

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 15, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and was called to order at 6:02 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, January 10, 2025, and to the news media on Monday, January 13, 2025.

The meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the Dixon Public Schools YouTube channel following the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Physically Present: Mrs. Linda Wegner, President; Mr. Brandon Rogers, Vice President; Mrs. Linda LeBlanc-Parks, Secretary; Mr. David Fritts; 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. Kevin Schultz, Director of Building and Grounds; Mr. Jared Shaner, Principal of Dixon High School; Mr. John Tate, Assistant Principal of Dixon High School; Mrs. Kylie Downie, Assistant 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, DEA Co-President; Mr. James Manley, IT Director, Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, parents, staff and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Grace Shoemaker-Fenwick 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 & Discipline Report
- E. Staff Development Report
- F. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- G. IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Ewers presented the DHS Madrigal singers who performed three songs for the Board and guests.

Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ewers, and Ms. Almquist presented the band and choir students from DHS and RMS who were accepted into the ILMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) District 8 Festival and those who successfully auditioned for ILMEA. There are several students who are going to the State Level. Many of the students were in attendance.

Mr. Magnafici and Mrs. Downie announced the January Students of the Month as Emma Nicklaus and Dylan Nag. 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 Leah Stees was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for January. Leah received this award based on her excellence in academics, her character, and her involvement in activities at Dixon High School. Leah submitted a video for the Board to view.

Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President, announced the January teachers of the month – Molly Ferguson, Carmen Heim, Amy Doane, DeeAnn Wendt, Dorry Kingry twice, Katrina Shirley twice, Lizzy Stamm, Britney Pitzer, Keely Dewey, Breanna Shippert, Jen Kuehl, Jordan Saunders, Julie Merdian, Hallie Nelson, Katherine Nolan, Kim Bork, Gabby Kitzman twice, Kelly Reul twice, Nate Geeves, Carrie Weidman, Chris Hansen, Chris Bishop, Julia Thornton, Rita Gillespie, Allison Johnston, Brandon Woodward, Dan Crawford, and Michelle Bally.

#### CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None

#### ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the resolution to sell working cash bonds, as presented. Mr. Campbell presented information on the resolution. 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.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. Areas he highlighted: fund balance policy, the DPS bond rating, and information on gifting the Ella Kentner Fund to the DPS Foundation.

Mr. Stansford shared the overall STAR Math and ELA proficiency data for the district over the past four years for grades K-10th for ELA and 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> for Math; the trend lines are increasing for both areas. Mr. Stansford also presented some of the activities and programs that the district utilizes to assist students in increasing their Math and ELA knowledge. Building administrators shared school improvement plans (SIP) and grade level testing data updates for each school.

Mrs. Glenn presented that Washington School has a partnership with a Conscious Discipline coach that provides training and strategies on how to help adults and students stay calm during elevated situations, and how to build relationships and connections with students.

Mrs. Thorpe shared the strategies that 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers are utilizing to improve students' skill levels. Strategies included skill blocks, utilizing small groups and one-on-one sessions in the classrooms, and utilizing the local curriculum to accurately assess students. She stated that three times as many students were projected to meet the standards of IAR testing compared to this same point last year.

Mr. Sagel presented that Madison teachers are working on pacing guides and spending more one-on-one time with students that need more instruction and individualization. Madison has switched to standards-based grading instead of letter grades, which helps a parent have a better understanding of how their student is progressing in the classroom.

Mrs. Downie presented that Reagan Middle School is utilizing interventions at the middle school level, which previously has not been done for those grade levels. Intervention groups have been created, and the groups utilize the whole group, smaller groups, and independent work to improve their Math and ELA skills. All areas have improved since the intervention groups were created.

Mr. Shaner shared that the high school is utilizing ACT practice tests to help prep for the test. Administration and counselors are identifying students that are in jeopardy of falling off course for graduation and are utilizing interventions to get the students back on track towards graduation. Chronic absenteeism is also being addressed with policy changes and increased parent communication.

Mrs. Huffman shared that at Thomas J. Dempsey the teachers are tracking behavioral data daily. Teachers and administration discuss issues weekly. Overall, behavioral issues are declining. Mrs. Huffman also shared incentive programs that are occurring at Dempsey that are engaging students in their education.

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

Mr. Wadsworth and Mrs. Schaefer shared information from the Community Engagement Committee that was held on January 14. The committee continues to work on an absenteeism project and is starting to work on a campaign to educate parents and the general population on the importance of school attendance and the impact on the student in the long term.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen and Mrs. Wegner shared highlights on the progress of contract negotiations with the DEA. Negotiations started in October and through interest-based bargaining the contract is projected to be completed this month.

We have not had any new FOIA request since the last Board meeting.

Mrs. Wegner shared that Stupor Bowl is on February 8<sup>th</sup> and that the community can still sign up a team to participate in the event, or anyone can come to watch. She also praised the DPS Foundation for their support of the students and the District through scholarships and teacher grants.

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

#### **New Hires**

Annah Rosenbaum, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective Jan. 15, 2025

#### **Resignations**

Zachariah Sandrock, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher at RMS, effective end of the 2024-2025 school year

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

Dan Crawford – Assistant Baseball – effective for the 2024-25 school year

Tyler Matteson - Assistant Baseball - split stipend - effective for the 2024-25 school year

Oscar Van Sickle - Assistant Baseball – split stipend - effective for the 2024-25 school year

Jason Burgess – Winter Head Strength - split stipend - effective for the 2024-25 school year

Brad Winterland – Winter Head Strength - split stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Zack Heitz – Winter Assistant Strength - effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Britney Pitzer – Assistant Girls Soccer - split stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Hallie Nelson – Assistant Girls Soccer - split stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Lee Eastman – Assistant Girls Track – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Megan Hildreth – Assistant Girls Track – split stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Maggie Love – Assistant Girls Track – split stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Tayla Schwarz – Assistant Girls Track – split stipend – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Rick Kent – Head Boys Tennis – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Amanda Kemmerer – Assistant Boys Tennis – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Leslie Butler – Assistant Softball – effective for the 2024-25 school year

### **2024-25 Reagan Middle School Coaches**

Eric Ferguson – RMS Assistant Scholastic Bowl Coach – effective for the 2024-25 school year

### **2024-25 Volunteer Coaches**

Chris Van Horn – DHS Assistant Baseball – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Doug Carlson – DHS Assistant Baseball – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Kaleb Crawford – DHS Assistant Baseball - effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Jake Hubbell – DHS Assistant Baseball - effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Jake Gaither – DHS Assistant Baseball - effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Sam Ramirez – DHS Softball - effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Carie Ramirez – DHS Softball – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Rick Shroyer – DHS Softball – effective for the 2024-25 school year  
Jesse Arjes – DHS Softball – effective for the 2024-25 school year

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

Sam Hildebrand – DHS Group Interpretation – effective immediately  
Breanna Shippert – RMS Assistant Track

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to adjourn to executive session at 8:05 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; Student discipline cases; and Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.

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.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, and seconded by Mr. Rogers to return to Open Session at 9:14p.m. 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.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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President

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Secretary