

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 15, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 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 Thursday, October 9, 2025, and to the news media on Friday, October 10, 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; and Mr. Jon Wadsworth

Electronically Present: None

Absent: Kathleen Schaefer

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; Mrs. Kellie Glenn, Principal of Washington School; Mr. Joey Sagel, Principal of Madison School; Mrs. Crystal Thorpe, Principal of Jefferson School; Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, staff and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Sagel and the Young Authors Winners 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, 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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Sagel recognized several Young Authors from the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Magnafici announced the October Students of the Month as Fiona Kelly and Keifer Huynh. 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.

Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President, announced the October teachers of the month – Mackenzie Shipman, Candace Buikeman, Lisa Hoyle, Addie Pace, Alecia Weigle, Eric Ferguson twice, Reni Metzler three times, Candace Lind, Amanda Sawyer, Lynn Longan, Brigitte Becker, and Catie Cox.

CITIZEN’S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner spoke briefly about the SVCC IMPACT Program, and how wonderful it is that students that participate will not have as much college debt.

Washington’s Trunk or Treat will take place on October 29th - Mrs. Empen will represent the BOE at this event.

Former 25 year teacher’s aide, Sandy McCune, passed away at the end of September.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the insurance renewal for the FY 26, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the recommended Music First Curriculum for RMS, as presented. This curriculum, piloted in Spring of ‘25, was presented by Miss Ashley Almquist and Mr. Chris Hansen. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – 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: County Wide Facilities Sales Tax continues to be strong; an operational accounts graph report, and a 3-year comparison of Local, State and Federal revenues and expenses and a prior year vs. current year quick visual graph/report were presented.

Mr. Campbell spoke briefly about a new solar vendor. They offer two programs – a 7 year or a 15 year. There is approximately a 12-month construction time. Board members were able to ask questions and receive more input. If we are interested, we need to move forward quickly. The One Big Beautiful Bill has specific guidelines for solar energy initiatives.

Mrs. Thorpe stated that they are having their Second Annual Fall Carnival on Friday, October 24th, from 5-6pm in their gym.

Mrs. Empen and Mrs. Wegner read through the Delegate Assembly 2025 constitutional amendments that the delegates will vote to adopt or not adopt at the IASB Annual Conference in November. The Board was able to provide input and recommend how Mrs. Wegner should vote at the conference on the Board's behalf.

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

- DEA PRC met on October 6, 2025. Mrs. Wegner shared some concerns and things happening at each school. Washington talked about solutions to help the Pre-K program get students on/off buses. Florissa has done potty training classes for parents in the past. Jefferson's self-contained class is doing a recycling program, it is a job they are enjoying.
- DESPA PRC met on October 14, 2025. Mrs. Gates said there are a lot of trainings coming up that they are looking forward to.
- Community Engagement Committee - Mr. Wadsworth reported that a new survey went out about what to do next; we should have results soon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Wegner and Mrs. Empen provided highlights from the October 2nd IASB division meeting.

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

New Hires

Anna Sirotsinska, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective October 16, 2025

Resignations

Elyse Drowns, Custodian at DHS, effective October 3, 2025

Brianna Grobe, Pre-K for All Parent Coordinator, effective October 17, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to adjourn to executive session at 7:28 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; The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; Student disciplinary cases.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, and seconded by Mrs. Gates, to return to Open Session at 9:00 p.m. This

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary