

## BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
May 21, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President, Linda Wegner. Notification of the meeting together with an agenda and other Board material had been electronically downloaded to the individual Board members on Friday, May 16, 2025, and to the news media on Monday, May 19, 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; Mrs. Melissa Gates, Secretary; Mr. David Fritts; Mrs. Linda LeBlanc-Parks; Mr. Brandon Rogers; 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. John Tate, Assistant Principal of Dixon High School; Mr. Matt Magnafici, Principal of Reagan Middle School; Mrs. Kellie Glenn, Principal of Washington School; Ms. Megan Bus, Assistant 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, DEA Co-President; Mr. Jim Manley, Technology Director; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; Mr. Mark Miller from Bray Architects; media, parents, staff and community members.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jon Empen and Mrs. Dianne Frye 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, 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. Discipline Report
- E. Staff Development Report
- F. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- G. Building Reports

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Wegner read a resolution honoring all 2024-2025 Employee of the Year nominees. Mrs. Wegner then read a resolution honoring the selected employees as the 2024-2025 Employees of the Year. Jordan Miller was

named the Certified Employee of the Year, and Katherine Leslie was named the Non-Certified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Kellie Glenn honored both Employees of the Year by sharing what each employee contributes to their students, Washington School, and the District. Mrs. Glenn also shared direct quotes from the nomination forms about Jordan and Katherine. Both recipients shared their appreciation for the award.

Mrs. Wegner honored all 2024-2025 retirees by reading off their names and positions. Mrs. Dianne Frye and Mr. Jon Empen were present and acknowledged by the Board. A picture was displayed of all retirees from the retirement dinner.

Mr. Tate honored the Illinois Principal's Association award winners from Dixon High School. IPA award winners are recognized for their leadership among their peers and their impact on students. Michelle Bally was named as the winner of the IPA Teacher Award and Amy Ebert was named as the winner of the IPA Certified Support Staff Award.

Ms. Brigitte Becker, Sponsor for the RMS Builder's Club, along with two RMS students, shared the different activities that the school District participated in to help raise over \$10,000 for United Way. Mrs. Empen shared that because of the District's efforts, Dixon Public Schools was presented with the United Way Spirit Award at the annual United Way celebration luncheon.

Mr. Jim Manley introduced the drone soccer team program. Mr. Nick Haws and Mr. Chris Bishop presented the RMS drone soccer team and highlighted the accomplishments of the middle school team. Mr. Paul Wilson and Mr. Charlie Bishop presented the DHS drone soccer team and highlighted the accomplishments of the high school team. A special thanks was given to Kymin Hussung, Bob Wendt, and Candy Lind for their support and help with the team throughout the year.

Mr. Shaner and Mr. Tate announced that Cullen Shaner was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for April, and that Emma Olson was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for May. Both students received this award based on their excellence in academics, character, and involvement in activities at Dixon High School. Both students submitted a video for the Board to view.

Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President, announced the May teachers of the month – Theresa Sholders twelve times, Sara Dune twice, Kenzie Shipman four times, Jill Alston twice, Libby Folgers twice, Angie Ortgiesen, Molly Ferguson, Carie Ramirez, Ashley Venier, Lisa Ellingsen, Stacie McCullough, Hele Rowley, Meg Penafior, The Kindergarten Team, Katie Dewey three times, Kim Conderman, DeeAnn Wendt, Leah Saunders, Teesha Kingham, Kelsey Stone, Danielle Andrews, Liz Stramm, Dorry Kingry twice, Katrina Shirley twice, Shana Engelkes, Jordan Saunders twice, Jen Kuehl, Lisa Hoyle, Carlee Schultz, Britney Pitzer twice, Suzanne Weaver twice, Sarah Hansen twice, Jessica Martin-Graber, Leissa Guthrie, John Barker, Liz Bushman, Leah Meeks, Annalee Kelly, Katie Wood, Alicia McPhillips, Candy Lind twice, Allyson Sidman twice, Chris Hansen, Ashley Almquist, Mark Morris, Nate Geeves, Addie Pace twice, Amy Abell, Katie McNitt, Rita Gillespie, Tracy Kitzman, Gabby Kitzman, Ashley Baert, Erin Rogers, Natalie Gordon, and Mercedes Maglio.

Mr. Kevin Schultz introduced Mr. Mark Miller from Bray Architects. Mr. Miller presented the 10-Year Health, Life, Safety process and findings for Dixon Public Schools. The state mandates that building inspections must be completed every ten years to make sure that buildings are following all priority codes and compliance requirements. Mr. Schultz shared that most items identified as high priority will be fixed or resolved before the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Miller also highlighted information and findings from the facilities assessment for each building. Each building has a ten-year plan in which problematic areas will be addressed and budgeted for appropriately.

#### CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner acknowledged an email received by the Board from Elizabeth Dunlap regarding the extra 30 minutes being added to the school day in the 2025-2025 school year. The Board thanked Ms. Dunlap for her email, and a response will be sent.

### ACTION ITEMS

During the May 6<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting, the Board was unable to elect a Vice-President of the Board of Education due to neither candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast. The Board will vote again on a Vice-President at this time. The candidates are Brandon Rogers, who was nominated by Linda LeBlanc-Parks, and Jon Wadsworth, who was self-nominated. Nominations were closed at the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, and no further nominations will be made. We will begin voting in the order that the candidates were nominated, starting with Brandon Rogers. The motion for the nomination of Brandon Rogers as the Vice President was submitted to a roll call with the following results: Voting yea – Schaefer, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay—Gates, Wadsworth, and Fritts. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to establish a budget hearing for FY'25. 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. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the 10-year Health, Life, Safety review. 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 – LeBlanc-Parks, 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 breakfast and lunch prices for the 25-26 school year. 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.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report and financial update for the District. Areas he highlighted: Whitsons is removing color dyes from the foods they provide; and county facilities sales tax increased by \$38,000 compared to the same time frame last year.

Mr. Stansford gave an overview of summer school dates, locations, instruction, and number of student participants.

Mrs. Empen highlighted the DHS scholarship winners from last week. Over \$200,000 was given out during the scholarship event at Dixon High School.

Mrs. Empen also shared that 14 students from DHS were named Illinois State Scholars. This is based on student grade point average.

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

Mrs. Wegner shared an update from the Insurance Committee that met on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Topics discussed included the state of healthcare and pharmacy, and the new HDHP/HSA insurance plan for the District.

Mr. Wadsworth shared information from the Community Engagement Committee that met on May 20<sup>th</sup>. More details were shared on the attendance campaign that will begin running several weeks before the start of the 2025-2026 school year. The DPS Foundation graciously committed \$3,000 to help fund an advertising campaign for the attendance initiative.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen shared that the Joint Annual Conference for Board members would be November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and registration begins June 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Board members are planning on attending the 2025 conference.

Mrs. Empen shared that RMS promotion is Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Lancaster Gymnasium. All Board members will be in attendance at the ceremony.

Mrs. Empen also shared that DHS Graduation is Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at DHS on A.C. Bowers Field (weather permitting). All Board members will be in attendance at the ceremony.

We have had 1 FOIA request since the last Board meeting. Jeremy Heim from Deltek requested contract documents and amendments for the 2013 bid for student transportation. We have complied with the request.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the following personnel items. 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.

### New Hires

Natalee Boone, Special Education Teacher at Jefferson School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year  
Angel Doyle, Pre-K for All Preschool Teacher at Washington School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Ashley Henegar, Assistant Principal at Reagan Middle School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Stefanie Jordan, Social Worker at Washington School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Alexis Point, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Jefferson School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Abby Risner, Choir Teacher at Dixon High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Molly Stitzel, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Resource Teacher at Madison School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Kaile Valdez, Paraprofessional at Dixon High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Amy Wilcox, Paraprofessional at Dixon High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

### Change in Status

Kayla Ankney, from Paraprofessional at Washington School to Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Sydney Bittner, from Office Assistant at Reagan Middle School to Building Secretary at Dixon High School, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Brenda Quaco, from Paraprofessional at Washington School to Paraprofessional at Dempsey Therapeutic School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

### Resignations

Danielle DeWitt, Special Education Teacher at Washington School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Jon Kingry, Crossing Guard at Jefferson School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Melissa Palacio, Lunchroom Attendant at Madison School, effective May 1, 2025

Annah Rosenbaum, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Katrina Shirley, Music Teacher at Jefferson School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Elizabeth Stamm, Title I Teacher at Jefferson School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

### Retirements

Dorraine Kingry, Title I Teacher at Jefferson School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

### **Dismissals**

Esmeralda Rangel, Custodian at Dixon High School, effective May 21, 2025

Melissa Stowell, Paraprofessional at Dempsey Therapeutic Day School, effective May 21, 2025

### **New Facilitator**

Maggie Curry, Physical Education Facilitator at Dixon High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

### **Facilitator Resignation**

Jennifer Kuehl, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Facilitator, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

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

Jesse Arjes – JV Softball – ½ stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Rick Shroyer – JV Softball – ½ stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Denise Ewers – Accompanist – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Richard Dingraudo – Accompanist – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Zack Heitz – Head Summer Strength – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Brad Winterland – Assistant Summer Strength – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Tyler Matteson – Assistant Summer Strength – ½ stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year

### **2024-25 Coaching/Activities Resignations**

Eric Fergusson, RMS Assistant Scholastic Bowl Coach, effective May 21, 2025

Candance Lind, RMS Scholastic Bowl Coach, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to adjourn to executive session at 8:02 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; Student disciplinary cases.

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.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, and seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks to return to Open Session at 9:12 p.m. 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.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the raises for the non-certified, non-union staff and Administration for the 2025-2026 school year. 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 Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the sub teacher rates for the 2025-2026 school year. 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.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, seconded by Mr. Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. All were in favor.

---

President

---

Secretary