

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met for a financial and curriculum workshop on Monday, April 24, 2023 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 a financial and curriculum workshop of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Darren Hughes, Vice President Gregory Harris; and Members Kirat Doshi, Emily Hanus, Steve Olczyk and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: Melissa Ellis. 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. FINANCIAL AND CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

A. Financial Workshop

Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall gave a presentation on the District's proposed Five-Year Financial Plan, which informs the annual budget process. Due to the referendum and subsequent bond sale, an amended budget will be on the June Board agenda. The 2023-24 budget will be balanced and complies with the Board's 35% fund balance policy. Increases in revenue that will allow the District to maintain current programs and add a full-day kindergarten program next year come from the following sources:

- an increase in property taxes from the expiration of the downtown Downers Grove TIF;
- an increase in interest income and Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax income;
- the upcoming expiration of the Ogden Avenue TIF, which will add commercial property to the tax base;
- controlling special education costs by expanding in-district programs and reducing outplacements;
- reduction in health insurance increases over the last three years.

The proposed budget reflects some staffing changes designed to provide equity among schools, achieve class size targets, and provide special education services. These include the addition of an assistant principal

position at Herrick Middle School, two classroom teachers, three RISE teachers, and three occupational therapists; and the reduction of five instructional assistant positions.

The referendum property tax increase will be reflected on taxpayers' 2022 tax bill; however, the District's tax rate will continue to be the lowest of all large elementary districts in DuPage County.

Mr. Drafall also gave a brief update on plans to expand food service in District 58 elementary schools. The request for proposals is currently awaiting approval from the Illinois State Board of Education before posting for bidders. Before implementing an expanded lunch program, the District will need to purchase equipment and deal with staffing and space issues at each school.

B. Curriculum Workshop

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul, along with Curriculum Coordinators Eleni Gajewski and Christine Priester, updated the Board on the Gifted, ELA, and Writing Committees. The Gifted Committee is considering a recommendation for a push-in model where eligible students participate in gifted instruction in their home schools throughout the week, instead of the current weekly pull-out program. The gifted curriculum would connect with the current classroom curriculum, but would continue to be higher-level inquiry- and project-based. In the middle schools, the committee would like to expand the gifted class offering in Reading/ELA to social studies. The committee plans to take the 2023-24 school year to thoroughly define a program structure, and begin implementation in 2024-25.

The ELA Committee has examined curricular materials for grades K-5 and 6-8 and will pilot potential resources in 2023-24. Some K-5 classrooms in each school will pilot the update, Benchmark Advance 2022, to the current resource. Two foundational skills programs for K-2 will also be piloted. Grades 6-8 will pilot two resources, Amplify ELA and CommonLit 360.

The Writing Committee has completed a pilot of two curricular resources and will be bringing a recommendation to the Board for the adoption of School-Wide Writing Fundamentals for grades K-5. This writing resource will be funded through an amendment to the ESSER grant based on learning loss through the pandemic. Implementation will begin in 2023-24.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Friday, April 28, 7:00 a.m.

Financial Advisory Committee
O'Neill Middle School

Monday, May 8, 7:00 p.m.

Board Reorganization/Regular
Meeting
Village Hall

Monday, March 8, 7:45 p.m.

Strategic Planning Workshop
Village Hall

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary