

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, November 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 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, and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: Steve Olczyk. 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; Michelle Kovar, Manager of Business Services; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Faith Behr, Interim Community Relations Coordinator; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

2. TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING

Todd Drafall reported that the estimated tax levy amount was shared with the Financial Advisory Committee and Board at their October meetings. A Truth-in-Taxation hearing is required when the levy is expected to exceed 105% of the previous year's levy. That threshold will be reached this year due to the 2023 Consumer Price Index (CPI), which was 5%. The District's tax levy is statutorily capped at 5% plus the value of new construction. The Truth-in-Taxation hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions or make statements regarding the tax levy.

The president opened the floor to public comment. There were no public comments. The president declared the hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SCHOOL REPORT

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fairmount School Student Council officers Molly Aitken, Oscar Larsen, Jake DeGraff, JJ Nagy, Hailey Epperly and Hannah Stapleton. They highlighted the spirit weeks they have planned throughout the year, as well as fundraisers and service projects, including a collection for NAWS Humane Society, a Giving Tree collection of winter gear for students in need, and a canned food drive.

Principal Lisa Niforatos shared how Fairmount is implementing positive behavior support systems and positive psychology initiatives. Monthly group assemblies celebrate positive student behaviors, a school-wide buddies program has begun, and sixth-grade student ambassadors provide leadership and mentorship to younger students. Staff also hold faculty meetings in individual classrooms and begin each meeting with feedback for the classroom teacher.

Fairmount's school improvement goals for this year focus on improving student growth and achievement in math numbers and operations through tailored small-group instruction. Staff will also continue to work on previous goals in vocabulary development and informational texts, both areas in which students demonstrated gains in growth and achievement across grade levels.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Email Communications

1. Emails from Jennifer Schuh regarding student issue ~ *response from Asst. Superintendent for Special Services Jessica Stewart.*

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Michael Rost, Allium Data, regarding insurance renewal summaries ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
2. Freedom of Information Act request from Paul Phillips, Public Data Research, regarding list of employees and email addresses ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

A. School Report Card and Summative Designations

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Elizabeth Ehrhart presented the data from the 2023 Illinois Report Card, sharing that District 58 students showed both high growth and high proficiency on state assessments. Overall, the District surpassed its strategic Key Performance Indicator targets on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) in both ELA (75th percentile or above) and math (85th percentile or above).

The District's IAR results showed that 58.1% of District 58 students are proficient in ELA and 53.3% are proficient in math. Illinois expectations for proficiency are high compared to the rest of the nation; for example, 30% of Illinois eighth grade students meet state ELA standards, but measure in the 86th percentile nationally. The District ranks third among large elementary districts in DuPage County, and first among District 99 feeder schools.

Two schools received an Exemplary summative designation, while the remaining 11 schools earned a Commendable rating. Chronic absenteeism, one of the data points used to calculate summative designations, was a factor

preventing some schools from earning an Exemplary rating. Addressing absenteeism will be a key priority for the District.

5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell shared that November 15 is School Board Member Day, and recognized the hard work put in by the District 58 board members. He also reported on the following topics:

- **Personnel:** The District is working on a two-year school calendar in coordination with the employee associations and the construction schedule. The draft calendar will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.
- **Curriculum:** Veterans Day was recognized in all schools in a variety of ways; we are thankful to all the veterans in our community for their service.
- **Finance:** The open enrollment deadline for staff benefits is November 15. The District's goal is to provide staff with great benefits while being responsible with taxpayer money.
- **Technology:** The technology department is working on setting up the registration system for next year with the goal of opening registration in February 2024.
- **Special Services:** The special services department encourages families of students with special needs to learn about the Downers Grove Police Department's Safe Return program. Police use details provided by families for the purpose of identifying and locating a child with special needs who is reported missing or in other emergency circumstances. Information will be shared in upcoming principal newsletters and the Downers Grove Police Department website.
- **Facilities:** The Fairmount playground is finally complete and open to students. Draft middle school design plans were approved by the Village Plan Commission and will soon be presented to the Village Council for approval.
- **Public Relations:** The annual Grove Express 5K will be held on Thanksgiving Day, a partnership between the Rotary Club, the Road Runner Soccer Club, and the District 58 Education Foundation. A portion of the proceeds supports District 58 schools.
- **American Education Week:** Dr. Russell thanked support staff, substitutes, and all educational staff on behalf of the Board and District.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received the financial and investment reports for the month ending October 31, 2023. Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall reported that the Year-to-Date report reflects a lag in the payroll cycle, with one payroll fewer than this time last year. Thus, the medical reserve fund is lower than normal, but will catch up by the end of the fiscal year. The District

is working on the submission of grant reports so that federal funds can be disbursed.

- C. Treasurer's Report
There was nothing additional 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
The Legislative Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.
- F. Financial Advisory Committee
The Financial Advisory Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.
- G. District Leadership Team
The District Leadership Team 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

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 – October 9, 2023
Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

- B. Approval of Minutes – October 23, 2023
Member Doshi moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023, Curriculum Workshop 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), and the 2023 IASB Resolutions as presented in the packet materials. Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

- The assignment of three support staff employees.
- The Family and Medical Leaves of Absence of two certified staff employees.
- The resignation of four support staff employees.
- The retirement of eight support staff employees, effective May 2024.
- Staff stipends.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on November 13, 2023, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in October 2023 as shown on the list submitted under the date of November 13, 2023, in the total amount of \$2,918,728.57 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 NOVEMBER 13, 2023
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills – November 13, 2023	\$668,113.72
Imprest Checks - October 2023	\$21,846.45
Revolving Fund – October 2023	\$180.00

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills – November 13, 2023	\$170,406.80
Imprest Checks - October 2023	\$0.00

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills – November 13, 2023	\$0.00
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TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills – November 13, 2023	\$854,805.23
Imprest Checks - October 2023	\$995.57

IMRF

List of Bills – November 13, 2023	\$0.00
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills – November 13, 2023	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - October 2023	\$0.00

<u>SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 13, 2023	\$152,292.75
Revolving Fund - October 2023	\$0.00
<u>CAPITAL - REFERENDUM</u>	
List of Bills - November 13, 2023	\$607,025.74
<u>WORKING CASH FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 13, 2023	\$0.00
<u>FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS</u>	
List of Bills - November 13, 2023	\$0.00
<u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 13, 2023	\$443,062.31
<u>SINKING FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 13, 2023	\$0.00
Total	\$2,918,728.57

C. IASB 2023 Resolutions

The following positions on each resolution in the 2023 IASB Resolutions Committee Report:

1. Industrial Construction – DO NOT ADOPT
2. School Resource Officer Funding – DO ADOPT
3. Bus Driver Regulations – DO ADOPT
4. Employment History Review – DO NOT ADOPT
5. Alternative Safe School Funding – DO NOT ADOPT

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

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

10. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

A. 2023 American Education Week Resolution

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to adopt the American Education Week Resolution as presented.

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

B. 2023 Certificate of Tax Levy

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to adopt the 2023 Certificate of Tax Levy in the amount of \$70,500,000.

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

C. Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to adopt the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

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

D. Intergovernmental Agreement Between District 58 and the Village of Downers Grove for the Replacement of a Water Main

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Board of Education of Downers Grove School District No. 58 and the Village of Downers Grove for the Replacement of a Water Main.

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

E. Elementary Pilot Lunch Program Food Contract with Quest

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the Food and Beverage Services Agreement with Quest Food Management Services LLC, as presented.

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

F. Membership in the SDEAA Athletic Conference

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the membership of Herrick and O'Neill Middle Schools in the Southeast DuPage Elementary Athletic Association beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

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

G. Civic Center Internet Circuit for District 58 Use

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the 3-year contract with Vero Networks for a 10 Gbps leased fiber circuit for a

total cost of \$37,375.20.

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

H. 2024 School Maintenance Project Grant

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the application for the School Maintenance Project Grant as presented.

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

I. BID: Snow Removal 2023-24

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to award the bid for snow removal at all schools to Langton Group of Woodstock, IL.

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

J. Surplus Equipment: Refrigerator, Snowblower

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,
and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Monday, November 27, 3:45 p.m. District Leadership Team
O'Neill Middle School

Friday, December 8, 7 a.m. Financial Advisory Committee
O'Neill Middle School

Monday, December 11, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting
Downers Grove Village Hall

12. CLOSED SESSION

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to move to closed session for the purpose of discussing matters relating to:

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- B. Consideration of student disciplinary matters; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)
- C. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)
- D. Litigation...when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 8:30 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary