

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 170

Dixon, Illinois
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 24, 2026

The Board of Education met in regular session in the Board Room at the Administrative Center on Wednesday, June 24, 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 Thursday, June 18, 2026, and to the news media on Monday, June 22, 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. Matt Magnafici, Principal at Reagan Middle School; Mr. Joey Sagel, Principal of Madison School; Mrs. Kelli Full, Assistant Principal of Jefferson School; media, staff, and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Empen led the Board of Education, administrative staff, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Wegner asked the Board and guests for a moment of silence in remembrance of Peg Miller, former DHS teacher and Pom Pom Coach.

Mrs. Wegner declared the budget hearing open at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Campbell provided information on the amended FY 26 budget and a budget summary overview. After comments and questions from the Board concerning the amended FY '26 proposed budget, Mrs. Wegner declared the budget hearing closed at 6:09 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to close the budget hearing. 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 regular meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

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
- H. Approve the LCSEA Financial/Payroll Management Agreement for SY 26-27
- I. Approve the LCSEA Lease Agreement for SY 26-27
- J. Approve the LCSEA Memorandum of Understanding Agreement for SY 26-27

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

CITIZEN'S AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the FY 26 amended budget, as presented. Mr. Campbell gave information on the amended budget. 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 permanent transfer of working cash fund interest, 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. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the FY 27 designated depositories, 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 budget spending resolution, as presented. The Board was able to ask questions. 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. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the IDOT application for hazardous crossing, 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 Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the Resolution for hazardous crossing, 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 motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the 2026-2027 consolidated District Title I plan, 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. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the 2026-2027 Board of Education meeting dates, 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 Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the second reading of Board policy, 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. Schaefer, to approve the updated paraprofessional job description, 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. Schaefer, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to approve the Washington Elementary School handbook, 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the Jefferson Elementary School handbook, 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 motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the Madison Elementary School handbook, 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 Mrs. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the Reagan Middle School handbook, 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 Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the Dixon High School handbook, 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. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the Thomas J. Dempsey Therapeutic Day School handbook, 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 Mr. Rogers, to approve the Dixon Public School athletic handbook, 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc-Parks, to approve the school improvement plan for Jefferson School, 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 motion was made by Mrs. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the school improvement plan for Madison School, 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. Gates, to approve the Board Agreements as reviewed at the April 22, 2026 IASB self-evaluation training workshop, 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 Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to approve the Board/Superintendent communication expectations created at the April 22, 2026 IASB self-evaluation training workshop, 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.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Campbell went over his Business Report. He highlighted the following: Interest only payment on bonds will be made in July. The next round of bonds come due in 2028.

The Spring BNC All Conference Athletes were honored. It is a great testament to our athletes, coaches etc. that we have so many students being honored

A Comparison of Spring sports tickets was provided.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There have been 2 FOIA requests since the last Board meeting: Oshea Smith from Sunlight Access requested payments to vendors issued for good and contracted professional services rendered to DPS from 1/1/2022-2/28/2026; Justin Wenig from Starbridge requested all purchase orders and payment records for vendors from 1/1/2025 to 5/31/2026. We have complied with both requests.

The Board honored Mrs. Empen for her 32 years of service with the District and 11 years of service as Superintendent. Mrs. Empen had a statement for the Board, staff, parents, and students thanking them for allowing her to serve Dixon Public Schools.

PERSONNEL REPORT (new hires, resignations, retirements, and coaches)

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, 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, Wadsworth, Fritts, Gates, LeBlanc-Parks, Rogers, and Wegner. Voting nay—none. Motion unanimously approved.

New Hires

Damon Bautista, Special Education Teacher at Dixon High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Valerie Freeman, Special Education Teacher at Dixon High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Crystal Horton, Preschool for All Teacher at Washington School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Aidan Johnson, Permanent Substitute for the District, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jacob Shafer, Social Studies Teacher at Dixon High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Michael Temple, Paraprofessional at Dixon High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Grace Wadsworth, Permanent Substitute for the District, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Change in Status

Elizabeth Escamilla, from Paraprofessional at Jefferson School to Paraprofessional at Washington School, effective for the 2026-2027
Lauran Frye, from Paraprofessional at Washington School to Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Annalee Kelly, from 5th Grade Teacher to Title I Teacher at Madison School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Kesley Middleton, from 2nd Grade Teacher at Jefferson School to 5th Grade Teacher at Madison School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Angie Ortgiesen, from 1st Grade Teacher at Washington School to 3rd Grade Teacher at Jefferson School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Maria Peterson, from Transitional Kindergarten Teacher to Kindergarten Teacher at Washington School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Alexis Point, from 5th Grade Teacher at Madison School to Title I Reading Teacher at Jefferson School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Lani Rogers, from Physical Education Teacher at Reagan Middle School to Physical Education Teacher at Washington School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Carlee Schultz, from 3rd Grade Teacher at Jefferson School to 5th Grade Teacher at Madison School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jennifer Wraspir, from Title I Paraprofessional to ALE Paraprofessional at Madison School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Resignations

Calista Crone, Special Education Teacher at Dempsey Day School, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year
Beth Dennis, Special Education Teacher at Dixon High School, effective June 15, 2026
Nicole DiGrazia, Special Education Teacher at Dixon High School, effective June 9, 2026
James Edwards, Custodian at Dixon High School, effective June 30, 2026
Lisa Hellyer, Paraprofessional at Jefferson School, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year
Mike Magnafici, Bus Supervisor at Washington School, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year
Kim Tressel, Paraprofessional at Madison School, effective June 15, 2026
Paul Wilson, IT Technician at Dixon High School, effective July 1, 2026

Retirements

Eric Ferguson, Social Studies Teacher at Reagan Middle School, effective June 30, 2030
Mary Beth Zachary, Library Paraprofessional at Washington/Jefferson, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year

Dixon High School Coaches

Simon Thorpe – Head Boys Cross Country – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Megan Hildreth – Head Girls Cross Country – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Bunyan Cocar – Head Volleyball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Lee Eastman – Head Golf – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Josh Brigl – Head Boys Soccer – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jamie Brigl – Head Girls Tennis – effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Alicia McPhillips – Head Cheer – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Makenzie Simpson – Head Dance – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Chris Harmann – Head Boys Basketball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Luke Ravlin – Head Girls Basketball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Micah Hey – Head Wrestling – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Josh Brigl – Head Girls Soccer – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Candi Rogers – Head Softball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jason Burgess – Head Baseball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Ryan Deets – Head Boys Track – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Meagan Hildreth – Head Girls Track – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Rick Kent – Head Boys Tennis – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Remington LeRette – Assistant Boys Soccer – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jake Fane – Assistant Boys Soccer – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Ryan Deets – Assistant Golf – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Brandon Woodward – Assistant Football – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Tyler Matteson – Assistant Football – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Luke Ravlin – Assistant Football – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Kyle Lawrence - Assistant Football – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Dustin Bock - Assistant Football – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Laiff Jacobson - Assistant Football – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Matt Coffey - Assistant Football – ½ Stipend – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jacob Shafer - Assistant Football – ½ Stipend – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Emily Bay – Assistant Volleyball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Maria Peterson – Assistant Volleyball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Kara Stoecker – Assistant Volleyball – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Zack Heitz – Head Summer Strength – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Brad Winterland – Assistant Summer Strength – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Tyler Matteson – Assistant Summer Strength – ½ Stipend – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Kolten Dorthy – Assistant Summer Strength – ½ Stipend – effective for the 2026-2027 school year

DHS Volunteer Coaches

JD Gieson – Assistant DHS Football – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Damon Bautista – Assistant DHS Cross Country – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Aiden Johnson – Assistant DHS Cross Country – effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jana Halfacre – Assistant DHS Cheer - effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Leslie Haenitsch – Assistant DHS Dance - effective for the 2026-2027 school year
Jasmin Siddiqui – Assistant DHS Dance - effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Reagan Middle School Coaches/Advisors

Allison Goley, RMS Yearbook Advisor, effective for the 2026-2027 school year

Coaching/Activities Resignations

Tom Padilla, Scholastic Bowl Coach at Dixon High School – effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Fritts, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to adjourn to executive session at 6:59 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.

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.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaefer, and seconded by Mr. Rogers, to return to Open Session at 7:11 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.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Schaefer, to approve the raises for administration for the 2026-2027 school year, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gates, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. All were in favor.

President

Secretary