

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met for a special meeting and curriculum workshop on Monday, February 27, 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 special meeting and curriculum workshop of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Darren Hughes, Vice President Gregory Harris; and Members Kirat Doshi, Melissa Ellis, Emily Hanus, and Steve Olczyk. Members absent: Tracy Weiner. 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; Faith Behr, Interim Community Relations Coordinator; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Personnel Report

Member Olczyk moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented in the packet material.

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

Dr. Russell welcomed Mrs. Elizabeth Ehrhart, whose appointment, effective July 1, 2023, as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, was approved as part of the Personnel Report. Mrs. Ehrhart thanked the Board, administration, and her family, and stated that she is excited and honored to join District 58 to begin building relationships with staff, students and families.

B. Resolution of Intent to Convert to Full-Day Kindergarten

Member Ellis moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution of Intent to Convert to Full-Day Kindergarten beginning in the 2023-24 school year. The Board requested clarification on how full-day

kindergarten benefits students. Mr. Sisul and Dr. Russell responded that a full-day program provides additional instructional and socialization time, as well as meaningful play-based learning. Research shows that full-day kindergarten has particular benefits for students with special needs, those who need additional academic support, and those from lower-income families or without preschool experience. Full-day kindergarten allows a more developmentally appropriate schedule that intersperses academic content with unstructured play, and gives teachers a better opportunity to cover the Illinois Learning Standards for kindergarten.

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

C. Approval of 2022-23 Outdoor Education Fee

Member Hanus moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the Outdoor Education fee of \$80 per student for the 2022-23 school year.

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

4. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

A. Mini-Workshops

Board members, administrators and the audience broke into groups to rotate through mini-workshops to experience student learning in the following curricular areas: social studies/inquiry, dual language, elementary music, middle school advisory, and the writing pilot program. The workshops were led by teachers in each of these areas.

B. Committee Updates

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jessica Stewart, and Curriculum Coordinators Christine Priester, Eleni Gajewski and Sandy Cristobal provided updates from each of the District's curriculum committees, including their current work and year-end goals.

- **English Language Arts (ELA) Committee:** The committee continues its work using the established curricular review process that includes reviewing best practices in ELA instruction, analyzing student data and using the ISBE curriculum evaluation tool. Next steps are to explore the possible replacement of core and/or supplemental materials, potential pilot resources, changes to the current scope and sequence, and appropriate professional learning.
- **Writing Committee:** The committee is reviewing the writing workshop

pilot in grades K through 5 and will determine resources and next steps in partnership with the ELA committee.

- **Dual Language Committee:** The group is delving into ongoing training and aligning the program with state standards for Spanish Language Arts. They are also working on strengthening the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. Year-end targets include preparing for the first grade dual language program for English and native Spanish speakers in 2023-24 as kindergartners move up a level, and welcoming a new kindergarten cohort in the dual language program.
- **Social Studies Committee:** The committee is supporting the implementation of the new K-5 social studies curriculum and plans to finalize its review of scope and sequence, update assessments and vet additional resources. It has also partnered with the Teacher Librarian team to assist students in finding resources for inquiry-based learning.
- **Gifted Committee:** The group is continuing to assess the current program, research other schools' programs and best practices, and create a professional learning plan for differentiation. The goal is to recommend a structure for a gifted program to be implemented in 2024-25; this recommendation will be made in the Spring of 2023, to use the 23-24 school year to further develop the recommended structures.
- **Positive Behavior Support Systems Committee:** This committee, formed in 2022-23 as the result of staff feedback, is reviewing evidence-based behavior systems in other districts, obtaining feedback from District educators, and developing a consistent district-wide set of behavioral expectations.
- **Curriculum Council:** In addition to its continued oversight of the curricular review process, the group has focused on how to improve access to resources for families to support their students' learning. They will develop a consensus on how to improve upon the curriculum and instruction information provided on the website.
- **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Committee:** The committee focused on developing clear and consistent structures, guidance and protocols. District-wide professional learning will occur during the April 4th institute day.
- **Differentiation and Assessment Committee:** The group is partnering with the gifted committee regarding gifted program eligibility, developing a gap analysis to assist full MTSS implementation, and updating the assessment system and calendar.
- **Special Education Committee:** The committee is continuing its work to strengthen the transition process between schools and programs, and building systems for more inclusive practices.
- **Assistive Technology Committee:** The team continues its work to help level the playing field for those with disabilities by exploring and promoting the use of assistive technology. The committee is reestablishing a liaison role in each building to promote assistive technology, and promoting the use of low-tech tools and processes where appropriate.
- **Threat Assessment Team:** The team conducted a safety audit and is now

practicing possible scenarios through tabletop exercises.

- **District Equity Leadership Team:** The team is reviewing recommendations from the final equity audit report and is determining next steps for District 58; a further report will be made to the Board later this spring.
- **Professional Learning Council:** The group reviews feedback from every professional learning opportunity and is determining improvements based on feedback and strategic plan goals.
- **Math Committee:** This committee, which first met in October 2012, celebrated its final meeting in January. The math committee will reconvene in the fall of 2026 to consider potential changes in math curriculum and instruction.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Friday, March 10, 7:30 a.m.	Financial Advisory Committee O'Neill Middle School
Monday, March 13, 3:15 p.m.	Parent Teacher Advisory Council O'Neill Middle School
Monday, March 13, 7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting Village Hall

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary