

REGULAR  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
January 27, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

President Michael Lenisa called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomingdale Elementary School District 13 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025.

Roll Call

Present: Ms. Monika Cuellar, Mr. Marcin Kapral, Mrs. Nicole Majewski, Mr. Terry McKeown, Ms. Tamara Peterson, Mrs. Linda Wojcicki, Mr. Michael Lenisa

Absent:

Others Present: Dr. Jon Bartelt, Shannon Zinner, Nicole Gabany, Valerie Varhalla, Elizabeth Hennessy, Ryan Kelley, Peter Kuhn, Brendan Keane, Ben Steele, Patti Edwards, Sam Menton, Mike Murray

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to approve the items in the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on 12-16-24, and the Minutes from the Closed Session Board Meeting on 12-16-24. Approval of Bills in the Education Fund in the amount of \$159,887.89; the Operations and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$78,288.20; Debt Service in the amount of \$0.00; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$205,575.76; Capital Projects in the amount of \$0.00; and Tort Fund in the amount of \$150.00; Payroll (12-20-2024) in the amount of \$472,509.65, (01-10-2025) in the amount of \$497,638.84 and (01-24-2025) in the amount of \$466,953.30; the Financial Reports as shown in (F.D. 01/27/25-2); G-17 Disclosure and Engagement Letter with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. (F.D. 01/27/2025-3) **New Hires**, Marya Mansavage, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 01/06/25; **Resignations/Retirements**, Lindsay Kotar, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 12/20/24, Ye Chen, Paraprofessional at Westfield effective 01/06/25, Sydney Cihak, Paraprofessional at Westfield effective 01/06-25 - 03/14/25, Shaima Afzal, Paraprofessional at DuJardin effective 01/06/25 - 04/28/25, Paul Paoletti, Custodian at Westfield effective 01/21/2025.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Wojcicki, Cuellar, Majewski, McKeown, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: Kapral

Motion Carried: 6 – 0 – 1

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Superintendent Goals Midterm Report**

Dr. Bartelt presented the report on his progress towards the completion of his goals to the Board.

### **School Fees**

Ms. Varhalla provided an update on the adjustments that are being suggested for school fees beginning at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

### **Summer Projects**

Mr. Rosales reviewed some of the key summer projects identified to be addressed following the end of the current school year.

### **Student Enrollment Projections**

Ms. Varhalla presented student enrollment projections for the upcoming school year to the board.

## **Public Comment**

Mike Murray, representing the Bloomingdale Township Children's Network, which is sponsored by the Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Board, spoke to the Board about their hope to start an early childhood collaborative that would include involvement from Bloomingdale School District 13 as well as the other feeder districts of Lake Park High School.

Sam Menton spoke to the board about his intent to continue to support and fight for District 13 in 2025. He inquired about House Bill 5394 and what agency provided training to District staff as part of this bill, the number of defibrillators that are housed within the District, and how the need for medical assistance is communicated throughout the buildings. Mr. Menton also asked about whether and/or when the District applied for the ComEd rebate.

## **Board Reports and Requests**

BIG – Mrs. Majewski attended this month's meeting. She shared updates from the village that included the timeline for demolition at Stratford Square, and the Indian Lakes flood mitigation. Updates from the library included upcoming renovations to the lower level washrooms and a new AC on the roof. They are entering their 50th anniversary year, and are celebrating with a big party on Saturday, June 8.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition – Mrs. Wojcicki indicated that they are working on the recognition breakfast. Applications need to be submitted by March 1. The event will take place on Saturday, May 3 at Erickson Elementary School.

Education Foundation – Mrs. Wojcicki indicated that the Education Foundation’s insurance company has agreed to the verbage from our insurance company, so we will have insurance certificates soon for the glow run fundraising events on March 17 at Westfield, March 18 at Erickson and March 19 at DuJardin .

LEND - Mrs. Majewski indicated that they met on Friday, which was the start of the 104th general assembly. Their focus right now is how to fix tier 2 while being in a huge budget deficit.

NDSEC – Mr. Kapral indicated that there was no government or operational meeting this month.

Bloomington Council of Teachers – Mr. Lenisa indicated that he and Mrs. Majewski met with the representatives of the group to begin negotiations on their contract.

IASB - Mr. McKeown indicated that their first advocacy meeting will be February 7.

#### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

Mr. Lenisa indicated that there was one FOIA request summarized in the Board packet.

#### **Action Items**

##### **Closed Session Minutes Review and Digital Recording Erasure (F.D. 1/27/2025-4)**

A motion was made by Mrs. Majewski and seconded by Ms. Peterson for the Board to approve the continued unavailability of closed session minutes, and the destruction of closed session audio tape or digital recordings for the board meeting 18 months or older.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Ayes: Majewski, Peterson, Cuellar, Kapral, McKeown, Wojcicki, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0 – 0

Approval of School Construction Manager (F.D. 1/27/25-5)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wojcicki and seconded by Mrs. Majewski for the Board to approve Bulley & Andrews as construction manager for the building projects and authorize the Superintendent to sign the AIA agreement with the firm following the review from the District's attorneys..

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Wojcicki, Majewski, Cuellar, Kapral, McKeown, Peterson, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0 – 0

Resolution for the Designation of Person to Prepare the Budget (F.D. 1/27/25-6)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Cuellar for the Board to approve the Resolution to designate Valerie Varhalla to prepare the budget for FY2025-2026, and authorize its officers to sign the resolution, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Cuellar, Kapral, Majewski, McKeown, Wojcicki, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0 – 0

Amend Agenda to Move the Vote on the Adoption of the Resolution to Dismiss Tenured Staff Member until After the Closed Session Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to amend the agenda to move the vote on the adoption of the resolution to dismiss tenured staff member until after the closed session meeting..

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McKeown, Wojcicki, Cuellar, Kapral, Majewski, Peterson, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0 – 0

**Discussion Items**

Building Projects

Elizabeth Hennessy from Raymond James and Ryan Kelley from DLA Architects provided updates to the board on topics including a review of the construction bonds draw down schedule; life safety bonding needs; public hearing on the referendum bonds and timeline and draft parameters.

First Reading of Amendments to Board Policy

Dr. Bartelt reviewed proposed policy 4:20 Fund Balances with the board, which is a consideration during the District's Bond Rating process.

**Topic(s) for Future Agendas**

None

**For Information**

Enrollment Report

Available for review in the Board packet.

Second Quarter Budget Report

Available for review in the Board packet.

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to adjourn to closed session at 9:06 p.m. to discuss matters related to appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and collective bargaining.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McKeown, Wojcicki, Cuellar, Kapral, Majewski, Peterson, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0 – 0

President Michael Lenisa called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomingdale Elementary School District 13 back to order at 10:19 p.m.

**Action Items**

**Adopt the Resolution to Dismiss Tenured Staff Member (F.D. 1/27/2025-7)**

A motion was made by Mr. Kapral and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to adopt the Resolution to Dismiss Tenured Staff Member Nicole Koszuta, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Kapral, Wojcicki, Cuellar, Majewski, McKeown, Peterson, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0 – 0

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Kapral to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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Michael Lenisa, President

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Linda Wojcicki, Secretary