

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 2023, at the Downers Grove Village Hall. 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, 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; Faith Behr, Interim Community Relations Coordinator; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SCHOOL REPORT**

Belle Aire Student Council advisors Annie Stanton and Emily Weist introduced Student Council officers Hazel Berger, Brendan Blonigen, Jackson Euwema and Thomas Nielsen, who led the pledge of allegiance. The students reported on the various service projects, spirit days and activities organized by the Student Council. They have sponsored spirit weeks, a variety of fundraisers, and a Spring Readathon.

Belle Aire PTA President Beth Green shared that the PTA has resumed many favorite programs, such as the Family Color Run, Parent Trivia Night, birthday banners, field trips and assemblies, Variety Show and Sixth Grade Breakfast. Belle Aire PTA also supports students and staff through the LRC Fund and birthday book club, staff appreciation week celebrations, and a classroom supply fund and teacher discretionary fund for the school.

Principal Brent Borchelt reported on Belle Aire points of pride, including Belle Aire Buddies and Safety Patrol programs, which provide cross-grade level collaboration, leadership and mentorship opportunities. Staff have participated in restorative practice and growth mindset discussions and have developed common behavior expectations for school environments. Students receive positive recognition via the Bulldog Brag Board and Kindness Tree, and are involved in clubs, afterschool programs and community partnerships.

Belle Aire's student assessment data showed expected growth in reading and higher-than-expected growth in math. Belle Aire's first two school improvement goals are to implement effective writing strategies in all instructional environments and implement effective and abstract comprehension questions in the area of reading. Goal 3 is to establish and encourage a culture and climate rooted in positive psychology.

### 3. COMMUNICATIONS

#### Written Communications

1. Email from parent regarding staff/student issue ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
2. Email from Rebecca McDonald Borg regarding Herrick teachers ~ *responses from Board member Tracy Weiner and Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
3. Email from Porus Dadabhoy regarding crisis in high schools for girls.
4. Email from Moira Wendel regarding academic records ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*

#### Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Janie Jordan, Data Research Partners, regarding staff names, titles, email addresses ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

### 4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

#### A. Update on District Equity Leadership Team

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul presented an update on the work of the District Equity Leadership Team (DELT). The District is required by the ISBE Strategic Plan, Board policy, and the District's current strategic plan to consider educational equity. Educational equity is not removing programming or opportunities for students, rooted in political perspectives, divisive or anticipating significant changes to educational experiences. The DELT's work has included developing a statement of educational equity, communicating and training through a new Equity page on the District website and additional professional learning for staff, and analyzing the findings from the Equity Audit.

The Equity Audit reviewed quantitative data from 2017-2021. In several areas, the data did not reveal any glaring indications of inequity: demographics, disability demographics, benchmark assessments, standardized assessments, final grades, outplacement and absenteeism, and ELL languages. The qualitative data received from focus groups provided some recommendations for improvement, some of which have already been addressed, such as the transition from tuition-based kindergarten enrichment to free full-day kindergarten, and concerns about the social studies curriculum, which was recently updated.

The Equity Audit recommendations were as follows:

- Develop and communicate clear language around equity
- Produce a Board policy/statement/resolution to equity
- Implement intentional, measurable, accountable and transparent equity goals
- Increase recruitment efforts to attract highly qualified, racially diverse staff
- Embed opportunities for culturally responsive pedagogy and practices in all curriculum
- Accelerate opportunities to gifted programming for BIPOC students and those receiving special programming
- Provide robust training on educational equity
- Interrogate the structural root causes of disproportionate racial discipline outcomes

Mr. Sisul reviewed the ways the District is already implementing these recommendations, and the next steps the DELT is considering.

## 5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell reported on the following topics:

- **Personnel:** Student registration is in progress. When student enrollment is confirmed, the District can finalize its staffing allocations. Resolutions for the honorable dismissal of some staff are on the agenda; as soon as enrollment is confirmed, the District hopes to hire back some or all of those staff members.
- **Curriculum:** Certified staff reported an extremely positive experience at the April 4 Institute Day, which was led by a combination of outside presenters and District 58 teachers, coaches and administrators. IAR testing began in District 58 and will conclude on April 21; student participation is at an all-time high.
- **Finance:** The referendum bonds will appear on the upcoming tax bill for District 58 residents. The District anticipated a 25-cent increase in the bond rate, but the actual increase is only 23 cents. The total operating rate increased as well because the CPI was greater than the overall equalized assessed value increase.
- **Technology:** The Raptor Visitor Management System has been in place in all District 58 schools since spring break. The system helps track and identify visitors and is part of an ongoing commitment to enhancing school safety.
- **Student Services:** The Special Services Department and the Downers Grove Police Department are presenting an information night on comprehensive safety planning for families of students with special needs on Tuesday, April 18.

- **Facilities:** The District continues to contact references for the top two candidates interviewing for the owner’s representative. After negotiating the proposed scope of work, a final contract will be presented to the Board at the May meeting. The elementary school construction schedule has been amended, focusing on criteria of original age of building, proposed renovation costs, immediate facility needs, recent facility work completed, and availability of existing air-conditioned spaces. The updated proposal is as follows:
  - **Phase 1 / Summer 2024:** Whittier, Henry Puffer, Hillcrest, Highland
  - **Phase 2 / Summer 2025:** Fairmount, Kingsley, Lester, Indian Trail
  - **Phase 3 / Summer 2026:** Pierce Downer, Belle Aire, El Sierra
- **Public Relations:** Approximately 50 percent of students have completed the registration process for next school year. School offices will continue to communicate with families to complete registration. 54 eighth graders will be honored with Select 58 Awards from the Education Foundation on May 3rd.
- **Other:** Members Hanus, Doshi and Olczyk were reelected to the Board for another four-year term. The Board Reorganization meeting is scheduled for May 8 prior to the regular Board meeting.
- Ken Lerner of the Pierce Downer Heritage Alliance presented a donation to offset the cost of the Lyman Woods field trip for second graders.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending March 31, 2023. Mr. Drafall shared that an amended budget will be presented to the Board in May, with approval scheduled for June. The amended budget will reflect the referendum bond sale and other adjustments, such as an increase in investment revenue.

C. Treasurer’s Report

There was nothing additional 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

The District Leadership Team has not met since the last Board meeting.

H. Health and Wellness Committee

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

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2023

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE (Member Ellis abstained)

Motion carried

B. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2023

Member Ellis moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023, strategic planning workshop as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

**8. 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 Ellis seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

- The assignment of two support staff employees.
- The family medical leaves of absence of two certified staff employees.
- The resignation of one certified staff employee and two support staff employees.
- The retirement of one support staff employee.
- The dismissal of one probationary support staff employee.
- Instructional assistant stipends as listed on the Personnel Report.
- A 5% increase in non-union technology staff salaries for 2023-2024.
- A 5% increase in non-union educational support staff salaries for 2023-2024.
- A 5% increase (\$39.09/hourly) in registered nurse salaries for 2023-2024.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on April 10, 2023, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in March 2023 as shown on the list

submitted under the date of April 10, 2023, in the total amount of \$1,687,161.42 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 APRIL 10, 2023  
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

**EDUCATION FUND**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$555,777.37
Revolving Fund - March 2023	\$172,424.14
Imprest Checks - March 2023	\$10,641.71

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$138,792.39
Revolving Fund - March 2023	\$519.09
Imprest Checks - March 2023	\$0.00

**DEBT SERVICE**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - March 2023	\$0.00

**TRANSPORTATION FUND**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$668,803.91
Revolving Fund - March 2023	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - March 2023	\$857.37

**IMRE**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$0.00
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**FICA/MEDICARE**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - March 2023	\$0.00

**SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$11,100.00
Revolving Fund - March 2023	\$0.00

**CAPITAL - REFERENDUM**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$128,245.44
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**WORKING CASH FUND**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$0.00
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**FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$0.00
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**MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023	\$0.00
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**SINKING FUND**

List of Bills - April 10, 2023 \$0.00  
Revolving Fund - March 2023 \$0.00

Total \$1,687,161.42

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)

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

A. Honorable Dismissal of Teachers

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution regarding Honorable Dismissal of Teachers as presented.

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

B. Honorable Dismissal of Part-time Educational Support Staff

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution regarding the Honorable Dismissal of Part-time Educational Support Staff as presented.

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

C. Resolution Ratifying Proposed Amendments to the School Association for Special Education in DuPage Articles of Joint Agreement

Member Hanus moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution Ratifying Proposed Amendments to the SASSED Articles of Joint Agreement.

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

D. Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Mutual Assistance in Response to Crises in the Public Schools of DuPage County

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Mutual Assistance in

Response to Crises in the Public Schools of DuPage County, substantially in the form presented by the Superintendent, and to authorize the President and Secretary to sign the Agreement.

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

E. Rexnord Property Tax Abatement

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Property Tax Abatement for the Rexnord Facility for the 2022 tax year.

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

F. Surplus Equipment: Dell Chromebooks, Mac Minis, Computer Charging Carts, Stove

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to designate as surplus equipment 1 electric stove, 3 computer charging carts, 1500 Dell Chromebooks, and 23 Mac Minis.

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

G. Purchase of Wireless Network Equipment

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the purchase of 393 wireless access points, two Cisco 24 Port Switches, and associated equipment and coverage for a price of \$242,342.11 from CDW-G.

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

H. Technology and Food Service Consultants for Capital Projects

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the two consultant firms for food service and technology as recommended by Wight & Company.

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

I. BID: Paper for the 2023-24 School Year

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to award the bid for paper for 2023-24 to Murnane for an estimated cost of \$64,712.00.



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

J. BID: General Supplies for the 2023-24 School Year  
Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to award the bid for general supplies for 2023-24 to Runco for an estimated cost of \$26,234.02.

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

K. BID: Art Supplies for the 2023-24 School Year  
Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to award the bid for art supplies for 2023-24 to School Specialty for an estimated cost of \$24,865.43.

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

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Tuesday, April 18, 7 a.m.	Policy Committee Meeting O'Neill Middle School
Monday, April 24, 7 p.m.	Budget/Financial Workshop O'Neill Middle School
Monday, May 8, 7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting Village Hall

## 11. CLOSED SESSION

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis 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);
- 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).

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 9:31 p.m.

## 12. ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION

### A. Closed Session Minutes

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 closed session meeting as presented, and keep them closed to the public due to the confidential nature of their contents.

VOICE VOTE (Member Ellis abstained)

Motion carried

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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Darren Hughes, President

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Melissa Jerves, Secretary