

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, June 14, 2021, at O'Neill Middle School. The meeting was live streamed to the public on the District 58 YouTube channel.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that it was the regular monthly meeting of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Darren Hughes; and Members Kirat Doshi, Emily Hanus, and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: Vice President Gregory Harris and Member Steve Olczyk. Also in attendance were Kevin Russell, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Todd Drafall, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

Member Melissa Ellis arrived at 7:30 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

President Hughes led the flag salute.

3. AMENDED BUDGET HEARING

A. Public Hearing on Proposed Amended 2020-2021 Legal Budget

Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall provided an overview of the proposed amended 2020-2021 budget. When the Board approved the budget in September 2020, it included a \$1.6 million operating deficit. Since that time, the District has received \$800,000 in federal COVID relief funds and a reduction in transportation expenses due to remote learning. The District also issued \$3 million in bonds in March. The amended budget reflects these changes.

There were no public comments. The President declared the hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.

4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

A. Spring Data and Curricular Updates

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul shared a presentation on spring 2021 student assessment data and curricular updates. Student achievement scores on the NWEA-MAP assessment remain strong and consistent with prior spring performance. However, as a District, the

growth scores are lower than typical. Some possible reasons could include the impact on learning environments and reduction in overall instructional time due to the pandemic, an “implementation dip” due to the recent math curriculum adoption, the impact of the remote testing environment, or the fact that Fall 2020 scores were historically high and it is difficult to show growth from such a high starting point. In addition, student percentiles are calculated using nationwide data collected in pre-pandemic years. It is uncertain how District 58 would perform if the percentiles were calculated against current pandemic-era data. Assessment data will be used to inform curricular improvements and supports at the District, school and classroom levels. A free summer school program is being offered to 200 students who attained lower-than-expected growth this school year to get them back on track.

The Middle School Social Studies Committee piloted three resources this year and recommended the adoption of the National Geographic social studies curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board will be asked to approve the resource at the July meeting. The Elementary Social Studies Committee will pilot two or three resources during the 2021-2022 school year.

Curricular program review next year will focus on writing instruction districtwide, the dual language program, the gifted program, elementary specials, student interventions and supports, and the continuing implementation of the math and science curricula. Next year, the District will also complete an equity audit, with the goal of ensuring students have equitable access to all educational opportunities. The District has worked with Dr. Ivette Dubiel of Systemic Educational Equity, LLC, when she served as the executive director of equity and professional learning at the DuPage County Regional Office of Education. Dr. Dubiel’s team will conduct research and lead community focus groups to identify areas of strength and needed improvement.

B. School Environment Survey

Coordinator of Community Relations Megan Hewitt shared results from the school environment survey taken by 1,373 parents and guardians in spring 2021. Communication; caring and supportive environment; curriculum; good teachers, staff and strong leadership; and the District’s COVID-19 response were themes that the respondents most frequently said their school and District did well. However, COVID-19-related topics, especially related to curriculum and communication, were also the most frequent themes that respondents said needed improvement. At the time of the survey, students were still in either hybrid or fully remote learning models. Overall, there were only some slight declines in satisfaction over previous years.

Survey results will be reviewed by administrators to guide District and school improvement efforts.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Written Communications

1. Email from Lisa McTigue regarding Smart 58 plan - Longfellow ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board President Darren Hughes.*
2. Email from Richard DeMink regarding potential sale of Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
3. Email from Dee Wernette regarding the sale of Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
4. Email from Bill Kramer regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
5. Email from Pat Gabris regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
6. Email from Lisa Pocius regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
7. Email from Tina Riley regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
8. Email from Cathy Mahoney regarding Longfellow.
9. Email from John Kennedy regarding selling Longfellow.
10. Email from Bob and Kelly Johnson regarding Longfellow school property.
11. Email from Margaret Gross regarding Longfellow Center ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
12. Email from Mary Ann Badke regarding Longfellow.
13. Emails from Troy Hawkins regarding Longfellow ~ *responses from Board members Kirat Doshi, Emily Hanus, and Melissa Ellis.*
14. Email from Gina Leo regarding long term facility management plans.
15. Email from Jerry Reimann regarding Longfellow sale.
16. Email from Roseanne and Matt Culligan regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
17. Email from Chris Hendrickson regarding COVID ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
18. Email from Jackie and Matt Claus regarding Longfellow Center.
19. Email from Brian Sewell regarding public comment at May 10 meeting ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
20. Email from anonymous parent regarding Systemic Educational Equity Audit ~ *response from Asst Supt for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul.*
21. Email from Dave Braune regarding potential Longfellow sale.
22. Email from Pam Johnson regarding selling of Longfellow property.
23. Email from John Gillham regarding sale of Longfellow.
24. Email from Connie Schmidt regarding sale of Longfellow.
25. Email from Elaine and Craig Cook regarding Longfellow.
26. Email from Brian Sewell regarding comments on DEI Consulting proposal.
27. Email from Raj Shah regarding DG58 ~ *response from Board member Kirat Doshi.*
28. Email from Anne Michka regarding Longfellow.
29. Email from Jackie and Matt Claus regarding Longfellow.
30. Email from Lynn Leo regarding May 10 board meeting.
31. Email from Linda Woodruff regarding Longfellow.
32. Email from Cathy Mahoney regarding follow up to District 58 board meeting ~ *response from Vice President Gregory Harris.*

33. Email from Jim Hamilton regarding equity audit ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board President Darren Hughes.*
34. Email from Jennifer DeBruin regarding equity audit.
35. Email from Jeffrey Lenz regarding issues with school.
36. Email from Rich Braatz regarding Longfellow School sale ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
37. Email from Janie Bouzek regarding introduction ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
38. Email from Kim Echert regarding Longfellow Center ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board President Darren Hughes.*
39. Emails from Francisco Medrano regarding dual language program ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Asst Supt for Curriculum & Instruction Justin Sisul.*
40. Email from Barbara Webster regarding Longfellow School plan ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
41. Email from Mary Cesare-Murphy regarding Longfellow property ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
42. Email from Julie Lotarski regarding save Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
43. Email from Matthew Dziejdzic regarding Dr. Russell ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
44. Email from James Milkert regarding thank you ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Steff Perez regarding Highland Playground bid results ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
2. Freedom of Information Act request from Brian Sewell regarding total employees and enrollment ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
3. Freedom of Information Act request from Bernadette Soto, Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, regarding contracts with Construction by Camco, Inc.; Sport Court Midwest; and Suburban Door Check & Lock ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
4. Freedom of Information Act request from Marshall Schmitt regarding the ownership and use of Longfellow ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
5. Freedom of Information Act request from Zoe Yalcin, SmartProcure, regarding purchasing records ~ *response from Manager of Business Services Catherine Hannigan.*
6. Freedom of Information Act request from Jim Hamilton regarding instructional materials regarding critical race theory, Black Lives Matter, Marxist ideology, anti-White content, etc. ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
7. Freedom of Information Act request from Matt Filip regarding emails and browsing history of certain Herrick staff ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

6. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell provided the Board with information and updates, including:

- **Finance:** The District is finalizing grant expense reports to close out the fiscal year. The District hopes to receive all ESSER II funds this fiscal year, and is working to identify reimbursable expenses for ESSER III. Applications for all other grants are being prepared.
- **Facilities:** Custodial and maintenance teams are deep cleaning and preparing school buildings for the next school year. Summer facility projects include replacement of the roof, masonry maintenance, and replacement of boilers at Pierce Downer; replacement of Fairmount HVAC equipment; pavement repairs at Herrick and Henry Puffer; relocation of District servers to Kingsley; replacement of flooring at Henry Puffer and O'Neill; renovation of the Highland playground; and miscellaneous painting. The District is reconvening its Citizen Task Force to continue master facility planning this summer. Voluntary water testing has been completed across the District; results will be posted on the website.
- **Public Relations:** The Education Foundation donated \$9,500 in grocery store gift cards to District 58 families in need during the last two weeks of school, for a total of \$23,500 in grocery gift cards this school year. The Foundation also recognized 58 eighth graders for service to their schools and community through the annual Select 58 award program.
- **Personnel:** The lengthy Personnel Report on the Consent Agenda reflects the rehiring of the majority of teachers who were RIF'd in March, as well as the hiring of new staff due to retirements and resignations.
- **Student Services:** Building principals and teams continue to actively recruit and hire for open special education positions. All full-time related service staff such as nurses, psychologists and social workers have been hired.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending May 31, 2021. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO Todd Drafall reported that the county adjusted property tax distribution so that the District shows a slight increase in revenue earlier than expected.

C. Treasurer's Report

There was nothing special to report in regard to the Treasurer's Report.

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee did not meet in May.

E. Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee did not meet in May.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

President Hughes reported on the June 11, 2021 Financial Advisory

Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the amended budget, insurance premiums, the wellness incentive program, and the year-to-date report. The committee will continue to meet monthly, with the exception of June and July, and will return to in person meetings.

G. District Leadership Team

Member Weiner reported on the May 17, 2021 District Leadership Team meeting. The committee welcomed Member Doshi and received progress reports on each strategic plan goal. The committee discussed forming a small working group to explore defining meaningful Key Performance Indicators (KPI); the current KPI targets expire in Spring 2021. The committee also reviewed last year's communication survey feedback.

