

# BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

## Dixon, Illinois REGULAR BOARD MEETING November 19, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, November 19, 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, November 14, 2025, and to the news media on Monday, November 17, 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; 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. Janine Huffman, Principal of Dempsey Day School; Mrs. Kim Bork, DEA Co-President; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, staff and community members.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The DHS Cross Country team led the Board of Education, administrative staff, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Empen asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove the action item stating “Approve the Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement with the Dixon Park District for Chuck Vail Drive”. A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to amend the agenda. Mrs. Empen explained that the action item did not have all of the supporting documents needed for the Board to vote on it at this time. The action item will be added to the December Board meeting agenda. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

The Board, administrative staff, and visitors honored George Howe, former WIXN reporter, with a moment of silence.

### 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, 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. Natalie Gordon and two students from the DHS Life Skills and Transitions classes, Emily Conderman and Anthony Burke, presented their business, DHS Shredders. They presented a commercial for their fire-starting blocks and starters, and Mrs. Gordon gave an overview of how the program started. Mrs. Gordon and the students explained the process for making their products, how they sell their fire starters, and shared other products and services they will be working on for the future. Order forms were available to anyone interested in purchasing their products.

Mr. Simon Thorpe, Mr. Aidan Johnson, and the boys' DHS Cross Country Team were recognized for their first-place finish as a team at state. Mr. Thorpe shared a video from the season, shared praise of his team, and introduced the team to the Board. Daniela Lovett was recognized from the girls' team for competing at state as an individual and placing 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Magnafici and Mrs. Downie announced the November Students of the Month as Grace Conderman and Griffin Arduini. 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 Daniela Lovett was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for October, and Jayden Toms was selected as the Student of the Month for November. Both students received this award based on their excellence in academics, their character, and their 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 November teachers of the month – Carie Ramirez twice, Molly Ferguson, Ashley Venier, Libby Folgers, Hele Rowley, Sara Dunne twice, Jill Alston twice, Stefanie Jordan, Leah Saunders, Jordan Saunders twice, Katie Dewey, Kelsey Middleton, Carter Schlegel, Kim Conderman, Deann Wendt, Clara Haas twice, Alexa Reeder, John Barker, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Team, Sue Lauer, Kim Bork, Jen Freeman, Julia Thornton, Carrie Weidman, Chris Bishop, Lani Rogers, Addie Pace, Lynn Longan, Candy Lind, Jennifer Hall, Ally Goley, Abigail Risner, and Mercedes Maglio.

Mr. Shawn Stonesifer from SolarOne presented information and a timeline on a potential solar project for the district. The project would save the district \$70,000-\$80,000 a year in operating power costs. The Board was able to ask questions and make comments on the project.

### CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

### CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner read and passed around thank you notes from the RMS music department.

### ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the proposed 2025 tax year levy, as presented. Mr. Campbell presented information on the tax levy. This motion was submitted to a roll call

vote with the following results: Voting yea – Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve establishing a truth in taxation hearing in December, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the FY 26 Small Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG), as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the Health Life Safety door bid contract for DHS, as presented. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Solar One contract, as presented. The Board was able to provide comments and ask questions. This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea – Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. He highlighted the following: county facility sales tax from July hit a new high, and information on Lee County births rates to help project student enrollment to assist with financial decisions.

A recap of the number of participating parents from the Fall parent/teacher conferences was provided in the Board packet.

A list of Fall All Conference scholar athletes and BNC All Conference athletes was provided in the Board packet and recognized by the Board.

A Fall sports summary was provided in the Board packet. Mrs. Empen recognized the Booster Club and staff for assisting at games throughout the district.

Mrs. Empen reminded the Board of the snow, ice, and inclement weather days policy for the district.

Mrs. Empen shared that all six buildings have a summative designation as “Commendable” with the State of Illinois. Mrs. Empen praised staff, administration, and students for their hard work in receiving this designation.

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

- DEA PRC met on November 7, 2025 - Mrs. Wegner shared information from the meeting including: discussing the 2026-2027 school calendar, a possible holiday party policy change, and the shortage of paraprofessionals throughout the district.

- Special Education Committee met on November 19, 2025 - Mrs. Gates shared that there are new forms and policies coming from ISBE, and training happening throughout the district. Dempsey Day School is having dinner for Thanksgiving and a Secret Santa event this year. Washington is starting a coffee cart for staff and a family fun night with My Place Village to build connections between families.
- Community Engagement Committee met on November 18, 2025 - Mr. Wadsworth and Mrs. Schaefer stated that the committee is still working on ideas for a Disconnect to Connect campaign or event.
- Curriculum Committee met on November 13, 2025 – Mr. Rogers shared information from the meeting with the Board.

### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Kelli Full, Assistant Principal at Jefferson School, was nominated as an administrator for the “Those who Excel” award through the State of Illinois. Mrs. Full will find out in the Spring if she won the award at the state level.

Press Issue 120 is now available. There will be a first reading of the policies in December, and a second and final reading in January.

Mrs. Empen shared that packets will be provided for the Joint Annual Conference for the upcoming weekend. She asked that each Board member share a few things that they learn from the conference at the December Board meeting.

There have been no FOIA requests since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Shaner and Mrs. Empen shared that the Dixon Drawdown, a yearly fundraiser for Dixon Athletics, is on Saturday, November 22.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, 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, Schaefer, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

#### New Hires

Jill Ellison, Lunchroom Attendant at Washington School, effective Nov. 3, 2025

Sarah Wilson, Pre-School for All Parent Coordinator, effective Nov. 10, 2025

#### Change of Status

Gretchen Bulfer, from Paraprofessional at Madison School to Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Nov, 10, 2025

#### Retirement

Teri Pickett, Special Education Teacher at Dempsey Day School, effective Dec. 19, 2025

#### Resignations

Ian Gordon, Custodian at Dixon High School, effective Nov. 14, 2025

Shannon Lahman, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Nov. 3, 2025

Stephanie Terranova, Lunchroom Attendant at Washington School, effective Oct. 31, 2025

### **Unpaid Leave of Absence**

Lisa Hellyer, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School due to student teaching, effective Jan. 20 – May 8, 2026

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

Chris Harmann – Head Boys Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Kolten Dorty – Assistant Boys Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
DJ Olalde – Assistant Boys Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Aaron Harris – Assistant Boys Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Luke Ravlin – Head Girls Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Aaron Book – Assistant Girls Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Catie Cox – Assistant Girls Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Maggie Curry – Assistant Girls Basketball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Micah Hey – Head Wrestling – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Evan Thorpe – Assistant Wrestling – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Jacob Hey – Assistant Wrestling – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Matt Linder – Assistant Wrestling – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Larry Lacoursiere – Head Bowling – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Ryan Hoffman – Director of Musical – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Ashley Almquist – Assistant Music Director – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Abby Risner - Music Director – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Natalie Wooden – Choreographer – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Megan Hildreth – Head Girls Track – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Jason Burgess – Head Baseball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Ryan Deets – Head Boys Track – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Candi Rogers – Head Softball – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Josh Brigl – Head Girls Soccer – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Tom Padilla – Scholastic Bowl – effective for the 2025-26 school year

### **2025-26 RMS Coaches**

Sarah Wilson – Cheer – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Adam Gerber – Head Scholastic Bowl – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Jason Weidman – Head Wrestling – effective for the 2025-26 school year

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

Kylian Lally – DHS Wrestling – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Colin Brinkmeier – DHS Wrestling – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Jamie Hey – DHS Wrestling – effective for the 2025-26 school year  
Quinn Staples – DHS Wrestling – effective for the 2025-26 school year

### **2025-26 Resignations**

Jared Shaner – Head Football Coach – effective at the end of the 2025-2026 season

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to adjourn to executive session at 8:00 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 disciplinary cases.

This motion was submitted to a roll call vote with the following results: Voting yea- Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, 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 10:12 p.m.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m. All were in favor.

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President

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Secretary