

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 15, 2026

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 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, April 10, 2026, and to the news media on Monday, April 13, 2026.

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; Mrs. Linda LeBlanc-Parks (in at 6:12 p.m.), Mrs. Kathleen Schaefer, and Mr. Jon Wadsworth

Electronically Present: None

Absent: Mr. David Fritts

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Paul Wilson 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 – Gates, 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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Downie and Mr. Magnafici announced the April and May Students of the Month as Tyce Dykema, Brynleigh Davis, Sophia Gutierrez, and Camille Masters. All students were acknowledged for their leadership,

character, academic excellence, and involvement in activities at Reagan Middle School. All students provided a video for the Board to view.

CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the food service management contract, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the updated permanent substitute job description, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. He highlighted the following: ISIN voted to return \$700,000 in reserves to the District, and the District should receive those funds back within the next few weeks; the District received the highest county-wide facility sales tax ever received, which corresponded with fourth quarter sales.

Mr. Campbell shared information on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) update.

Mr. Shaner recognized the All Conference Scholars and Big Northern Conference Athletes for Winter.

Winter sports ticket sales were provided.

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

Mrs. Wegner shared an update from the DEA PRC meeting on April 13th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen let the Board know that the Joint Annual Conference is November 20th-22nd in Chicago. Any Board members that would like to go should let Erin Grubic know by the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Empen asked the Board if it would be possible to reschedule the May Board meeting to May 13th.

There has been 1 FOIA requests since the last Board meeting: CT Mills from Public Info Access LLC has requested contact information for employees in specific leadership roles in the District. We have complied with the request.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, 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 – Schaefer, Wadsworth, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

New Hires

James Edwards, Custodian at Dixon High School, effective April 16th, 2026

Kaylin Newman, Special Education Teacher at Washington School, effective for the 26-27 school year

Alexis Oliver, Guidance Office Secretary, effective for the 26-27 school year

Recommendation for Tenure

Allyson Sidman, Math Teacher at Reagan Middle School, effective for the 26-27 school year

Resignations

Jane Gascoine, Secretary at Washington School, effective September 4, 2026

Leslie Haenitsch, Special Ed Teacher at Dixon High School, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year

Jordan Harrison, Paraprofessional at Dempsey Day School, effective March 18, 2026

Diane Pavesich, Paraprofessional at Madison School, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to adjourn to executive session at 6:30 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; 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; Student disciplinary cases.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, and seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to return to Open Session at 6:50 p.m.

This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, 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 6:50 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary