

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in special session on Monday, September 28, 2020, at the Downers Grove Village Hall. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, in-person meeting attendance was limited to 50 people and the meeting was live streamed to the public on the Village of Downers Grove's 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 special meeting of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Darren Hughes; Vice President Gregory Harris; and Members Kirat Doshi, Emily Hanus, Steve Olczyk, Jill Samonte 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; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; James Eichmiller, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Learning; Todd Drafall, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Catherine Hannigan, Manager of Business Services; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary. Ten visitors attended the meeting in person.

2. FLAG SALUTE

President Hughes led the flag salute.

3. BUDGET HEARING

A. Public Hearing on Proposed 2020-2021 Legal Budget

Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall provided an overview of the proposed 2020-2021 budget. This year's budget goals are to navigate the pandemic, provide consistent services to students and staff, manage the deficit, and put the District on a path back to surplus and sustainability.

Losses in revenue for fiscal year 2021 are projected to total \$2.64 million over last year, while expenditures will increase 0.75% over last year. Some of these increases are costs directly related to COVID-19, such as increases for personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and rental of tents and storage containers.

The projected deficit of \$1.65 million for fiscal year 2021 has both short- and long-term impacts on the District. In the short term, Drafall noted that the District will most likely need to borrow funds for 30 days to meet payroll and other expenses in the spring when cash on hand is traditionally low, and listed several options that the District could consider. Forecasting to fiscal year

2022 and beyond, expected reductions in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which determines the amount of future tax levies, will lower property tax revenue received by the District. Some COVID-19 related expenditures, such as enhanced cleaning and other operational costs, will continue long term. Facility needs continue to arise and the District's fund balance needs to grow. All of these factors will further expand the deficit in 2022.

In response, the District will develop a new three-year financial plan to provide a long-term framework for budget planning. The plan will be updated each year with schedules for curriculum updates, program changes, capital needs, technology updates and fund balance targets. This long-term financial planning will include community input through the Citizen Task Force, which was originally formed to help guide the District's facility planning work. The re-engaged Citizen Task Force would help develop criteria to prioritize resource allocation for the next three years and make recommendations.

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the 2020-2021 Legal Budget as presented in final form.

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

4. DISCUSSION

A. Return to Learn Plan 2020-21 Update

Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell outlined recommendations for a return to onsite instruction in a hybrid model. The District reviewed various health metrics, experience in managing positive cases, success of the Transition Days, staffing levels during those days and throughout remote learning, student absences, and how well health guidance coming from the state and county could be implemented. DuPage County Health Department recently released a Return to Learn Framework that gives clearer information about reopening depending on the level of COVID-19 transmission in the community.

Dr. Russell explained that, in making a recommendation, the District prioritized the health and safety of students, staff and families; the value of in-person instruction; and how to minimize educational disruptions. He reviewed the guidance that directly applies to District 58 from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and DuPage County Health Department (DCHD), particularly the Return to School Framework from the DCHD. The District also considered information from school districts who have been in-person since the beginning of the school year, feedback from staff, and data from the recent survey of families.

The recommendations for a return to onsite learning are as follows:

- **Preschool:** 90 minutes of instruction onsite five days per week, with asynchronous activities available daily. Students will be assigned to one of three sessions, with breaks in between for cleaning. Students in PreK, DLP and RISE programs will attend daily for two hours and 15 minutes.
- **Elementary:** All students attend daily for 2.5 hours onsite. Students will be assigned to a morning or afternoon group based on factors such as siblings, transportation needs, and academic needs. The offsite portion of the day will include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Kindergarteners will only receive onsite instruction.
- **Middle School:** 7th and 8th grade students will attend onsite on alternating days. The 8-period day onsite will occur from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and asynchronous instruction will occur for the remainder of the day.

A fully remote option taught by District 58 certified staff will still be available. Onsite instruction will begin October 20th.

President Hughes called for a recess at 10:11 p.m. The Board returned to open session at 10:17 p.m.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ami Johanson, Pierce Downer attendance area, thanked the administration and teachers who developed the current remote learning schedule, but is concerned about asynchronous time in a hybrid model that may be difficult for working parents to manage. She also noted that the switch to onsite learning will be a huge burden on working parents to find child care during the remote time.

Angelique Stacy, Lester and Herrick attendance areas, advocated for a return to in-person learning to address children's mental health due to the isolation of remote learning.

Megan Winthrop, Herrick teacher, recommended postponing the return to onsite learning for middle school students until the end of the first trimester to avoid disruptions to the relationships students and teachers have built.

Craig Young, DGEEA President, commented that the transition plan is well thought out, despite challenges with differentiation, changing schedules, and the potential reassignment of teachers.

Victoria O'Boyle, Lester and Herrick attendance areas, commented that remote learning has not been a positive experience for her children, and questioned why District 58 schools are not yet offering in-person instruction while other schools in DuPage County are open.

Alison Rozell, Hillcrest attendance area, stated her support for onsite instruction

and concern that there will not be enough synchronous learning for specials.

Chelsea Foreman, Kingsley attendance area, commented that despite the impressive remote learning schedule, remote learning is not working for her daughter.

Kylie, a middle school parent, commented that COVID has mutated to be more contagious whether or not individuals are wearing masks, and she does not think it is a good idea to return to in-person learning.

Chris Hanley, O'Neill attendance area, asked how the District is using funds available from the federal government.

Carrie Swenson, Herrick attendance area, commented in favor of returning students to school onsite.

Dennis Breyer, Kingsley attendance area, stated that children are suffering psychologically from remote learning and asked how the District plans to address this.

Jason, Hillcrest attendance area, urged the Board to reject the current proposal for hybrid learning because the disruption to the current routine outweighs the value of 2.5 hours of in-person instruction.

Scott, Kingsley attendance area, asked how the schedule will work for students in sixth grade taking advanced math in the middle school.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Board Action Regarding Return to Learn Plan 2020-21

Member Samonte moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the following hybrid models for a return to onsite learning as presented:

- Preschool: a 5-days per week blended model with 3 sessions per day onsite and a fully remote option
- Elementary (K-6): 5-days per week blended a.m./p.m. model with a fully remote option, and
- Middle School: Blended alternating day model for grade-level cohorts with fully remote option on same 8-period day schedule.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk, Samonte, and Weiner

NAYS: None Motion carried

B. First Reading of Policies 2:220, 2:220-E9, 5:10, 5:100, 5:220, 5:330, 7:10, 7:180, 7:185, 7:340 and 7:345

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve Policies 2:220, 2:220-E9, 5:10, 5:100, 5:220, 5:330, 7:10, 7:180, 7:185, 7:340 and 7:345 as presented for first reading and place them on the October 14, 2020 agenda for final approval.

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

6. CLOSED SESSION

Member Olczyk moved and Member Doshi 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);
- the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

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

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

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

The Board convened to closed session at 11:10 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 11:32 p.m.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting
Village Hall

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary