

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, December 6, 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; Vice President Gregory Harris; and Members Kirat Doshi, Melissa Ellis, Emily Hanus, Steve Olczyk and Tracy Weiner. 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; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Todd Drafall, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Sonali Patil, Manager of Business Services; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Brent Borchelt, principal of Belle Aire School, introduced Student Council members Keira Rana, Eloise Berger, Ella Smrha, and Elliot Blonigen, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Borchelt shared a video highlighting school improvement goals in reading, math and positive psychology. Belle Aire has implemented Benchmark and Study Sync reading curricular resources, returned to guided instruction, and in primary grades has added instruction using Foundations of Literacy and Michael Heggerty resources. Math curricular resources Bridges and Big Ideas result in instruction that generates amazing classroom discussion. Students are also learning through small groups and partner work, and individually with resources such as XtraMath. To further the Orange Frog positive psychology work, Belle Aire has 80 students participating in a Kindness Club, and Student Council candidates proposed kindness projects as part of their election.

The Student Council officers explained each of their kindness project plans and their timeline for implementation, as well as other fundraising projects to support Belle Aire families in need.

Belle Aire PTA Co-President Nicole Smith reported on the many social and academic events and activities the PTA sponsors, such as a back to school party, Junior Great Books, Fun Lunch, and after-school science club. The PTA also plans activities to support and show appreciation for teachers and staff; organizes community events such as a Toys for Tots drive and kindergarten playground meet and greet. A variety of fundraising events make these plans possible,

including restaurant nights, Trivia Night, and a golf outing. The PTA has formed a playground committee to raise funds for a new school playground, and hopes to add even more events to its calendar as the health guidance allows.

### 3. COMMUNICATIONS

#### Written Communications

1. Anonymous letter regarding school boards, taxes and poverty.
2. Email from Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt regarding rising COVID cases ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
3. Email from parent regarding student disciplinary matter ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*

#### Board Meeting Follow-up Communications

1. Email from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell to Colleen McLachlan regarding board meeting comment.

### 4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

#### A. Facilities

Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall and Director of Buildings and Grounds Kevin Barto reported on the District's facilities and plans for capital infrastructure funding. The District developed a Master Facility Plan in August 2019 that identified \$244.8 million in facility needs. A Citizen Task Force was then formed to prioritize these needs, organize community engagement, and consider a bond referendum. The task force recommended that the District prioritize \$179 million in facility needs, including deferred maintenance, safe and healthy school environments, and reconfiguring the middle schools to include sixth grade. Though the task force was paused in 2020 due to the pandemic, it met again in summer of 2021 and affirmed its recommendation. The District plans to begin a facility community engagement and education process and will possibly pursue a bond referendum in November 2022.

In 2020-21, the District restructured its debt and applied for an Illinois School Maintenance Project Grant. The \$3.3 million in proceeds were spent during summer 2021 on a few of the most urgent capital projects, including roofing, HVAC, mechanical, and paving projects. The next set of projects will be funded with a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the Longfellow Center. The remainder of the proceeds will be reserved to increase the District's fund balance to help manage the annual low cash point and provide for any emergency capital work. Mr. Barto explained that in deciding which projects to schedule, the District prioritizes health and life safety needs. Summer 2022 projects will address masonry maintenance, fire alarm replacements, and exterior door and hardware replacement.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 6. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell reported on the following items:

- **Curriculum:** Monday, January 3rd is one of the four Teacher Institute Days on the calendar. All certified staff will attend various sessions. The first trimester of school concluded on November 19th. Report cards for elementary students will be sent home December 9th; middle school grades are currently available to view through the parent portal. Families recently received an email with information about how to participate in equity audit surveys. The District's Strategic Plan calls for the District to examine equity, and the Illinois State Board of Education requires it as an accountability measure. Family and staff surveys are due December 17th; students in grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to take the survey on December 16th. The survey can be viewed in advance at the District Office.
- **Finance:** The tax levy previously approved by the Board will be delivered to the DuPage County Clerk's office by the last Tuesday in December.
- **Personnel:** The District continues to present Green Apple Awards to various staff members. Parents, staff, and community members nominate individuals for this award and make a donation to the Education Foundation in their name.
- **Technology:** Equipment shortages and delays are beginning to impact the District. The District will accelerate the ordering process for the next school year by requesting approval of a device refresh for elementary students in January or February.
- **Student Services:** COVID-19 cases have sharply risen in the state, county, village and District. The District's priority remains in-person instruction, and will continue to consult with the DuPage County Health Department on all positive cases and mitigation measures.
- **Public Relations:** Recent community efforts to help District 58 families in need include Blessings in a Backpack through school PTAs; winter coat donations from the Knights of Columbus of St. Joseph Church; holiday meals from Immanuel Lutheran Church; holiday gifts from Roadrunners Soccer Club; winter wear from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Helping Hands program, and the Moose Lodge; and other anonymous donations.
- All District 58 schools will be closed the weeks of December 20 and December 27 for Winter Break. School resumes January 4, 2022.

### B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month

ending November 30, 2021. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO Todd Drafall reported that the year-to-date report reflects the high cash point of the year due to the receipt of fall property tax revenue; the remainder will be received in June. Transportation billing will continue to catch up and expenses will increase. Mr. Drafall also provided background information about the new state-required TRS 457(b) supplemental savings program. Effective July 2022, all new TRS employees will be automatically enrolled in this plan, with the option to opt out. The District will continue to offer its other 457(b) and 403(b) supplemental savings programs.

C. Treasurer's Report

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

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

E. Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

G. District Leadership Team

Member Doshi reported on the November 15, 2021 District Leadership Team meeting. At the Board's direction, the committee discussed draft academic and learner behavior descriptors that comprise the Portrait of a Graduate. The committee discussed how to use existing data collection systems to measure these descriptors and key performance indicators. The committee is scheduled to meet again in February, but may have an interim meeting to review recommendations from the other groups who have worked on these drafts.

H. Health and Wellness Committee

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

**7. DISCUSSION**

There were no items for discussion.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of Minutes – November 8, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

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

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

The President stated that a motion would be in order relative to the 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 Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

- The family medical leaves of absence of four certified staff employees.
- The assignment of two support staff employees.
- Teacher stipends as presented in the personnel report.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on December 6, 2021, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in November 2021 as shown on the list submitted under the date of December 6, 2021 in the total amount of \$2,646,139.23 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 6, 2021  
 LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

**EDUCATION FUND**

List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$1,552,851.00
Revolving Fund - November 2021	\$3,890.54
Imprest Checks - November 2021	\$3,926.74

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND**

List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$53,248.88
Revolving Fund - November 2021	\$133.90
Imprest Checks - November 2021	\$0.00

**DEBT SERVICE**

List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - November 2021	\$240,414.45

**TRANSPORTATION FUND**

List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$420,414.46
Revolving Fund - November 2021	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - November 2021	\$569.00
<b><u>IMRF</u></b>	
List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>FICA/MEDICARE</u></b>	
List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - November 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>SITE &amp; CONSTRUCTION FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$270,690.26
Revolving Fund - November 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>WORKING CASH FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>FIRE &amp; LIFE SAFETY FUNDS</u></b>	
List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$0.00
<b><u>SINKING FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - December 6, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - November 2021	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,646,139.23</b>

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

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

## 11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

### A. Belle Aire School Playground

Member Doshi moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the fundraising plan by the Belle Aire community for improving the playground area at their school.

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

B. Kingsley School Playground

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the fundraising plan by the Kingsley community for improving the playground area at their school.

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

C. TRS Employer Participation Agreement for the 457(b) Supplemental Savings Program

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution to Approve the TRS Employer Participation Agreement for the 457(b) Supplemental Savings Program.

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

D. ECRA Consulting Group Contract

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the agreement between ECRA and District 58 in the amount of \$29,398.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk  
and Weiner  
NAYS: Ellis Motion carried

E. Bid: Moving Services

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to award the bid for moving services to Advanced Moving & Storage of Wood Dale, IL for a total cost of \$23,500.

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

F. Surplus Equipment

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to designate as surplus the equipment listed in the attached memo.

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

G. Dismissal of ESP Employee for Reasons Other Than Reduction-In-Force

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution re: Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel Employee for

Reasons Other than Reduction-In-Force.

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

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Wednesday, December 8, 3:45 p.m.	Legislative Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 5, 3:45 p.m.	Legislative Committee Meeting
Friday, January 7, 7 a.m.	Financial Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, January 10, 7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 11, 7 a.m.	Policy Committee Meeting

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

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

- 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, Harris, Hughes,  
Olczyk and Weiner  
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

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

The Board convened to closed session at 9:01 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:04 p.m.

**14. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – November 8, 2021  
Member Ellis moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve



the minutes of the November 8, 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, Harris, Hughes,  
Olczyk and Weiner  
NAYS: None Motion carried

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Darren Hughes, President

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Melissa Jerves, Secretary