

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 17, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, and was called to order at 6:01 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, December 12, 2025, and to the news media on Monday, December 15, 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. Melissa Gates, Secretary; Mr. David Fritts; Mrs. Linda LeBlanc-Parks; Mrs. Kathleen Schaefer, and Mr. Jon Wadsworth

Electronically Present: None

Absent: None

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. 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 of Washington School; Mrs. Janine Huffman, Principal of Dempsey Day School; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, staff and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Kevin Schultz led the Board of Education, administrative staff, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL FOR THE TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

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

Electronically Present: None

Absent: None

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. 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 of Washington School; Mrs. Janine Huffman, Principal of Dempsey Day School; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, staff and community members.

Mrs. Wegner declared the Truth in Taxation Hearing open at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Campbell provided information on the levy and why the Truth in Taxation Hearing was necessary.

With no further comments or questions, Mrs. Wegner declared the Truth in Taxation Hearing closed at 6:11 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to close the Truth in Taxation Hearing. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea - Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL FOR REGULAR MEETING AT 6:12 p.m.

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

Electronically Present: None

Absent: None

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. 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 of Washington School; Mrs. Janine Huffman, Principal of Dempsey Day School; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, staff and community members.

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. Discipline Report
- E. Staff Development Report
- F. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- G. Building Reports
- H. Fuel Bid

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

The DHS Madrigals performed several songs for the Board and guests.

Becca Powell presented the WIPFLI audit report for Dixon Public Schools for the fiscal year 2025.

Dr. Lori Cortez presented information on the Sauk Valley Community College IMPACT program. Dr. Cortez also highlighted the number of hours volunteered by Dixon students since the start of the program, as well as year-to-date.

Mr. Magnafici announced the December Students of the Month as Zadi Barber and Brycen Simonton. Both students were acknowledged for their leadership, character, academic excellence, and involvement in activities at Reagan Middle School. Both students provided a video for the Board to view.

Mr. Shaner announced that James Cocar was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for December. He received this award based on his excellence in academics, character, and involvement in activities at Dixon High School. James submitted a video for the Board to view.

Mrs. Empen announced the December teachers of the month – Sara Dunn, Stefanie Jordan, Alexis Point, Carlee Schultz, Katie McNitt, Chris Hansen, Maggie Curry, Theresa Sholders, Brad Winterland, and Abby Risner.

CITIZEN’S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Donald Koesler and Rosalie Pettenger, former Dixon Public School teachers, passed away. The Board and visitors honored them with a moment of silence.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the recommendation of the employment and the contract of the Superintendent for Dixon Public Schools District #170, beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, as presented. Dr. Melydi Huyett was presented as the next Superintendent of Dixon Public Schools. 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the resolution abating taxes for year 2025, series 2018A, as presented. 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. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the resolution abating taxes for year 2025, series 2019A, as presented. 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 Mr. Rogers, to approve the tax year 2025 tax levy, as presented. 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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to accept the FY 25 District audit, as presented. 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve first reading of Board policies issue 120, 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 motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to approve the DHS roof bid, as presented. 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the mid-year graduates, as presented. 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.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. He highlighted the following: an update on CPPRT; and DPS has received invoices for bond payments of roughly \$3.5 million that will be paid in January.

Mr. Schultz recognized the custodial and maintenance teams for snow removal efforts across the District.

Mrs. Empen recognized the Central Office staff for their festive attire today.

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

- Wellness Committee met on November 24, 2025 - Mrs. Wegner gave an update on the Wellness Committee, which meets three times a year.
- Curriculum Committee met on December 4, 2025 – Mr. Rogers gave an update on SEL resources and professional development.
- Insurance Committee met on December 15, 2025 - Mr. Rogers gave an update on insurance claims and trends year-to-date.
- Community Engagement Committee met on December 16, 2025 - Mr. Wadsworth gave an update on attendance percentages year-to-date, and how the committee is working on partnerships throughout the District and community.
- Special Education Committee met on December 17, 2025 – Mrs. Gates gave an update that staff were preparing for the second half of the year, STAR testing, OG training, and the coffee cart at Washington.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Empen gave an update on the District’s deficit reduction plan. She informed the Board that in January she will be making a recommendation to the Board for a specific deficit reduction plan, with a vote at the February Board meeting.

Mrs. Empen asked the Board to share takeaways from the November IASB Board Conference and Delegate Assembly.

Mrs. Empen presented two school calendar options for the 2026-2027 school year. There will be a recommendation for a 2026-2027 calendar at the January Board meeting.

Mr. Fritts commended Mrs. Huffman and the Dempsey Day School for their Thanksgiving dinner. Mrs. Huffman thanked Ms. Irvin, the Social Worker at the Dempsey Day School, for working with Five Below on a truckload of donated products for the school for prizes and treats for the students.

Mrs. Empen asked for participants for the 2026 DPS Stupor Bowl team. Stupor Bowl will be February 6th.

There have been no FOIA requests since the last Board meeting.

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

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 – Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

New Hires

Nichollette Alex, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Dec. 18, 2025

Jordan Harrison, Paraprofessional at Dempsey Day School, effective Jan. 5, 2026

Allison Zimmerman, Special Education Teacher at Dixon High School, effective Jan. 5, 2026

Change of Status

Kellie Morrison, from Reagan Middle School Nurse to Dixon High School Nurse, effective Jan. 5, 2026

2025-26 Dixon High School Coaches/Activities

Jana Cox, Accompanist at Dixon High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

2025-26 RMS Coaches

Jamie Brigl – Girls Basketball – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Katie Provo – Girls Basketball – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Doug Hicks – Girls Basketball – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Stacy Barber – Girls Basketball – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Courtney Rogers – Girls Basketball – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Owen Brooks – Assistant Wrestling – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to adjourn to executive session at 8:20 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; Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; Student disciplinary cases; Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of a particular public 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.

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.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, and seconded by Mr. Rogers, to return to Open Session at 10:15 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 Mr. Rogers, to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary