

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 20, 2024

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 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, November 15, 2024, and to the news media on Monday, November 18, 2024.

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; Mrs. Linda LeBlanc-Parks, Secretary; Mr. David Fritts (left at 10:30 p.m.); Mrs. Melissa Gates, 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. Jared Shaner, Principal of Dixon High School; Mr. Matt Magnafici, Principal of 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. Janine Huffman, Principal of Thomas J. Dempsey School; Mrs. Kim Bork and Mrs. Alicia McPhillips, DEA Co-Presidents; Mr. James Manley, IT Director, Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, parents, staff and community members.

Electronically present: Matt Schueler from Wipfli

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Shaner 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 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, Gates, 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. Enrollment Numbers and Discipline Report
- E. Staff Development Report
- F. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- G. Building Reports

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Magnafici announced the November Students of the Month as Charlie Trader and Cade Kirchoff. 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 Owen Winters was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for November. Owen received this award based on his excellence in academics, his character, and his involvement in activities at Dixon High School. Owen submitted a video for the Board to view.

Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA co-president, announced the November teachers of the month – Carie Ramirez, Mandy Dallas (three times), Maddie Armstrong (twice), Jill Alston (twice), Kindergarten Team (twice), Carmen Heim, Mackenzie Shipman, Ashley Venier, Sara Dunne, The Parent Involvement Task Force, Jeff Masters, Candace Buikema, Danielle Andrews, Keely Dewey, Kelsey Stone, Kim Conderman, Susan Lauer (four times), Jessica Martin-Graber, Kim Bork (four times), Alicia McPhillips (twice), Katherine Nolan, 4th Grade Team, 5th Grade Team, Abbey Kelly, Jen Freeman, Candy Lind (three times), Rita Gillespie, Zack Sandrock, Ashley Baert, Lani Rogers, Jen Page, Eric Ferguson, Tracy Kitzman, Charla Beck, and Brandon Woodward (twice).

Mr. Matt Schueler from Wipfli presented via Zoom the results of the FY'24 District audit. The District passed the audit. Mr. Schueler provided details on the audit and how the District is doing in comparison to FY'23. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions.

CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner read a thank you note from the Washington School Staff to the Board for time spent in the school and the Board's focus on their concerns.

Mrs. Wegner acknowledged that the Board received a letter from the Jefferson School staff on concerns regarding staffing at Washington School and Jefferson School. The Board will discuss the letter in Executive Session and respond appropriately.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the first reading of board policies, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Gates, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, 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 declaring the intention to issue \$4,500,000 working cash fund bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the district, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions and provide comments. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to approve accepting the FY'24 district audit, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the proposed 2024 tax year levy, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions and provide comments. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea –Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. Areas he highlighted: information on the unofficial school referenda results; information on the levy process; and definitions of terminology to look for during the levy process if the Board has questions.

Mr. Manley provided information on the District's phishing campaign results. Results were positive from the campaign. Mr. Manley and the IT team will continue to utilize these types of campaigns to educate the staff and protect the school district from phishing threats.

Mrs. Empen discussed the bleacher inspection results. This is a required bi-annual inspection. Issues will be corrected; however, the bleachers are safe to utilize.

Mrs. Empen shared information on the Parent-Teacher conferences in October including the number of parents that attended conferences at each building. She commended the teachers and administrators for successful conference numbers and feedback.

Mrs. Empen shared that the building Principals provided updates on their School Improvement Plans in the Board packet. Recognition was given to Madison School for improvements in student growth that took the school from Targeted to Commendable this year. The Board was able to ask questions and provide comments.

The Board discussed the Resolutions that will be brought up at the Delegate Assembly at the Joint Annual Conference. Mrs. Wegner is the Delegate for the Board and will utilize the Board's discussion when voting in the Delegate Assembly during the conference.

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

Mrs. Gates shared information from the Special Education Committee that was held on November 20. Information was shared on presentations and training happening in each building and the positive feedback from teachers.

Mrs. Wegner shared information from the DEA Professional Relations Committee that was held on November 4. Information was shared on building updates from each school.

Mr. Wadsworth shared information from the DESPA Professional Relations Committee that was held on October 22. Information was shared on building updates and behavioral issues across the district.

Mr. Wadsworth and Mrs. Schaefer shared information from the Community Engagement Committee that was held on November 19. They shared that representatives from the ROE presented on attendance issues and resources available to help the District. More research is being done, and meetings are being switched to monthly meetings instead of bi-monthly.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen stated that School Board Members Day was November 15. Mrs. Empen recognized our School Board for their service to the schools and the community.

Mrs. Empen asked for feedback regarding last month's IASB Executive Search presentation. Board members shared that they would like to utilize IASB if we decide to use a search firm for the process. Mr.

Rogers stated that there is a training at the Joint Annual Conference for anyone with further questions on the IASB process. The Board agreed that they would like an action item at the next Board meeting to decide if IASB will be utilized for the Executive Search process.

We have had 2 new FOIA requests since the last Board meeting. Sheri Reid with SmartProcedure requested purchase order records from 7.19.2024 to present; Rick Wilkin with IEA/NEA Rock River Valley requested a list of retirees for the end of the 2024-2025 school year. We have complied with both requests.

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

New Hires

Amanda Tilton, Medical Records Clerk at Dixon High School, effective Nov. 4, 2024

Zina McCoy, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Nov. 18, 2024

Teri Pickett, Special Education Teacher at Thomas J. Dempsey School, effective Jan. 6, 2025

Change in Status

Jane Gascoine, from SIS Support to Office Assistant at Washington School, effective Nov. 18, 2024

Mackenzie Simpson, from Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School to Building Secretary at Washington School, effective Nov. 18, 2024

Trinity Harshman, from Paraprofessional to Library Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Nov. 20, 2024

Bernadette Lybarger, from Lunchroom Assistant to Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School, effective Nov. 21, 2024

Resignations

Ashley Williamson, Paraprofessional at Thomas J. Dempsey School, effective Oct. 22, 2024

April Torres, 5th Grade Teacher at Madison School, effective Oct. 28, 2024

Ashly Torres, 4th Grade Teacher at Madison School, effective Oct. 28, 2024

Rachel Quaco, Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School, effective Nov. 1, 2024

Sarah Wilson, Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School, effective Nov. 8, 2024

Sasha Gomes, Principal's Secretary at Washington School, effective Nov. 15, 2024

Suzanne Weaver, 3rd Grade Accelerated Teacher at Jefferson School, effective end of the 24-25 school year

Retirement

Michelle Bally, English Teacher at Dixon High School, effective at the end of the 2028-2029 school year

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to adjourn to executive session at 8:25 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; Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property; Student disciplinary cases; The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or a potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the public body or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the public body is a member.

This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea- Gates, Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, 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 10:34 p.m. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary