

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, October 9, 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 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; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Staff Development; Elizabeth Ehrhart, 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; 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**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by O'Neill Middle School Student Council officers Saara Raheja, Lydia Larsen and Kyra Ohlsen. They highlighted student clubs and activities, including the Courtyard Crew, Craft Club, Drama Club and Debate Club.

Principal Lauryn Humphris and Assistant Principal Danielle Bongiorno shared O'Neill's theme of the year, Better Together, and the events they organized to start the year. Senator Shout-Outs, assemblies and the new advisory period all serve to increase engagement and connectedness within the school community. They also reported on the successes of the cross country teams this fall.

Principal Humphris reviewed the ECRA student growth data, which showed that overall, students are achieving expected academic growth, but fall data showed evidence of the "summer slide" compared to spring data. The O'Neill team analyzed that academic data and set school improvement goals of implementing the ELA pilot curriculum and small group reading instruction where needed, and a math intervention plan schoolwide for students during their Student Support Period. A third goal is to implement the District's tenets of "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe" in all areas of the building.

## **3. COMMUNICATIONS**

### Written Communications

1. Email from Jennifer Schuh regarding student issue ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
2. Email from Steve Ruffolo regarding introduction of Greener Grove.
3. Email from Amy Vogt regarding Indigenous Peoples' Day ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Deltek Public Records regarding Owner's Representative Services RFP ~ *response from Manager of Business Services Michelle Kovar.*
2. Freedom of Information Act request from Janine Asmus regarding certified school library staff ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
3. Freedom of Information Act request from Joe Krause regarding starting wage for classroom aides ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
4. Freedom of Information Act request from Vince Espi, Prairie State Wire, regarding English language learners, bilingual teachers and migrant asylum seekers ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
5. Freedom of Information Act request from Jake Griffin, Daily Herald, regarding radon testing and remediation from 2018 to present ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

**4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS**

A. Owner's Representative Update on Referendum Projects

Jordan Schulz of Huffman Keel Partners reported that about 80% of the design process is complete for the middle schools, and 70% complete for Phase 1 elementary schools. The first bid package was approved by the Board in September. Technical review by the Village was completed in August and Wight's response was provided October 2; ISBE plan review is underway for the middle schools. The Board asked questions about risk management and tracking the referendum budget to ensure funds are sufficient for all phases of the project.

B. Fall Data Snapshot

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Elizabeth Ehrhart provided a district-level overview of Fall 2023 benchmarking data. Initial observations of the data were that both reading and math scores met the expected growth rate (82% reading, 77% math). Middle school data trended lower than expected; while achievement remains high, growth fell. All student groups made expected growth with the exception of the female population in math.

Each building has held Tier 1 meetings to review student data. School improvement planning incorporates ECRA data review in all schools. The middle schools are using their student support period to focus on specific areas of growth using tools such as IXL, Khan Academy and Math 180. Teachers are using both spring and fall student data to make instructional decisions, and the administrative team is analyzing fall and spring data in

anticipation of the Illinois School Report Card release. More detailed data will be shared at the October 23 Curriculum Workshop and November Board Meeting.

## 5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell shared that October is National Principal Appreciation Month, and thanked District 58 principals for their hard work. He also reported on the following topics:

- **Personnel:** The consent agenda includes the majority of stipends for the 23-24 school year, the majority of which are for staff who sponsor extracurricular student activities.
- **Curriculum:** Student assessment reports have been sent home over the past few weeks for MAP, Aimsweb and IAR. The Illinois Science Assessment score reports will go home with sixth graders soon. Classes are piloting new English/Language Arts resources at all grade levels; a recommendation to the Board is expected in spring 2024.
- **Finance:** Open enrollment for health insurance and other benefits will be during the first two weeks of November. The District will announce opportunities for staff to learn about the different plan options.
- **Technology:** Parent-teacher conference registration was successful using the PowerPTC system.
- **Student Services:** Parents of students with IEPs or those participating in the special education evaluation process are invited to register for Facilitated IEP training. The virtual training will be held October 11 at 7 p.m.
- **Facilities:** Belle Aire hosted a grand opening of its new playground. The Fairmount playground is nearing completion. The Regional Office of Education recently completed its health/life/safety walk throughs of all buildings; there were minimal issues that need to be addressed.
- **Public Relations:** The District received 20 applications from parents, staff and community members to serve on board committees and District councils. Invitations to join will be sent out soon.

### B. Monthly Business

The Board received the financial and investment reports for the month ending September 30, 2023. Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall reported that though salary and benefits expenditures look better than last year at the same time, the Year-to-Date report reflects a lag in the payroll cycle, with one payroll fewer counted at this time. The Health and Wellness Committee has recommended increases of health insurance premiums for the PPO plans. The tax levy recommendation will come before the Board in November. The levy will exceed 5% over last year, requiring the Board to hold a Truth-in-Taxation hearing.

### C. Treasurer's Report

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

D. Policy Committee

Vice President Harris reported on the September 19, 2023, meeting. The recent PRESS update primarily included legal updates and small language changes. The committee is also recommending approval of a correction to Policy 7:270 – Administering Medicines to Students, which was recently updated by the Board but inadvertently omitted some necessary legal language. The Board will skip a first reading and vote on these updates.

E. Legislative Committee

Member Hanus reported on the October 4, 2023, meeting. The committee reviewed the proposed resolutions that will be brought to the Illinois Association of School Boards' Delegate Assembly. Topics include industrial construction near schools, school resource officer funding, bus driver regulations, alternative safe school funding, and employment history review. The committee also briefly discussed dates for the annual Legislative Breakfast.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

President Hughes reported on the October 6, 2023, meeting. The committee reviewed the Year-to-Date report; received updates on the remaining playground construction projects, proposed 2024 health insurance rates, and the estimated tax levy. The committee also discussed the pilot elementary school lunch program that will begin at the end of October. This lunch program is not the same as that offered in the middle schools, but is intended to bridge the gap until new kitchen facilities are added to buildings.

G. District Leadership Team

Member Weiner reported on the October 9, 2023, meeting. The committee reviewed the latest draft of the new strategic plan, including the objectives, action plans and implementation plans. The draft will be shared in-depth with the Board at the October 23 Curriculum Workshop.

H. Health and Wellness Committee

Vice President Harris reported on the September 28, 2023, meeting. The District's benefits consultant, Assured Partners, recommended the following rate increases for 2024: 8% increase to the Universal and reduced PPO plans and no increase to the high deductible with HSA plan.

I. SASED Report

Dr. Russell reported that the executive director search has begun and good conversations are happening regarding SASED's financial viability.

## 6. DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion on the agenda.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of Minutes – September 11, 2023

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

9. **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 assignment of six support staff employees.
- The Family and Medical Leaves of Absence of five certified staff employees.
- The resignation of two support staff employees.
- The retirement of six support staff employees, effective May 2024, and one effective June 2024.
- Staff stipends.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on October 9, 2023, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in September 2023 as shown on the list submitted under the date of October 9, 2023, in the total amount of \$1,841,232.89 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 OCTOBER 9, 2023  
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

**EDUCATION FUND**

List of Bills – October 9, 2023	<b>\$558,344.88</b>
Imprest Checks - September 2023	<b>\$16,251.02</b>

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND**

List of Bills – October 9, 2023	\$131,254.25
Imprest Checks - September 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>DEBT SERVICE</u></b>	
List of Bills – October 9, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>TRANSPORTATION FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills – October 9, 2023	\$352,431.40
Imprest Checks - September 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>IMRF</u></b>	
List of Bills – October 9, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>FICA/MEDICARE</u></b>	
List of Bills – October 9, 2023	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - September 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>SITE &amp; CONSTRUCTION FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - October 9, 2023	\$738,842.79
Revolving Fund – September 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>CAPITAL - REFERENDUM</u></b>	
List of Bills - October 9, 2023	\$44,108.55
<b><u>WORKING CASH FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - October 9, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>FIRE &amp; LIFE SAFETY FUNDS</u></b>	
List of Bills - October 9, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - October 9, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>SINKING FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - October 9, 2023	\$0.00

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)

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

A. PRESS Issue 112 and Policy 7:270

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to adopt the policy updates presented in PRESS Issue 112 and correction to Policy 7:270, as presented in the attached drafts.

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

B. 2024 Health Insurance Rates

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the changes to the medical insurance rates and increase the District contribution to the health savings accounts as listed in the attached memo.

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

C. Instructional Assistant Substitute Pay Rate

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the increase in the Substitute Instructional Assistant daily rate to \$110, and the hard-to-fill Substitute Instructional Assistant daily rate to \$120.

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

D. Appointment of 2023 IASB Delegate

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to appoint Member Ellis as delegate and Member Doshi as alternate delegate to the 2023 Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

E. Surplus Equipment

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

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

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Monday, October 23, 7 p.m. Curriculum Workshop  
O'Neill Middle School

Wednesday, October 25, 3:45 p.m. Legislative Committee  
O'Neill Middle School

Monday, November 13, 7 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting  
Downers Grove Village Hall

**12. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

A. Approval of September 11, 2023, Closed Session Minutes

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023, closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Darren Hughes, President

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Melissa Jerves, Secretary