

January 8, 2018

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, January 8, 2018, at the Downers Grove Village Hall.

## **1. BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION (BINA) HEARING**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The President called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that it was a public hearing to receive comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$2,810,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District. Members present: President Doug Purcell; Vice President Elizabeth Sigale; and Members Gregory Harris, Darren Hughes, John Miller, Jill Samonte, and Beth Taylor. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services; Ken Young, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

### **B. CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SELL \$2,810,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS**

There were no comments from the Board regarding the bond sale. The President asked whether there was any written or oral testimony from the public regarding the bond sale. At that time, four members of the public gave oral testimony.

1. Janice Sleeter, Downers Grove resident, stated that she has 40 years of financial experience in corporate, government and personal finance. She expressed difficulty in finding information on the district website, and she does not follow the Bugle, the newspaper in which the hearing notice was published. She also stated that she does not believe it makes sense to replace lower cost debt with higher cost debt, or to replace a municipal bond with one that does not qualify for the municipal bond rate. Ms. Sleeter expressed a desire to review that information with the administration or its financial advisors. Dr. Cremascoli suggested that Ms. Sleeter could connect with Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO David Bein and the district's financial advisor.
2. Scott O'Connell, Downers Grove resident, read a lengthy written statement, a copy of which is attached to the minutes (Attachment 1/8/18 A). Mr. O'Connell objected to the bond issue to fund a Lester School addition, stating that the Board has not fully considered all available alternatives, including larger class sizes, boundary

adjustments across the district, using up current financial reserves, or a voter-approved ballot initiative. Mr. O'Connell also stated that he felt that publication in the Bugle was insufficient notice of the hearing because he found copies of the newspaper difficult to obtain. Mr. O'Connell asked each board member and the Superintendent whether they would be willing to sign the petition to put the bond issue on the November ballot. All declined.

3. Tom Sleeter, Downers Grove resident and chairman of the local group DG Watch, stated that he felt it was dishonest to call the bond issue a working capital financing when it is intended to fund a construction project. He also stated his concern that any increase in property taxes as a result will not be deductible under recent tax reform legislation.
4. Dan Baker, Downers Grove resident, stated that he owns several properties in the area and has a child who will soon attend kindergarten in the district. He commented that he is in support of building an addition and the bond issue. He stated that the potential tax increase as a result of the bond issue is relatively minimal and does not seem like too much of a burden to invest in our children and value of our homes.

### **C. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Miller moved and Member Harris seconded his motion to adjourn the BINA Hearing.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The hearing was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

### **2. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. and announced that it was the regular monthly meeting of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Doug Purcell; Vice President Elizabeth Sigale; and Members Gregory Harris, Darren Hughes, John Miller, Jill Samonte, and Beth Taylor. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services; Ken Young, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary. Attending this meeting were at least seven (7) visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

### **3. FLAG SALUTE**

Christine Clavenna, principal of Pierce Downer School, introduced Student Council sponsors Lauren Minardi and Kelly DeMarco, who in turn introduced student council officers Connor Hurst, Charlotte Nowka, Sydney Miller and Gabe

Deaton. The students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The officers talked about activities, fundraisers and events for this school year. Student Council has organized Spirit Days and Red Ribbon Week for drug-free awareness. A holiday movie night raised over \$400 to purchase gift cards for local families in need. Students raised over \$700 for pets displaced by hurricanes, and packed Panther Kindness Pouches with supplies for the homeless. Future projects include a Little Free Library and sending greeting cards to children in the hospital.

Principal Clavenna shared a video highlighting Pierce Downer's Read With Me program, in which first graders read to therapy dogs, and the Sixth Grade Leadership program, in which sixth graders act as tour guides to new students and help second graders learn how to safely play games at recess. Assistant Principal Mel Sawisch also recognized first grade teacher Sabrina Breault for spearheading the Read With Me program.

#### 4. NON-ACTION REPORTS

A. Pierce Downer Heritage Alliance

Ken Lerner, PDHA Chairman, expressed the Alliance's appreciation of District 58's partnership with the Downers Grove Park District in the Little Sprouts program, which teaches first, second and third grade students about nature at Lyman Woods. Mr. Lerner presented a donation of \$1,000 to support the Little Sprouts program.

B. Recognition of Students

The Board recognized and congratulated the District 58 band, choir and orchestra students who were selected to perform in the Illinois Music Educators Association District Festival, as well as the choral students nominated to the All-State Choir.

C. "Spotlight on our Schools" – Education Foundation Grants

Community Relations Coordinator Megan Hewitt presented a slideshow highlighting the Education Foundation's Teacher Grant Program, which awarded 16 grants worth more than \$10,000 to fund a variety of projects. She recognized Karoline Kellam, who coordinated the grant process, and all the applicants who took time out of their summer to apply for a grant. Grants were awarded in the following categories: STEAM, English/Language Arts, Music and Physical Education. The Board thanked the teachers who received the grants and the Foundation for making a difference in children's education.

#### 5. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email from Martha Pyke regarding Highland enrollment ~ *response from Beth Taylor*
- B. Email from Michael Webber regarding District 58 test scores ~ *response from Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*

- C. Text message from Amy Vogt to Elizabeth Sigale regarding strategic planning
- D. Freedom of Information Act request from Andrew Schmidt, DGEEA, regarding water testing ~ *response from Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent*
- E. Email from Kelli Janczewski regarding 1:1 Technology Survey
- F. Freedom of Information Act request from Kylie Spahn regarding water testing ~ *response from Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent*
- G. Email from Jinesh Shah regarding IT services ~ *response from Doug Purcell*
- H. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding Board Briefs ~ *responses from Megan Hewitt, Doug Purcell, James Eichmiller*
- I. Freedom of Information Act request from Robert Propst, Advanced Disposal, regarding garbage disposal bids ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary*
- J. Freedom of Information Act request from Michael Webber regarding MAP reports ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary*
- K. Email from Anna Hill regarding website ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary*
- L. Freedom of Information Act request from Andrew Schmidt, DGEEA, regarding water testing communications ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary*
- M. Freedom of Information Act request from Lisa Capitanini, NBC, regarding personnel records ~ *response from Dr. Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel*
- N. Freedom of Information Act request from Emanuel Hernandez, Parent's Foundation for Education, regarding personnel records ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary*
- O. Email from Teresa and Eric Johnson regarding a student issue ~ *response from Elynn Cunningham, Kingsley Acting Principal*
- P. Email from Jordan Capet regarding kindergarten activity ~ *response from Lisa Niforatos, Fairmount Principal*
- Q. Email from Ken Lerner regarding Little Sprouts program donation ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary*
- R. Email from Mike Webber regarding teacher attendance

## 6. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

Superintendent Kari Cremascoli reported that:

- The Mid-Year Progress Report is in the board packet for review. Every year, the district establishes action goals related to the current strategic plan. The district is making good progress toward those goals and this Report provides the Board and community a summary of progress at this mid-point in the school year.
- The new strategic planning process, including the online survey of the community, launched today. Targeted focus groups and open community forums are scheduled for January 22nd, 24th and 27th, hosted by HYA consultants.
- MAP and AIMSWEB Winter benchmarks begin this week.
- The annual Science Fair is scheduled for January 20, and organizers are still seeking judges from the community.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports, the investment report, and revenue and expenditure summary reports for the month ending December 31, 2017. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO David Bein reported that revenues and expenditures are generally on target. The State owes the district approximately \$785,000, most of which supports special education. The December consumer price index (CPI) will be released later this month and likely will be about 2 percent. Reporting requirements for the business office are high at this time of year with the issuance of W-2 and 1099 statements. Bidding for work related to the Lester addition began today. Results will be available at the February Board meeting.

C. Treasurer's Report

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

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee did not meet in December.

E. Legislative Committee

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

F. Financial Advisory Committee

Member Miller reported on the January 8, 2018 Financial Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the monthly financial reports and audit, considered auditors for next year, and discussed the bond issuance. Mr. Bein reported that the medical reserve fund is tracking close to its budgeted level of expenditures. The Committee also heard a presentation on the feasibility of solar power.

G. Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee

The Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee has not met since the December Board meeting.

**7. DISCUSSION**

A. Reception of Visitors

The Board discussed its reception of visitors policy for regular board meetings. According to current Board policy, there are two receptions of visitors at each meeting, one early in the meeting for agenda items, and one later for non-agenda items. Over the past few months, the Board received all visitors in a single reception of visitors earlier in the meeting. Member Harris noted that the current policy could be frustrating to the public if they had to wait until near the end of the meeting to make comments on non-agenda items. The consensus of the Board is to recommend that the Policy Committee revise the policy regarding reception of visitors.

## 8. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Samantha Figueroa, Lester attendance area, commented that she is aware of overcrowding issues across the district. To be better prepared for one of the strategic planning community forums, she asked for more information about past consideration of middle school expansion to accommodate sixth grade. She also inquired whether there are any immediate plans to sell the Longfellow property to resolve funding issues.

Tracy Weiner, Henry Puffer attendance area, asked for more information about the bond issue. She also noted that public notices published in Suburban Life might reach more readers.

Tim Benson stated that he has never received the Bugle and that Suburban Life is a more widely-read publication.

Dan Baker, Highland attendance area, stated that he owns several properties across the district and recognizes the importance of good schools to property values. He commented that issues with test scores and large class sizes affect the district's reputation, which in turn can erode the tax base that supports the schools.

## 9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2017

Member Hughes moved and Member Taylor seconded his motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

## 10. 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. Member Harris moved and Member Sigale seconded his motion to approve the following items:

### A. Personnel

The request for Family Medical Leaves of Absence for three certified teachers and the appointment of one custodian. The retirement of one certified teacher and one support staff, effective June 2018; the revision of one certified teacher contract; and the resignation of two educational support employees.

### B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on January 8, 2018 as well as the revolving and imprest issued in December 2017 as shown on the

list submitted under the date of January 8, 2018 in the total amount of \$1,005,342.08 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 8, 2018  
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

**EDUCATION FUND**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$387,059.72
Revolving Fund - Dec 2017	\$12,008.99
Imprest Checks - Dec 2017	\$18,837.96

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$151,350.19
Revolving Fund - Dec 2017	\$15,470.13
Imprest Checks - Dec 2017	\$167.59

**DEBT SERVICE**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$647.67
Revolving Fund - Dec 2017	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - Dec 2017	\$0.00

**TRANSPORTATION FUND**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$419,799.83
Revolving Fund - Dec 2017	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - Dec 2017	\$0.00

**IMRF**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$0.00
------------------------------	--------

**FICA/MEDICARE**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$0.00
------------------------------	--------

**SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$0.00
------------------------------	--------

**WORKING CASH FUND**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$0.00
------------------------------	--------

**FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$0.00
------------------------------	--------

**MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$0.00
------------------------------	--------

**SINKING FUND**

List of Bills - Jan 08, 2018	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - Dec 2017	\$0.00

	\$1,005,342.08
--	----------------

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,  
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor  
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

## 11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Second Reading – Policy #2041 – Administration – Director of Buildings & Grounds

Member Sigale moved and Member Miller seconded her motion to approve the revisions to Policy #2041 regarding the Director of Buildings & Grounds.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

B. Second Reading – Policy #2042 – Administration – Manager of Business Services

Member Taylor moved and Member Sigale seconded her motion to approve the revisions to Policy #2042 regarding the Manager of Business Services.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

C. Second Reading – Policy #5150 – Students – Wellness

Member Samonte moved and Member Sigale seconded her motion to approve the revisions to Policy #5150 regarding Student Wellness.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Purcell announced the following dates:

January 16, 2018 Policy Committee  
7:00 a.m. – Administrative Service Center

January 31, 2018 Legislative Committee  
7:00 a.m. – Administrative Service Center

## 13. CLOSED SESSION

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





**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Miller moved to adjourn and Member Harris seconded the motion.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

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

---

Doug Purcell, President

---

Melissa Jerves, Secretary