H. Health and Wellness Committee

The Health and Wellness Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

A. E-Learning Discussion for School Year 2021-2022

The Board discussed the merits and drawbacks of filing an application for approval of an e-learning plan for the 2021-2022 school year. An e-learning plan is not remote learning as it was developed for the pandemic; it is a plan limited to five remote learning days that could be used to replace emergency days typically used for snow days or other emergencies. Having an e-learning plan in place does not mandate the use of e-learning days, but would give the District the option to use one if appropriate. The Board discussed the drawbacks of e-learning days, such as ensuring internet connectivity for all students and staff, and availability of assistance at home for the youngest learners and special education students. However, a day of remote instruction in February may be more impactful than an extra in person day in June.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam Johnson, Pierce Downer attendance area, commented in opposition to the sale of the Longfellow property. She provided a brief history of the Longfellow building, stating that it was designated a Downers Grove landmark by the Downers Grove Historical Society in 2009.

David Rose, Pierce Downer attendance area, made a lengthy comment to express his disappointment in the decision to sell Longfellow. He stated that the property should remain a public resource.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve

the minutes of the May 10, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

10. CONSENT AGENDA

There being no request for individual consideration of any items on the consent agenda, the President stated that a motion would be in order relative to items on the consent agenda, consisting of the Personnel Report and Financial Statements (consisting of the List of Bills and Summary) as presented in the packet materials. Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

- The appointment of three administrators, 32 certified staff employees, three educational support staff employees, and one technology staff employee.
- The resignation of two administrators, seven certified staff employees, and six educational support staff employees.
- The medical leaves of absence of three certified staff employees.
- Stipends for nine certified staff employees.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on June 14, 2021, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in May 2021 as shown on the list submitted under the date of June 14, 2021 in the total amount of \$1,195,226.14 and direct that they be so entered in the minutes and orders drawn for their payment in accordance with the following summary and that the President and Secretary be authorized to certify the list to the School Treasurer.

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 58
SUMMARY PAGE JUNE 14, 2021
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills – June 14, 2021	\$460,427.85
Revolving Fund - May 2021	\$10,248.38
Imprest Checks - May 2021	\$13,700.52

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills – June 14, 2021	\$176,908.62
Revolving Fund - May 2021	\$683.42
Imprest Checks - May 2021	\$0.00

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills – June 14, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - May 2021	\$0.00

TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$478,529.44
Revolving Fund - May 2021	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - May 2021	\$86.24

IMRF

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$0.00
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - May 2021	\$0.00

SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$54,641.67
Revolving Fund - May 2021	\$0.00

WORKING CASH FUND

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$0.00
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FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$0.00
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MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$0.00
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SINKING FUND

List of Bills - June 14, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - May 2021	\$0.00

Total	\$1,195,226.14
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ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

(Copy of Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements attached to official minutes)

Dr. Russell welcomed the three new administrators approved by the Board: Sonali Patil, Manager of Business Services; Eleni Gajewski, Kingsley Assistant Principal and Curriculum Coordinator; and Samantha Inglima, Herrick Assistant Principal. The new administrators thanked the Board and expressed their excitement to join District 58.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. 2020-2021 Amended Budget

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt

the 2020-2021 Amended Budget as presented in final form.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and
Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

B. Rescind Policy 2:232 - Temporary Rules for Public Participation at School Board Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency - eff. July 14, 2021
Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to rescind Policy 2:232 - Temporary Rules for Public Participation at School Board Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and
Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

C. Appointment of Treasurer
Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution Appointing School Treasurer as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and
Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

D. Treasurer's Surety Bond
Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to to adopt the Resolution Approving Surety Bond of Treasurer as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and
Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

E. Stop Loss Insurance
Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to accept the proposal from Aetna for Specific Stop-Loss insurance coverage at a cost of \$1,597,331 for the plan year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and
Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

F. Wellness Incentive Program
Member Hanus moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the updated wellness incentive program as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and
Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

G. Workers' Compensation, Property, Casualty Insurance

Member Ellis moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to authorize the purchase of workers' compensation, property, and casualty insurance coverages as presented for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for a total cost of \$490,606.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

H. Masonry and Wall Assessment

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to accept the masonry and wall assessment services proposal from Inspec Inc. for \$40,280.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

I. Resolution of Nomination for Membership on the Downers Grove Plan Commission

Member Doshi moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution of Nomination for Membership on the Downers Grove Plan Commission as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Thursday, July 8, 6:00 p.m. Special Meeting
O'Neill Middle School

Monday, July 12, 7:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting
Village Hall

13. CLOSED SESSION

Member Ellis moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to move to closed session for the purpose of discussing matters relating to

- the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5);

- discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
 NAYS: None Motion carried

Member Ellis moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to reconvene in open session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
 NAYS: None Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 9:55 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 10:49 p.m.

14. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

- A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – May 10, 2021
 Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
 NAYS: None Motion carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

Member Harris moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
 NAYS: None Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary