

December 11, 2017

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 2017, at the Downers Grove Village Hall.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and announced that it was the regular monthly meeting of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Doug Purcell; Vice President Elizabeth Sigale; and Members Gregory Harris, Darren Hughes, John Miller, Jill Samonte, and Beth Taylor. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services; Ken Young, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary. Attending this meeting were at least 16 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

## **2. FLAG SALUTE**

Lisa Niforatos, principal of Fairmount School, introduced Student Council sponsors Bob Luciano, Kate Matson, and Jennifer Rodriguez, who in turn introduced student council officers Audrey Curulewski, President; Julia Colorato, Vice President; Olivia O'Neill, Secretary; and Zevian Davis, Treasurer. The students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The officers talked about activities, fundraisers, and events for this school year including Hats for Houston, which raised \$1,000 for the Red Cross hurricane relief effort, and a pumpkin weight estimation challenge that raised \$250 for California wildfire relief. During Red Ribbon Week they collected 350 cans of food for a local food pantry, and in December led a winter clothing drive. Student Council goals for the remainder of the year include donations to the World Wildlife Fund, St. Jude Children's Hospitals, and GiGi's Playhouse. They plan to fundraise with a Penny Challenge, lead Earth Day activities, and sponsor several more Spirit Days throughout the school year.

Fairmount PTA Co-Presidents Samantha Dulles and Christi O'Neill shared that the PTA is working toward its goal of getting more parents and teachers involved. At each PTA meeting, teachers are invited to connect with parents and provide input on how families and the PTA can support classroom learning. The PTA recently raised over \$35,000 at its 11th annual Trivia Night. The funds support programs and events such as the LRC, Polar Express Night, STEM Science Night, Fairmount Cultural Night, and the Fairmount Teacher Grant, through which every teacher received items they needed to enhance the curriculum in their classrooms.

Principal Niforatos shared the importance of positive communication between

staff and parents. She presented a video, "The Power of Parent Partnerships," that highlighted some of the positive communications Fairmount teachers have exchanged with parents about their students throughout the year.

### 3. NON-ACTION REPORTS

#### A. Recognition of Students

The names of District 58 students who advanced to the regional level in the national PTA Reflections Student Art Awards competition were presented to the Board for special recognition.

#### B. "Spotlight on our Schools" – English/Language Arts Curriculum

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul shared a presentation on the English/Language Arts Phase I curriculum adoption. Primary resources Benchmark Advance and StudySync were adopted in June 2017. Phase I teachers who are using Benchmark/StudySync in 2017-18 include one-third of K-6 grade teachers, all middle school ELA teachers, ELA Committee members and those teachers who piloted Benchmark/StudySync in 2017-18. Phase II teachers who will use Benchmark/StudySync in 2018-19 include the remaining two-thirds of K-6 grade teachers, including EL, Resource, and Reading Specialists.

Initial training for Phase I teachers began in August 2017 and continues with ongoing feedback to the ELA Committee through electronic submissions, "snack and chat" meetings, and additional training during the November 27 Teacher Institute day. Phase I teachers have noted that students using the new curricula are engaging in rich discussion, rising to the challenges, accessing new online tools and applying the specific skills they are learning. Teachers have expressed that the program is rigorous and challenging, and they are excited by what students share and accomplish. Assessments are consistent and require age-appropriate higher-level thinking. The District is working to determine which of the myriad resources are "must-use" items across the District. Teachers have also noted that the two-phase model is important to successful implementation of the curriculum. Ongoing time for collaboration and reflection is critical so that Phase II will be informed and supported by the work of the Phase I teacher team.

Training for Phase II teachers began in Fall 2017 with professional development opportunities focused on critical skills observed in Phase I. Formal training from the publishers will occur on March 2, 2018, August 27, 2018, and an August date.

Next steps include developing a scope and sequence of ELA instruction using the new curriculum. The ELA Committee will develop this blueprint for grades K-6, and revise the existing blueprint for grades 7-8. Phase II training will continue. The Board will have the opportunity for a hands-on experience with the new curriculum during the February 2018 Curriculum Workshop. The District is also committed to ongoing collaborative reflection regarding the ELA curriculum adoption in 2018-19.

C. “Spotlight on our Schools” -- 1:1 Technology Survey Summary

Director of Innovative Technology and Learning James Eichmiller began his presentation with the 1:1 Initiative philosophy, goals and objectives developed by the Technology Committee in 2013. The District surveyed teachers, students and parents in the spring of 2017 to gather feedback on the 1:1 technology program. Students reported that they enjoy learning with iPads and regularly use the devices for projects, IXL and other schoolwork. However, 75% of students in grades 3-8 reported that they do not show parents their work on iPads, which is a continuing challenge for the District. The Technology Committee is also concerned that a significant percentage of students reported only using iPads once a month to do projects at school. Teachers reported that the use of iPads enhanced creativity, student engagement and classroom collaboration. However, some teachers noted that iPad apps cause distractions in the classroom. In response, the District restricted students' ability to add apps to their iPads this school year. Parent responses varied widely. For example, 41 percent believe that iPads help engage their child with schoolwork, while 32 percent disagreed. Several parents noted that iPads are never used, while many others commented that they are overused.

Mr. Eichmiller stated that the Technology Committee will more closely examine the longitudinal data and survey teachers more specifically before making a recommendation on any future device refresh. Member Hughes noted that as increases in technology spending become necessary, he would like to see more positive responses and greater evidence of significant use and value in the classroom to support this investment. Mr. Eichmiller stated that the Technology Committee may consider recommending some baselines for technology usage across the District, and consider ways to support teachers in using the technology for student collaboration.

#### 4. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding Superintendent's Advisor Council ~ *response from Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent*
- B. Email from Katrina Roeser regarding Great Schools ratings
- C. Emails from Matthew Topic regarding school safety measures ~ *responses from Doug Purcell, Board President*
- D. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding school boundaries
- E. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding PARCC scores
- F. Freedom of Information Act request from Robert Propst, Advanced Disposal, regarding garbage service bid ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary*
- G. Email from Maneesh Sharma regarding PARCC and Highland enrollment ~ *response from Doug Purcell, Board President*
- H. Email from Kamila Bizior regarding attendance boundary ~ *response from Melissa Jerves – Board Secretary*
- I. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding Superintendent's Community Advisory Council

- J. Email from Mike Webber regarding surveys ~ *response from Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent*

## 5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

Superintendent Kari Cremascoli reported that curriculum committees are making great progress and thanked Mr. Sisul and Mr. Eichmiller for their leadership, particularly in the implementation of the new ELA curriculum. The Math Committee continues to review the math blueprint that guides instruction in grades PreK-8. The Committee is working to supplement the curriculum adopted in the 2012-13 school year, aligning it with the Common Core. The STEM Committee continues to review current topics of study and is exploring materials and revisions to the District's scope and sequence of grade K-8 science instruction. Dr. Cremascoli also reported that the District is developing the 2018-19 school calendar. A Lester neighborhood meeting will be held December 13 to update the community on the proposed Lester addition. Dr. Cremascoli has served on the District 99 Citizen Task Force, which seeks input on proposed facility projects and funding options that will be discussed and decided upon at upcoming D99 school board meetings. The Superintendent's Advisory Council met on December 4. Mr. Bein gave a presentation on district finances and facilities and asked for input to guide strategic planning in these areas. Dr. Cremascoli thanked the District's PTAs and principals who supported student success in the Reflections Art Awards program. Students were recognized in a ceremony on December 6.

### B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports, the investment report, and revenue and expenditure summary reports for the month ending November 30, 2017. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO David Bein reported that the District has received almost half its expected revenue from the State of Illinois. He reported that a federal tax reform proposal is still under consideration, and that at least one version of the legislation includes the elimination of advance refunding of tax exempt bonds as of January 1, 2018. If enacted, this would affect the District's issuance of bonds to fund a Lester addition. Also, a property tax freeze is under consideration by the Illinois General Assembly, which, if enacted, would have a significant negative impact on funding for the District.

In response to a question from the Board regarding TIFs (tax increment financing districts) at the November Financial Workshop, Mr. Bein provided some information about the three TIFs that affect District 58: the Downtown Downers Grove TIF, the Ogden Avenue TIF, and the Oakbrook TIF. During the period of the TIF, increases in the equalized assessed value (EAV) of property within the TIF district are directed back to the TIF to spur economic growth instead of being available to District 58. Once the TIFs expire, the District will be able to levy for the increased EAV. The Downtown Downers Grove TIF will expire in 2020, but the District will not receive the full incremental tax receipts until fiscal year 2023. Currently, the increase in EAV

is approximately \$40 million, which corresponds to about \$1 million in tax revenue. The Ogden Avenue TIF is set to expire in 2024, and the Oakbrook TIF in 2028.

C. Treasurer's Report

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

D. Policy Committee

Member Harris reported on the November 21, 2017 Policy Committee meeting.

1. First Reading – Policy #2041 – Administration – Director of Buildings and Grounds
2. First Reading – Policy # -- 2042 – Administration – Manager of Business Services
3. First Reading – Policy #5150 – Students – Wellness

Member Harris moved and Member Sigale seconded the motion to approve for first reading Policy #2014 regarding the Director of Buildings and Grounds, Policy #2042 regarding the Manager of Business Services, and Policy #5150 regarding student wellness and place them on the January Board agenda for final approval.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

4. Administrative Regulation #8255 – Internal Board Operations – Board Communications

The Policy Committee also sought feedback from the Board on a draft of Administrative Regulation #8255, which provides guidance to the Board and Board Secretary regarding sharing communications to and from Board members. The Board concurred that no change in policy is necessary, and that the draft administrative regulation gives appropriate specific guidance.

E. Legislative Committee

Member Taylor reported on the December 6, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting. The Committee has begun to plan the annual Legislative Breakfast, including drafting questions for local officials. Member Taylor also served as a delegate to the IASB Delegate Assembly at the Joint Annual Conference in November, and reported that all resolutions were approved in concurrence with the Legislative Committee's recommendations.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee did not meet in November.

G. Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee

Member Sigale reported on the December 7, 2017 Meet & Confer Strategic

Plan Committee meeting. Strategic Planning facilitators from Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), with the help of the Meet & Confer Committee and a smaller Planning Team, are moving forward with preparation of an online survey and nearly 50 targeted focus groups and community forums to receive input from a large cross-section of the community. The Committee sought the Board's approval to add a fourth open-ended question to the survey at a cost of \$1,500. The additional question is intended to elicit the community's views on the pros and cons of the current structure of District 58 schools (schools that serve grades K-6, schools that serve grades 7-8, and a preschool program). Several Board members noted that the preliminary draft of the question seemed too general to elicit the information the District is seeking. Both Dr. Cremascoli and Paul Swanstrom of HYA responded that the survey's goal is to allow respondents to share as much as possible on whatever topics are important to them. Member Sigale noted that the question still needs work. The consensus of the Board was to support the addition of a fourth survey question.

## 6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

- A. Tracy Weiner, Henry Puffer parent, thanked Mr. Eichmiller for his analysis of the 1:1 Technology Survey. She also commented on the impact that social media and school ratings have on local homebuyers.
- B. Kelli Janczewski, Belle Aire parent, asked the Board to take parental comments into consideration and stated that devices should be used to their fullest potential if the District continues to invest in them.

## 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2017  
Member Hughes moved and Member Taylor seconded his motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

- B. Approval of Minutes – November 27, 2017  
Member Hughes moved and Member Miller seconded his motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2017 financial workshop as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

## 8. 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. Member Harris moved and Member Miller seconded his motion to approve the following items:

- A. Personnel

The assignment of one certified staff member and appointment of two

educational support personnel employees. The retirement of one certified teacher in June 2021. The request for Family Medical Leaves of Absence for three certified staff and the resignation of four support staff.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on December 11, 2017 as well as the revolving and imprest issued in November 2017 as shown on the list submitted under the date of December 11, 2017 in the total amount of \$1,228,635.71 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 DECEMBER 11, 2017  
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills – Dec 11, 2017	\$459,526.03
Revolving Fund – Nov 2017	\$41,261.44
Imprest Checks - Nov 2017	\$22,030.47

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills – Dec 11, 2017	\$78,801.76
Revolving Fund - Nov 2017	\$5,374.42
Imprest Checks - Nov 2017	\$905.92

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017	\$479.94
Revolving Fund - Nov 2017	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - Nov 2017	\$0.00

TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills – Dec 11, 2017	\$619,061.99
Revolving Fund - Nov 2017	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - Nov 2017	\$1,193.74

IMRF

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017	\$0.00
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017	\$0.00
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SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017	\$0.00
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WORKING CASH FUND

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017	\$0.00
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FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017	\$0.00
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MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017 \$0.00

**SINKING FUND**

List of Bills - Dec 11, 2017 \$0.00

Revolving Fund - Nov 2017 \$0.00

Total \$1,228,635.71

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,  
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor  
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

A. Enrollment

Member Sigale moved and Member Harris seconded her motion to approve the implementation of Option 4 through Board Policy 5102 (i.e. maintain current school attendance areas and cap enrollment into the identified grade cohorts) at Highland and Belle Aire Schools for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

The Board then discussed the pros and cons of capping enrollment versus a boundary adjustment or a hybrid approach. Members Taylor and Harris expressed support for Option 2b, which combined a cap on enrollment with a boundary adjustment. Member Taylor noted that an enrollment cap by itself may surprise new residents who assumed their child would attend a particular school. She also stated that if a boundary adjustment takes several years to realize an effect, it would be better to make that boundary adjustment sooner rather than later. Member Harris stated that in his opinion, boundary lines are inherently fair and that he supports a boundary adjustment with grandfathering current students and siblings. However, he is comfortable with the hybrid approach to respond to the current large class sizes at Highland.

Dr. Cremascoli reiterated that there is not a permanent solution to the projected enrollment forecast, but that failing to take action now would leave Highland with class sizes over 30 and no art/music/reading rooms. Projected enrollment at Belle Aire will require an examination of space utilization in another three years. Dr. Cremascoli stated that there is not compelling evidence at this time that a boundary adjustment would have a significant effect or permanently solve current and forecasted enrollment issues at Highland and Belle Aire. Capping enrollment in the next two years as proposed in Option 4 would immediately alleviate some of the space issues at Highland while ensuring that students have access to equivalent educational

programming. Based on the forecast, in 2018-19, an enrollment cap and administrative transfer are predicted to affect five first graders and six third graders. The following year, four first graders, one second grader and one fourth grader could be transferred. Families would have the option to transfer siblings to Belle Aire if one of their students is affected by the enrollment cap. Several Board members expressed hesitation to adjust boundaries at this time if another adjustment is necessary in the next few years.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Hughes, Miller, Purcell, Samonte,  
and Sigale  
NAYS: Members Harris and Taylor Motion carried

B. Adoption of the 2017 Certificate of Levy

Member Taylor moved and Member Hughes seconded her motion to adopt the 2017 Certificate of Levy in the amount of \$54,900,000.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,  
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor  
NAYS: None Motion carried

C. Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$2,810,000 working cash fund bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law

Member Harris moved and Member Taylor seconded his motion to approve the resolution declaring the intention to issue \$2,810,000 working cash fund bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law. (Attachment 12/11/17 A)

Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO David Bein introduced the District's financial advisor, Tammie Beckwith Schallmo. Ms. Schallmo gave a short presentation on two possible ways to structure a bond issue to fund the proposed Lester School addition. She recommended the second option, which would cost the District \$865,000 more upfront, but would permit additional borrowing in a couple of years if projected facility needs arise. This option would cost less in the long run due to future increases in interest rates and debt restructuring costs. Ms. Schallmo and Mr. Bein summarized the timeline for the bond hearing and other requirements to make funds available in February 2018 in time for groundbreaking of the Lester project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,  
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor  
NAYS: None Motion carried

D. Resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell \$2,810,000 working cash fund bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District

Member Taylor moved and Member Hughes seconded her motion to approve

the resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell \$2,810,000 working cash fund bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District. (Attachment 12/11/17 B).

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,  
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor  
NAYS: None Motion carried

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Purcell announced the following dates:

January 8, 2018 Financial Advisory Committee  
7:00 a.m. Administrative Service Center

January 8, 2018 Regular Board of Education Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Downers Grove Village Hall

## 11. CLOSED SESSION

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

- the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1);
- the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10);
- litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11);
- 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 Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,  
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor  
NAYS: None Motion carried

Member Hughes moved and Member Harris seconded the motion to reconvene in open session.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 10:02 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 10:10 p.m.

## 12. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

### A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Member Hughes moved and Member Taylor seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 closed session meeting.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

### B. Review of Closed Session Minutes

Member Hughes moved and Member Miller seconded the motion to keep the minutes from the November 13, 2017 closed session meeting permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

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Doug Purcell, President

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Melissa Jerves, Secretary