

# BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

## Dixon, Illinois REGULAR BOARD MEETING August 20, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, August 20, 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 Friday, August 15, 2025 and to the news media on Monday, August 18, 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; 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. Janine Huffman, Principal of Thomas J. Dempsey School; Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, staff and community members.

Electronically present: None

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Christopher Bishop 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 and CLSEA Treasurer's Report and DPS Monthly Bills
- C. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- D. Fuel Purchase

### CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

### CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner read a thank you note from Friends of the Nachusa Grasslands.

## ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to establish a FY 26 budget hearing, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions and make comments. 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 second reading of board policies, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions and make 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the updated 2025-2026 substitute teacher rates, 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. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the music therapy agreement for Dempsey Day School, as presented. 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 Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the Board legacy statements, 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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the school improvement plan for Washington School, 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 motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the school improvement plan for Reagan Middle School, 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 Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the school improvement plan for Dixon High School, as presented. 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 school improvement plan for Dempsey Therapeutic Day School, 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the handbook for Dempsey Therapeutic Day School, as presented. 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. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the settlement agreement resolving special education due process case for student 6262, 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. He highlighted the following: the District received a grant to utilize on the air conditioning unit at RMS; evidence-based funding in the state of Illinois; a county facility sales tax update; a CPPRT update; and an overview of the health insurance plan costs and increases for January 1, 2026.

Mr. Campbell provided a copier vendor update. Marco is the new copier vendor that will be recommended to the Board at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Stansford provided a summer school report for the District. He highlighted the decrease in the number of students required to attend summer school this year, and the high attendance percentages.

Mrs. Mandy Dallas, Mrs. Hele Rowley, and Mrs. Carie Ramirez shared a recap of Tools for School. They shared that 580 students were provided with supplies this year.

Mrs. Empen highlighted the registration information for the 2025-2026 school year. Student enrollment is down 140 students from last school year.

Mr. Magnafici and Mr. Bishop provided information on the America 250 celebration.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen informed the Board that the Fall Northwest Division meeting is October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at Winnebago High School. Dr. Tony Sanders, the State Superintendent, will be the speaker.

Mrs. Empen asked the Board members if they would like to continue in their current capacities as committee representatives. All Board members agreed that they will continue with their committees.

Mrs. Empen asked if anyone would like to be the Board delegate representative at the Delegate Assembly at the IASB conference in November. The Board will consider it and decide at a later date.

We have had one FOIA request since the last Board meeting – Sarah Bereckis from Sterling Federal Bank requested three months of our DPS bank statements from Midland States Bank. We have complied with this request.

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

#### New Hires

Matthew Payne, Crossing Guard at Jefferson School, effective August 13, 2025

Elizabeth Ratliff, Paraprofessional at Dempsey Day School, effective August 18, 2025

Carissa Snelling, Lunchroom Attendant at Madison School, effective August 13, 2025

#### Change of Status

Megan Bus, from Dean of Students to Assistant Principal at Washington School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

### **Resignations**

Kendall Fassler, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective August 14, 2025

Nicole Huys, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective August 7, 2025

### **Dismissals**

Robert Collins, Custodian at Dempsey Day School, effective August 20, 2025

Carrie Goldie, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective August 20, 2025

### **2025-26 Dixon High School Coaches/Activities**

Laiff Jacobson – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Tyler Matteson – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Brad Winterland – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Brandon Woodward – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Kyle Lawrence – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Luke Ravlin – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Cameron Yeater – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Matt Coffey – Assistant Football – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Cole Ruckman – Assistant Golf – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Rick Kent – Assistant Girls Tennis – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Steve Carlson – Assistant Volleyball – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Alyssa Kruger – Assistant Volleyball – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Emily Bay – Assistant Volleyball – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Ashley Almquist – Marching Band Assistant – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Ben Lightner – Fall Play Director – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Grace Wadsworth – Assistant Fall Play Director – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Terry Fuger – Lighting and Sound – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Jacob Fane – Assistant Boys Soccer – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Zack Heitz – Head Fall Strength Coach – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Brandon Woodward – Class Officers – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Dan Crawford – Class Officers – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Jessica Anderson – Math Team – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Michelle Bally – Dixini Yearbook – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Michelle Bally – Dixonian Newspaper – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Aaron Eddy – Student Council – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Mercedes Maglio – Band-Non-Musical – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Abby Risner – Vocal-Non-Musical – effective for the 2025-26 school year

### **2025-26 RMS Coaches/Activities**

Cassie Buhlig – Volleyball – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Serena Venier - Volleyball – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Kolten Dorty - Volleyball – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Don Randick - Volleyball – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Maggie Love – Assistant Cross Country – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Brigitte Becker - RMS Student Council – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Brigitte Becker - RMS Newspaper – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Sarah Wilson - RMS Yearbook – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Ashley Almquist - RMS Musical/Choral – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Ashley Almquist - RMS Band – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Chris Hansen - Elementary Band – effective for the 2025-26 school year

### **2025-26 Volunteer Coaches**

Jana Halfacre – Assistant DHS Cheer – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Damon Bautista – Assistant RMS/DHS Boys Cross Country – effective for the 2025-26 school year

Aiden Johnson – Assistant DHS Boys Cross Country - effective for the 2025-26 school year

Evan Thorpe – Assistant DHS Boys Cross Country – effective for the 2025-26 school year

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to adjourn to executive session at 7:19 p.m. for the purpose of 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 the 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- 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 Mr. Rogers, to return to Open Session at 8:44 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. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. All were in favor.

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President

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Secretary