

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, February 13, 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; Megan Hewitt, Community Relations Coordinator; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

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

Henry Puffer Student Council members Giana Keefe, Parker Salzman and Sander Singdahlsen led the pledge of allegiance. They reported on events the Student Council sponsored such as spirit days, Red Ribbon Week, and fundraisers for the local humane society and homeless shelter. Student Council also helps promote positive choices with a prize wheel to reward good behavior, and encourages and teaches students how to use Safe2Help.

Puffer-Hefty PTA Co-Presidents Michelle Morgan and Nicole Brown shared that the PTA kicked off the year with its annual Lung Run. It sponsored a holiday breakfast to raise funds for needy families, and its spring fundraiser will fund enrichment activities and supplies for students and staff.

Principal Mark Leipart reported on Henry Puffer points of pride, including the Henry Puffer Families program, recent renovations to the school building, the WatchDOGS program that brings father figures into the school, and the range of clubs and activities available to students. Student assessment data shows that Puffer students have demonstrated expected growth overall in both math and reading. School improvement goals are 1) to further develop a love of literacy, and 2) to build a positive culture using Happiness Advantage principles.

### 3. COMMUNICATIONS

#### Written Communications

1. Email from Jennifer Meggos, Maggie Sullivan and Megan Klucharik regarding questions on curriculum ~ *response from Board Member Emily Hanus.*
2. Email from Katie Burnley regarding Fairmount Elementary school lunch ~ *responses from Board Member Steve Olczyk and Asst. Supt. for Business Todd Drafall.*
3. Email from Don Wade regarding D58 board elections and forums ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
4. Email from Maggie Kurcz Wiescinski regarding Legislative Forum ~ *response from Board Member Emily Hanus.*

#### Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Kylie Spahn regarding emails to/from Barbara Allen and Board ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
2. Freedom of Information Act request from Kylie Spahn regarding emails to/from Dana Cox and Board ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
3. Freedom of Information Act request from Kylie Spahn regarding emails to/from Christopher Erickson and Board ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
4. Freedom of Information Act request from John Laubersheimer, AFSCME Council 31, regarding employee names, salary, and collective bargaining agreements ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
5. Freedom of Information Act request from Local Labs regarding employee information ~ *request for email verification from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

### 4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

#### A. Winter Data Snapshot

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul provided a district-level overview of Winter 2023 benchmarking data. Overall, district-level growth is in the expected range for both math and reading. By grade level, math growth was higher than expected in grades 1 and 3, and lower than expected for grades 7 and 8. Reading growth in grades 1 and 3 was also higher than expected, and in grade 7 is trending higher within the expected range. Of note, all subgroups are within the expected growth for reading.

Building teams met by grade level to review winter data compiled by ECRA. Tier I data is reviewed to determine whether any instructional adjustments are necessary overall for a grade level or content area. Progress of individual students identified for targeted support is also monitored on a regular basis. By the spring benchmarking period, all certified staff will have individual logins to access student data.

## 5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell reported on the following topics:

- **Personnel:** The selection of the O’Neill Middle School principal is complete, and the central office team is close to finalizing a selection for the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction to be recommended to the Board at either the February 27 Special Meeting/Curriculum Workshop or the March regular board meeting.
- **Curriculum:** The February Curriculum Workshop will feature a rotation through mini-workshops to learn about several curricular areas from our teachers. Brief updates from each curricular committee will also be included.
- **Finance:** The monthly business report includes the management letter from the auditors and the District’s response regarding adjustments being made. The auditor will meet with the business office to review several items, including the account set up for the upcoming capital work.
- **Technology:** The District’s first private fiber wide area network circuit was turned on last month, saving \$528 per month. The remainder of the circuits are projected to come online by March. This network is fully funded at the state and federal levels, and will result in an annual savings of over \$75,000.
- **Special Services:** The gold-rated Grove Children’s Preschool is hosting an open house on February 15. Preschool tuition applications for next year will open on February 22.
- **Facilities:** Playground work at two schools is on the agenda for approval; by the end of the summer, all schools will have updated playgrounds.
- **Public Relations:** Tickets were sold out to the Education Foundation’s Harlem Wizards basketball fundraiser. The foundation’s spring programming includes the Select 58 award for eighth graders, and the Distinguished Service Award for staff members.

### B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending January 31, 2023. Mr. Drafall reported that the Year-to-Date Report shows operational revenues and expenses as expected at this time of year. The annual audit management letter has been received. The Business Office will meet with the auditors to plan the account structure for the upcoming capital work. On the agenda for the Board’s approval is a resolution to transfer working cash funds to the education fund for the period of time that the education fund starts to run low. The Working Cash Fund serves an internal bank to make the loan until spring tax receipts arrive.

### C. Treasurer’s Report

There was nothing special 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  
Member Ellis reported on the January 25, 2023, Legislative Committee meeting. The committee finalized plans for the February 3, 2023, Legislative Breakfast. Member Hanus reported on the Legislative Breakfast, which was well attended by both legislators and community members and included large and small group discussions with legislators.
- F. Financial Advisory Committee  
The Financial Advisory Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.
- G. District Leadership Team  
The District Leadership 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. DISCUSSION

- A. Full-Day Kindergarten  
Justin Sisul and Todd Drafall updated the Board on the District's planning process toward full-day kindergarten, including exploring the financial feasibility, instructional planning, and considering the needs of half-day students. OKEEP tuition for FY2023 was estimated at \$800,000; replacement revenue to cover these costs can come from the following sources: increase in property taxes from the dissolution of the downtown Downers Grove TIF, significant increase in CPPRT revenue and interest income, increase in fees for full-day kindergarten, and a possible increase in evidence-based funding (EBF) for full-day kindergarten.

Kindergarten teachers are excited and confident about offering a full-day program that includes play-based experiences, appropriate recesses and unstructured play. Scheduling of student support services and specials will improve for the whole school, not just kindergarten.

School Code requires a half-day option; the logistics of the programming will be determined after enrollment numbers are more certain by early May.

The Board will vote on establishing full-day kindergarten at the February 27 special meeting, and submission of intent is due to the Illinois State Board of Education by March 1. If approved, full-day kindergarten will be offered in August 2023.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2023

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 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 one administrator, six support staff employees, two custodial/maintenance staff employees, and one temporary non-union employee.
- The family medical leaves of absence of two certified staff employees.
- The resignation of five support staff employees and two custodial/maintenance staff employees.
- The retirement of one certified staff employee.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on February 13, 2023, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in January 2023 as shown on the list submitted under the date of February 13, 2023, in the total amount of \$1,613,797.31 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 FEBRUARY 13, 2023  
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

**EDUCATION FUND**

List of Bills – February 13, 2023	\$712,406.89
Revolving Fund – January 2023	\$35,187.86
Imprest Checks - January 2023	\$30,108.82

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND**

List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$300,822.66
Revolving Fund - January 2023	\$1,458.68
Imprest Checks - January 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>DEBT SERVICE</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - January 2023	\$1,428,572.50
<b><u>TRANSPORTATION FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$510,656.13
Revolving Fund - January 2023	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - January 2023	\$809.24
<b><u>IMRF</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>FICA/MEDICARE</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - January 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>SITE &amp; CONSTRUCTION FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$22,347.03
Revolving Fund - January 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>WORKING CASH FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>FIRE &amp; LIFE SAFETY FUNDS</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$0.00
<b><u>SINKING FUND</u></b>	
List of Bills - February 13, 2023	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - January 2023	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,613,797.31</b>

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)

Dr. Russell announced that approval of the consent agenda included the assignment of Ms. Lauryn Humphris as the next principal of O'Neill Middle School upon the retirement of Mr. Matt Durbala in June. Dr. Russell shared Ms. Humphris' qualifications and welcomed her to District 58.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

A. Policy Updates in PRESS Issue 110

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the policy updates in PRESS Issue 110 as recommended by the Policy Committee.

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

B. 2023-2024 School Fees

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the fee schedule for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

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

C. Copier Lease Amendment

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the copier lease amendment as presented, at a total cost of \$628.81 per month for five years.

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

D. Amendments to Architect's Contract with Wight & Company

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the amendments to the architect contract with Wight & Company as presented.

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

E. Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Monies from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Monies from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund.

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

## 11. CONSTRUCTION CONSENT AGENDA

The President stated that a motion would be in order relative to the items on the construction consent agenda as presented in the packet materials. Member Doshi requested that the Middle Schools Traffic Study be considered separately. Member Doshi moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the following items:

- B. Fairmount Playground Equipment Purchase
- C. BID: Lester and Pierce Downer Playground Site Installation

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

Member Doshi moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the Middle School Traffic Study as presented. The Board asked for clarification on how the traffic study will take into account community input. Dr. Russell and Amy Tiberi of Wight & Company shared that the study will be conducted in conjunction with the Village of Downers Grove, and results will be shared with the community at public meetings of the Village and the school board. Communications will also go out through both District 58 and Village channels. The study is planned for the spring so as to account for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, with an initial submittal to the Village in the fall. Approval is expected in early 2024.

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

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Wednesday, February 22, 3:45 p.m.	Legislative Committee O'Neill Middle School
Monday, February 27, 3:45 p.m.	District Leadership Team O'Neill Middle School
Monday, February 27, 7 p.m.	Special Meeting/Curriculum Workshop O'Neill Middle School
Friday, March 10, 7:30 a.m.	Financial Advisory Committee O'Neill Middle School

Monday, March 13, 7 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting  
Village Hall

**13. APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the closed session meeting on January 9, 2023, as presented, and keep them closed to the public due to the confidential nature of their contents.

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

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Darren Hughes, President

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Melissa Jerves, Secretary