Simpson – Head Dance Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Lee Eastman – Head Golf Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Bunyan Cocar – Head Volleyball Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Darien Thorpe – Assistant Volleyball Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Steve Carlson – Assistant Volleyball Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Alicia Eastman – Assistant Volleyball Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Simon Thorpe – Head Girls Cross Country Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Jamie Brigl – Head Girls Tennis Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Rick Kent – Assistant Girls Tennis Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Josh Brigl – Head Boys Soccer Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year

**2024-25 Reagan Middle School Coaches**

Cassie Buhlig - 6<sup>th</sup> Volleyball Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Sarina Venier - 7<sup>th</sup> Volleyball Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Don Randick - 8<sup>th</sup> Volleyball Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Evan Thorpe – Head Cross Country Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year

**2024-25 Volunteer Coaches**

Kasi Bass – DHS Cheer – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Jana Halfacre – DHS Cheer – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Ryan Harrison – DHS Golf – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Ryan Deets – DHS Golf – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
JD Gieson – DHS Football – effective for the 2024-25 school year

**Coaching Resignation**

Courtney Bond – RMS Cross Country and Track – effective end of the 2023-2024 school year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. All were in favor.

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President

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Secretary