

January 11, 2021

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2021, at the Downers Grove Village Hall. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, in-person meeting attendance was limited to 10 people and the meeting was live streamed to the public on the Village of Downers Grove 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; Vice President Gregory Harris; and Members Kirat Doshi, Steve Olczyk, Jill Samonte and Tracy Weiner. Member Emily Hanus attended remotely via telephone conference. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Kevin Russell, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; James Eichmiller, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Learning; Todd Drafall, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

Mariana Nicasio, principal of Indian Trail School, began her presentation with a video of both in-person and remote students leading the pledge of allegiance.

Indian Trail PTA Co-President Blair Covino made a video presentation highlighting PTA activities this year. A successful membership drive resulted in 67 family memberships and increased staff membership and attendance at virtual PTA meetings. Families participated in a Chalk the Walk campaign to leave supportive messages for staff at school. Fundraisers, including a Charleston Wrapping Paper sale, provided funds to purchase signs for the car pick-up and drop-off line, special lunches for staff, and holiday gift bags for students in lieu of traditional holiday class parties. Indian Trail families donated holiday gifts for families in need, and the PTA sponsored a Zoom storytime with Santa. The PTA will continue to seek creative ways to continue its work during this challenging time.

Principal Nicasio resumed her presentation on the theme of how Indian Trail is turning challenges into opportunities. Within the strategic plan framework, she shared that Indian Trail has worked toward Goal 1, Connecting the Community, by building relationships through respect, positivity and kindness; finding a shared vision; and keeping the lines of communication open between staff and families. In working toward Goal 2, Focusing on Learning, Indian Trail continues to use curricular resources Benchmark for reading and Bridges for math to lead students to achieve key learning targets. Weekly Second Step lessons in social-

emotional learning ensure that the whole child is nurtured and encouraged. The MAP assessment was administered in the fall, and weekly professional development continues for staff. Consistent tracking and assessment of data helps staff provide differentiation for both onsite and remote students.

Ms. Nicasio also showed a video highlighting the RISE (Reaching Independence through Structured Education) program for students with autism and related characteristics. RISE has provided onsite learning all year to students whose families choose it. Fully remote students participate in group activities and therapy via Zoom.

### 3. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

#### Health and Wellness Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall reported that the District's Medical Reserve Fund, a subfund of the Education Fund, has performed well financially this year. The Board approved a decrease in premiums for one health plan and no increase for the other three plans. Informational sessions for staff during open enrollment were conducted virtually, which did not yield as much participation as the numerous in-person sessions available the previous year. Due to the pandemic, health care utilization has been reduced as people postponed elective procedures and suffered fewer injuries during stay-at-home orders. Adjustments to the prescription benefits program have also resulted in cost savings.

Mr. Drafall reviewed this year's wellness screening. There was a 60% increase in participation over last year, but no significant increase in health risk. Strong use of preventative care was reported by participants. The committee will develop a two-to-three year plan and is considering more wellness incentives for actions that promote health and wellness. The committee may also consider increasing the current \$250 incentive to capture even more individuals in the screening.

### 4. COMMUNICATIONS

#### Written Communications

1. Email from Mari Sitkiewicz regarding thank you
2. Email from Mary Blanchard regarding LGBTQ Community Conversation
3. Email from Bob Barnett regarding civil rights celebration ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell*
4. Email from Anjali Alva regarding request for public statement regarding public support for U.S. democracy
5. Email from James Milkert regarding student issue

## 5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

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

- **Curriculum & Instruction:** The January 4 Institute Day was very successful. The winter benchmarking period began January 11, during which all students will take the NWEA-MAP assessments, and many will also be assessed in reading and/or math with AIMSWeb Plus. Assessments will take place both onsite and remotely.
- **Finance:** District 58 is estimated to receive about \$800,000 in funding, spread over two fiscal years, from the last stimulus bill passed by Congress to help cover pandemic costs and budget shortfalls.
- **Facilities:** Buildings and Grounds continues to work on the roof and mechanical equipment upgrades at Pierce Downer. The next area of focus is resolving frequent problems with mechanical equipment at Fairmount, including the rooftop HVAC unit installed in 1988. Several items have surpassed their anticipated useful life.
- **Personnel:** Continued outreach to potential substitutes, as well as hiring “floater” substitutes at each building on a daily basis, has nearly eliminated the unfilled substitute positions at our schools.
- **Technology:** The District continues to utilize the FCC’s E-Rate program to take advantage of discounts for telecommunications, internet access and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries.
- **Student Services:** Grove Children’s Preschool invites prospective preschool families to attend virtual open house events in January. Schools have received new guidance from IDPH and ISBE on school exclusion and quarantine requirements. Students and staff in quarantine may return after 10 days if they meet additional testing requirements, maintain social distance, show no symptoms, and wear a mask on return. Principals and nurses will undergo training to support a consistent approach across the District.
- **Public Relations:** The Education Foundation awarded 11 grants totaling more than \$5,500 to teachers and staff. The Downers Grove Junior Woman’s Club awarded nine grants totaling more than \$2,700 to staff. The Education Foundation also secured CARES Act funding for the Foundation’s COVID-19 Family Support fund, which provides grocery gift cards to District 58 families struggling financially due to the pandemic.
- **Other:** The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) anticipates that COVID-19 vaccinations for Group 1b, which includes educators, will begin to be available in the next couple of weeks. However, the group includes approximately 180,000 people in DuPage County, and the DCHD is currently receiving only 10,000 doses per week so it may take some time to vaccinate the entire group.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending December 31, 2020. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO Todd Drafall reported that overall the District's expenses are trending similar to previous years, with the exception of transportation, which is about \$800,000 below last year due to remote learning; this will impact next year's reimbursement.

C. Treasurer's Report

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

D. Policy Committee

Dr. Russell reported that the DuPage County ROE Compliance Team has recommended a revision to the recently adopted policy involving student discipline. One section of Policy 7:190, Student Behavior, refers to the use of isolated time out or physical restraint. While the current policy is aligned to Illinois School Code, the team recommended adding language that explicitly states District 58's practice of not permitting the use of isolated time out, and using physical restraint only as a last resort when a student presents an imminent threat to themselves or others. Restraint is provided commensurate with ISBE guidelines and only by trained staff.

E. Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee did not meet in December.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

President Hughes reported on the January 8, 2021 Financial Advisory Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the Year-to-Date report, reviewed options and the process of bringing bonds to market, and discussed potential steps regarding the Longfellow property.

G. District Leadership Team

The District Leadership Team did not meet in December.

H. Health and Wellness Committee

The Health and Wellness Committee did not meet in December.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### Learning Model Review

Dr. Russell and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul updated the Board on the instructional model for Trimester 2, an outline of potential growth areas for the instructional model at all grade levels, and a timeline and process for addressing each of those growth areas.

The administration has determined that there will be no changes to the schedule and structure of the current hybrid and fully remote options through the end of

the second trimester (March 5). The District will remain prepared for adaptive pauses if warranted. However, feedback from staff and families has identified areas for growth, but also acknowledged the impact of change on all stakeholders. Potential growth areas include increasing student engagement at all grade levels, developing more consistent and effective solutions for temporary remote scenarios, examining the focus of synchronous instruction including pacing and connections to asynchronous work, and increasing the amount of synchronous instructional time. Mr. Sisul reviewed each of these goals, strategies for implementation in both elementary and middle schools, and appropriate timelines.

For the second trimester, students will be assumed to remain in their current instructional model unless families request a change by January 19.

Finally, Dr. Russell noted that the updates on exclusionary guidance and close contact quarantine will be implemented immediately. Onsite temperature checks, which have proven to be an unreliable measure, will be discontinued after this week, while self-certification procedures will continue.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

## 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2020

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 special meeting/financial workshop as presented.

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

### B. Approval of Minutes – December 14, 2020

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 regular meeting as presented.

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

## 9. 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 Olczyk moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

The assignment of one custodian and one educational support staff employee; the medical leaves of absence of two certified staff; and the resignation of one educational support staff employees.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on January 11, 2021, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in December 2020 as shown on the list submitted under the date of January 11, 2021 in the total amount of \$897,700 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 JANUARY 11, 2021  
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

**EDUCATION FUND**

List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$387,442.66
Revolving Fund - December 2020	\$41,264.14
Imprest Checks - December 2020	\$12,335.07

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND**

List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$162,928.15
Revolving Fund - December 2020	\$647.90
Imprest Checks - December 2020	\$0.00

**DEBT SERVICE**

List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - December 2020	\$0.00

**TRANSPORTATION FUND**

List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$225,268.08
Revolving Fund - December 2020	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - December 2020	\$25.00

**IMRE**

List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$0.00
----------------------------------	--------

**FICA/MEDICARE**

List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$0.00
----------------------------------	--------

**SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND**

List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$67,789.00
----------------------------------	-------------

Revolving Fund – December 2020	\$0.00
<b><u>WORKING CASH FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>FIRE &amp; LIFE SAFETY FUNDS</u></b>	
List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>SINKING FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - January 11, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - December 2020	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$897,700.00</b>

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

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

- A. Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$3,335,000 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 Samonte moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$3,335,000 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.

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

- B. Resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk,

Samonte, and Weiner  
NAYS: None Motion carried

C. Bid: Floor Tile Abatement for Henry Puffer Basement and 2 O'Neill Classrooms

Member Weiner moved and Member Samonte seconded the motion to award the bid for asbestos abatement in the Henry Puffer basement and two O'Neill classrooms to EHC for a total of \$63,250.

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

D. Bid: New Flooring for Henry Puffer Basement and 3 O'Neill Classrooms

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to award the bid for flooring installation in the Henry Puffer basement and three O'Neill classrooms to Mazarini Inc for a total of \$77,130.99.

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

E. Wight Engineering Proposal for Fairmount Mechanical Equipment Improvements

Member Samonte moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the Wight engineering proposal for Fairmount mechanical equipment improvements as presented.

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

F. 2021 Preschool Fees

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to set the 2021-2022 Grove Children's Preschool non-refundable registration fee at \$50 and annual tuition at \$3790.

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

G. Authority to Execute Future Fixed Electric Rate Agreement

Member Weiner moved and Member Samonte seconded the motion to give the Assistant Superintendent for Business the authority to execute a future fixed electrical agreement for up to 36 months starting June 2021 at a rate not to exceed \$.02815/KWh.



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

H. Policies 3:40, 4:80, 4:90, 5:270, 6:20, 6:340, 7:100, 7:140 and 7:300  
Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt revisions to Policies 3:40, 4:80, 4:90, 5:270, 6:20, 6:340, 7:100, 7:140 and 7:300.

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

I. Policy 7:190 - Student Behavior  
Member Samonte moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to adopt revisions to Policy 7:190 Student Behavior as presented.

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

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Tuesday, January 19, 7 a.m.	Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 3:45 p.m.	Legislative Committee Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 3:45 p.m.	Legislative Committee Meeting
Monday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting

## 12. CLOSED SESSION

Member Harris moved and Member Weiner 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; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1);
- collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2);
- litigation, 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 meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); and
- 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, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk, Samonte, and Weiner  
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

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

The Board convened to closed session at 9:05 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:33 p.m.

### 13. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – December 7, 2020

Member Weiner moved and Member Samonte seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

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

B. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – December 14, 2020

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

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

### 14. ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk, Samonte, and Weiner

NAYS: None

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

---

Darren Hughes, President

---

Melissa Jerves, Secretary