

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 14, 2026

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 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, January 9, 2026, and to the news media on Monday, January 12, 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; 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. John Tate, Assistant 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. Kellie Glenn, Principal of Washington School; Mrs. Janine Huffman, Principal of Dempsey Day School; Mr. Paul Wilson, Tech; media, staff, and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The ILMEA students led the Board of Education, administrative staff, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, 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. Enrollment and Discipline Report
- E. Staff Development Report
- F. Monthly Website and Social Media Activity
- G. Building Reports
- H. IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Ashley Almquist and Ms. Abby Risner presented the ILMEA participants. 15 students were in attendance to be recognized by the Board and guests.

Mr. Magnafici and Mrs. Downie announced the January Students of the Month as Jordan Wirth and Taylor Pratt. 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 and Mr. Tate announced that Lilyanna Herrera was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for January. She received this award based on her excellence in academics, character, and involvement in activities at Dixon High School. Lilyanna submitted a video for the Board to view.

Mrs. Bork announced the January teachers of the month – Michelle Spinden, Alyssa Hanrahan, Stefanie Jordan, Lisa Hoyle, Shana Engelkes, Danielle Andrews, Molly Stitzel, Liz Bushman, Katherine Nolan, Mark Morris, Lani Rogers, and Ryan Hoffman.

CITIZEN’S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner read a thank you note from Steve Marco.

Mrs. Wegner asked for a moment of silence to honor Glenna Switzer, former teacher at Dixon Public Schools for over 30 years.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the Solar One Power Purchase agreements, as presented. 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. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the disposal of obsolete equipment, 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 resolution and intergovernmental agreement with the Park District for Chuck Vail Drive, 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the second reading of Board policies, 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 Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar, as presented. 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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Preschool for All Parent Coordinator job description, 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.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mrs. Empen and Mr. Campbell presented a deficit reduction plan recommendation to the Board. The recommendation included a hiring freeze for the next 2 to 3 years, retirement attrition information, potential cost saving opportunities, grant funding allocations, and miscellaneous budget impact items. The Board was able to ask questions and make comments on the recommendation.

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. He highlighted the following: the DPS small maintenance project grant (SMPG) was approved by the state, a health life safety amendment for stage curtains at Madison School and Dixon High School, mandated categorical payments, and a year-to-date revenue overview. Mr. Campbell also gave an update on an electrical project at Madison School that will need to be updated in order for the solar project to work at the building.

Mr. Manley provided a technology update on internet network infrastructure for the District.

Mr. Tate presented information on a senior incentive program for the high school allowing seniors that meet attendance, grade, and discipline requirements to leave school early after 7th hour, which is the students' advisory period.

School improvement plan (SIP) updates were provided by each building administrator. Mr. Stansford gave an overview of the SIP data for the District.

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

DEA PRC met January 5th – Mrs. Wegner gave an update from the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen shared information on the Northwest Division meeting in Fulton in March. It is a hybrid meeting.

Mrs. Empen asked for participants for the 2026 DPS Stupor Bowl team. Stupor Bowl will be February 7th.

There have been 2 FOIA requests since the last Board meeting. Virgil Wefer requested all executed contracts for student transportation services from July 1, 2022 to present; and Payton Felix from Sauk Valley Media requested FOIA requests submitted by NW Illinois News and its affiliates. We have complied with both requests.

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

New Hires

Amanda McArthur, Custodian at Dixon High School, effective January 5, 2026

Jessica Wind, Special Education Teacher at Dixon High School, effective January 5, 2026

Change of Status

Courtney Forristall, from Health Assistant at Madison School to Health Assistant at Madison/RMS, effective Jan. 5, 2026

Dixon High School Coaches

Brad Winterland – Winter Strength Coach – Partial Stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Jason Burgess - Winter Strength Coach – Partial Stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Cam Yeater – Winter Strength Coach – Partial Stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Zack Heitz – Assistant Winter Strength Coach – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Brad Winterland – Head Football Coach – effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Brandon Woodward – Assistant Boys Track – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Simon Thorpe – Assistant Boys Track – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

JD Gieson – Assistant Boys Track – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Steve Sulfridge – Assistant Boys Track – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Lee Eastman – Assistant Girls Track – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Cam Yeater – Assistant Girls Track – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Alicia McPhillips – Assistant Girls Track – Partial Stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Tayla Schwarz – Assistant Girls Track – Partial Stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

RMS Coaches

Katie Drew – Assistant Girls Basketball – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Coaches/Activities Resignations

Don Randick – RMS Track – effective immediately

Mr. Roger Fegan presented Mr. Brad Winterland as the new Head Football Coach for the 2026-2027 school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to adjourn to executive session at 7:41 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; Student disciplinary cases.

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.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, and seconded by Mrs. Gates, to return to Open Session at 8:23 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 8:23 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary