

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 18, 2026

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, March 18, 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, March 13, 2026, and to the news media on Monday, March 16, 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. Jared Shaner, Principal of Dixon High School; Mr. Jon Tate, Assistant Principal of Dixon High School; Mr. Roger Fegan, Athletic Director at Dixon High School; Mr. Matt Magnafici, Principal at Reagan Middle School; Mrs. Kylie Downie, Assistant 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 Brown Family 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, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, and Wegner. Voting nay--none. Motion unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

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

Monthly Website and Social Media Activity

G. Building Reports

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Downie announced the March Students of the Month as Zain Monroe and Stephen Lybarger. 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 Aidan Brown was selected as the Dixon Public Schools Foundation Student of the Month for March. He received this award based on his excellence in academics, character, and involvement in activities at Dixon High School. Aidan submitted a video for the Board to view.

Mrs. Bork announced the March teachers of the month – Rhonda Scott, Carter Schlegel, Jordan Saunders, Kelsey Middleton, Amy Scott, Leah Meeks, Kim Bork twice, Megan Young, Hallie Nelson twice, Alexa Reeder, Abbey Kelly, Katherine Nolan twice, Alicia McPhillips, Mark Morris, Katie McNitt twice, Allyson Sidman, Beth Kent, Kelly Reul, Barb Zimmerman, Jen Page, Jamie Brigl, Tayla Schwarz, Zack Heitz, Brad Winterland, Ben Sutton, and Jessica Anderson.

CITIZEN’S AGENDA

Mr. John Haas provided a statement on concerns with the school district regarding his children and bullying.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Wegner read a letter from Mr. Chris Hansen sharing information on the growth of the 5th-7th grade band and choir programs over the past four years.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the closed session minutes to remain confidential, 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. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the IHSA renewal for DHS, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions. 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. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the IESA renewal for RMS, as presented. 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 – Rogers, Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Fritts, to approve the AP English textbook request, as presented. Mr. Tate gave further information on the update needed for the textbook for the course. 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 – Schaefer, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the course name change from Math 4/5 to Vocational Math 4/5 at DHS, as presented. Mrs. Kim Munson, Special Education Teacher at DHS, and Mr. John Tate were able to provide more information on the course. 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 – Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, Schaefer, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the permanent substitute job description, as presented. Mrs. Gates asked that a training requirement be included in the job description, and that an updated job description be brought back before the Board next month. 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 motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the contract proposal from Byrne & Jones for the DHS track and field project, as presented. The Board was able to make comments. 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 Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the Reynolds Field and Emma Hubbs Tennis Courts agreement with the Dixon Park District, as presented. The Board was able to make comments. 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 Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the bid for stage curtains at Madison and DHS, 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. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Resolution selecting WOLD Architecture for engineering services, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions and make comments. Mrs. Wegner read the Resolution. 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.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell shared that the District will be purchasing a used bus from Open Sesame Daycare for an afterschool bus for sports and activities for \$13,900.

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. He highlighted the following: an update on mandated categorial payments for transportation and where funding comes from for the decreased reimbursement from the state.

Mr. Campbell shared information on Data Wrangler, which is a software system that helps pinpoint peak charge times for electrical usage. The software would allow the district to save money on electricity charges over time. The Board was able to ask questions and make comments.

Mr. Magnafici and Mr. Manley shared that Reagan Middle School has received a grant from Cal Ripken Jr. Foundation and Exelon for roughly \$85,000 in STEM materials.

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

Mrs. Wegner shared information from the DEA-PRC meeting on March 2nd.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Empen shared a recap from the Northwest Division meeting in February. The topic of the meeting was on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

There have been 2 FOIA requests since the last Board meeting: Sheri Reid from SmartProcure requested a list of account numbers used by the district for identifying schools buildings; and Kayla Hitt from FOIA Professional Services requested information related to the most recent Energy Saving Performance Contract and the associated RFP. We have complied with both requests.

PERSONNEL REPORT (new hires, resignations, retirements, coaches, and renewal of certified staff and administrators)

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the following personnel items. 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.

New Hires

Kris Kruger, Paraprofessional at Madison School, effective March 19, 2026
Samantha Logan, Paraprofessional at Dempsey Day School, effective March 19, 2026
Julia Powers, Crossing Guard at Madison School, effective March 19, 2026
Teresa Sword, Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective March 19th, 2026

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Shauna Sloter, Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School due to a leave of absence, effective Feb. 19 through March 27, 2026

Change in Status

Adam Gerber, from 4th Grade Resource Special Education Teacher at Madison School to Special Education Teacher at Dempsey Day School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Shauna Sloter, from Paraprofessional at Reagan Middle School to Paraprofessional at Madison School, effective April 7, 2026

Resignations

Alyssa Jones, Paraprofessional at Madison School, effective March 4, 2026
Kris Kruger, Crossing Guard at Madison School, effective March 18, 2026
Laura Lauzon, Guidance Office Secretary at Dixon High School, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year
Stephany Nelson, Title I Teacher at Jefferson School, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year
Sarah Wilson, Preschool for All Parent Coordinator at Washington School, effective February 26, 2026
Cameron Yeater, PE/Driver's Ed Teacher at Dixon High School, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year

Retirements

Kris Baker, Social Studies Teacher at Reagan Middle School, effective June 30, 2030
Candace Buikema, Third Grade Teacher at Jefferson School, effective June 30, 2030
Barb Marco, Paraprofessional at Dixon High School, effective June 30, 2026
Reni Metzler, Math Teacher at Reagan Middle School, effective June 30, 2030

Dixon High School Coaches

Payton Lawrence - Assistant Baseball – 1/4 stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year
Ben Lightner – Group Interpretation – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year
Grace Wadsworth – Group Interpretation – ½ stipend – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Zack Heitz – Head Spring Strength – effective for the 2025-2026 school year
Brad Winterland – Assistant Spring Strength – effective for the 2025-2026 school year
Jana Cox – Accompanist (Solo & Ensemble) – 2.5 stipends – effective for the 2025-2026 school year

RMS Coaches

Rachel Oswald, Assistant Scholastic Bowl Coach at RMS, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Volunteer Coaches

Remington LeRette, Assistant Girl's Soccer Coach at DHS, effective for the 2025-2026 school year

Coaches/Activities Resignations

Laura Lauzon, Key Club Advisor, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year
Sarah Wilson, RMS Cheer Coach and Yearbook Advisor, effective immediately
Cameron Yeater, DHS Winter Strength Coach, Summer Strength Coach, Assistant Girls Track Coach, and Assistant Football Coach, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the renewal of certified staff and administrators for 2026-27 school year, as presented. The 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to adjourn to executive session at 7:59 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; Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular 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 session.

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 9:12 p.m. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary