

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024, 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, Emily Hanus, Steve Olczyk and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: Melissa Ellis. 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.

President Hughes announced that Dr. Russell has been named the 2024 Superintendent of Distinction for the DuPage Region of the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA).

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SCHOOL REPORT

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Whittier School Student Council officers Emma Waszak, Myles Wiescinski and Chase Papanikolas. They shared how the Whittier Student Council plans spirit days to have fun and show school pride. Their fundraising events provide charity support to organizations such as DuPage PADS, St. Jude's Research Hospital, and Ronald McDonald House, and support Teacher Appreciation Week each year to recognize their teachers.

PTA Co-Presidents Britta Waszak and Christine Paulik shared that the Whittier PTA was one of nine schools in Illinois to earn the School of Excellence distinction in creating safe, welcoming and inclusive experiences for families. They also earned the Illinois PTA Gold Membership Award for having 80% of Whittier families represented in the PTA. The PTA sponsors the fall Fun Run, math and science nights, a Variety Show at Tivoli Theater, Family Fun Fair, Fun Lunch, a butterfly garden, a variety of after-school clubs, and the Leap Family Mitten program to support families during the holiday season. 67% of funds raised go directly to students.

Principal Michael Krugman reported that this year's school theme is "Change

Maker,” which is designed to encourage staff and students to welcome and cope with growth and change. On winter benchmark assessments, Whittier students demonstrated expected growth overall from fall to winter. Whittier’s instructional leadership team examined areas of lower growth and will focus on small-group instruction to target areas for improvement. School improvement goals focus on small-group instruction and differentiation in reading, implementation of a positive behavior support system, and implementation of the School Wide Writing Fundamentals program in grades K-5. Whittier’s model for achieving its goals relies on training/implementing/reflecting through professional learning Mondays, classroom observation and assistance, and collaboration with staff.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Email Communications

1. Email from Tyler regarding library cards and rising supply costs ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
2. Email from Susan Sierakowski regarding finance team ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
3. Email from Heather Chlup regarding IEP meetings ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Karen Van Wyk, massresistance.org, regarding parent contact information ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

A. Winter Data Snapshot

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Liz Ehrhart provided a district-level overview of winter benchmarking data. Overall results show district-level growth is in the expected range for both math and reading. When viewed by grade, math growth was higher than expected for kindergarten and third grade, but lower than expected for seventh and eighth grades. Reading growth was lower than expected for fifth grade, while seventh and eighth grades increased their growth scores from fall to winter. All subgroups fell within the expected growth range.

Building teams met by grade level to review winter data and determine whether any instructional adjustments to Tier I are needed. Individual students continue to be identified for targeted support and their progress is monitored regularly. Winter data is also used in determining eligibility for acceleration and gifted programming. Ms. Ehrhart shared the Middle School Math action plan, which is designed to improve achievement and growth in middle school math.

5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell reported on the following topics:

- **Curriculum:** The District held its annual band and orchestra solo festival; more than 400 solos were performed. On February 26, the middle school band, orchestra and choir students will perform in the Festival of Music at Downers Grove South High School. The spring Curriculum Workshop is scheduled for March 4 at O'Neill Middle School, and will feature a review of the ELA curriculum pilot and committee updates.
- **Finance:** The District received the final report from the DuPage County Treasurer's Office on the 2022 taxes (payable in 2023). While the collection rate for the county historically has been over 99%, this is a reassessment year and there will likely be numerous appeals that could delay payments to the District.
- **Technology:** The Technology Department is finalizing registration on a new PowerSchool platform, which will open later in February and close in April. Prompt registration helps the District make staffing decisions for the coming year.
- **Personnel:** A high-level staffing overview will be shared at the March board meeting.
- **Special Services:** Summer Extended School Year (ESY) programming is in the planning stage. Eligible students will receive an invitation from the student's case manager.
- **Facilities:** Bids for both elementary and middle school construction projects will be opened this week and presented to the Board at the March 4 special meeting and March 11 regular meeting. Results of these bid openings will increase the budget allocation from 48% to 67% of the entire referendum project. The YMCA will allow staff to park in their lot during construction at O'Neill.
- **Public Relations:** The 5Essentials Survey and the District 58 Parent/Guardian School Environment Survey have been opened this week. Survey results will be used to guide school and District improvement efforts. Redacted school environment survey results will be posted on the District website and 5Essentials results will be part of the 2024 District 58 Report Card from ISBE.

Dr. Russell thanked families and staff for their flexibility during the recent weather-related e-learning days. He also reported that none of District 58's schools will serve as polling places for the primary election in March, so the District will have a regular in-person day of school.

B. Monthly Business

Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall reported that this is the time of year when expenses exceed revenues until property tax revenue

arrives near the end of the school year. Regarding food service, Mr. Drafall noted that a September survey of families indicated that 66% were interested in an elementary hot lunch program. The District began a pilot program that offered an NSLP-compliant cold lunch to elementary students. A survey in December showed that 75% of families who participate do so because of the ease of the program, while those who didn't participate prefer a hot lunch or higher quality meal and would be willing to pay more than the \$4 current charge. Mr. Drafall reviewed a possible timeline for transitioning to an elementary hot lunch program when kitchen renovations are complete.

C. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has not met since the last board meeting.

D. Legislative Committee

Member Hanus reported on the January 10, 2024, Legislative Committee meeting, and the February 2, 2024, Legislative Breakfast. The committee met to finalize questions for the legislators. The Legislative Breakfast was well-attended, featuring open dialogue with legislators on education topics. Every legislator received a thank you letter after the event and all attendees received a survey to assist the committee with future planning.

E. Financial Advisory Committee

President Hughes reported on the January 12 and February 9, 2024, Financial Advisory Committee meetings. On January 12, Betsy Allen from Miller Cooper reviewed the audit report with the committee, and the committee reviewed the year-to-date report from December. The February 9 meeting focused on discussing options for the future lunch program. The committee will likely recommend maintaining the status quo for the coming school year, as implementation of a hot lunch program depends on the completion of new kitchens in the middle schools.

F. District Leadership Team

The District Leadership Team has not met since the last board meeting.

G. Health and Wellness Committee

Vice President Harris reported on the February 5, 2024, meeting of the Health and Wellness Committee. The committee reviewed open enrollment data, noting that the HSA plan has performed well, with costs only rising five percent over the past several years, compared to an increase of 25% for the Universal plan. The committee also discussed the District's employee wellness strategy, which encourages all staff on a health plan to participate in biometric screenings to help themselves make healthy choices. The committee expects to recommend an increase in incentives to elicit greater participation.

H. SASED Report

Dr. Russell reported that SASED held its first joint meeting of the year with the Governing Board, Board of Directors and the incoming Executive Director. Dr. Russell has observed a noticeable improvement in the

functioning of the two boards, with a focus on finance and continuous improvement.

6. DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lou Oviedo, Whittier attendance area, commented that he commends the Board's decision to join the SDEEA athletic conference, and is optimistic that soccer can be offered in the 2024-25 school year. He has started a petition signed by families willing to work together with the District to bring this program to our students.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2024

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, 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). Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

- The assignment of one certified staff member, seven support staff employees, and two custodial maintenance staff employees.
- The resignation of one certified staff member, three support staff employees, and three custodial maintenance staff employees.
- The Family Medical Leave of Absence of one certified staff member.
- The retirement of one support staff employee.
- Staff stipends.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on February 12, 2024, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in January 2024 as shown on the list submitted under the date of February 12, 2024, in the total amount of \$2,089,568.32 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 12, 2024
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

<u>EDUCATION FUND (Fund 10)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$445,926.50
Imprest Checks - January 2024	\$11,809.21
Revolving Fund - January 2024	\$337.94
District Credit Card - January 2024	\$14,797.07
<u>OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND (Fund 20)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$190,506.75
Imprest Checks - January 2024	\$0.00
District Credit Card - January 2024	\$69.33
<u>DEBT SERVICE (Fund 30)</u>	
	\$0.00
<u>TRANSPORTATION FUND (Fund 40)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$707,743.14
Imprest Checks - January 2024	\$9.50
District Credit Card - January 2024	\$656.78
<u>IMRF (Fund 50)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$0.00
<u>FICA/MEDICARE (Fund 51)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - January 2024	\$0.00
<u>SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND (Fund 60)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$33,320.00
<u>CAPITAL - REFERENDUM (Fund 61)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$472,687.90
<u>WORKING CASH FUND (Fund 70)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$0.00
<u>FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS (Fund 90)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$0.00
<u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND (Fund 13)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$211,704.20
<u>SINKING FUND (Fund 21)</u>	
List of Bills - February 12, 2024	\$0.00
Total	\$2,089,568.32

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

and Weiner
NAYS: None

Motion carried

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. PRESS Issue 113 Policy Updates

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the policy updates in PRESS Issue 113 as presented by the Policy Committee.

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

B. Surplus Equipment: Tables, Sprayer

Member Weiner moved and Member Harris seconded the motion to designate as surplus the equipment listed in the attached memo.

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

C. Resolution re Dismissal of Custodial Maintenance Employee for Reasons Other Than Reduction-in-Force

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution re Dismissal of Custodial Maintenance Employee for Reasons Other Than Reduction-in-Force, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, 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 Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the following items:

- A. Project Authorization for Herrick Middle School
- B. Project Authorization for O'Neill Middle School
- C. Whittier Playground Equipment

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Monday, February 26, 3:45 p.m.	District Leadership Team O'Neill Middle School
Monday, March 4, 7 p.m.	Special Meeting/Curriculum Workshop O'Neill Middle School
Wednesday, March 6, 3:45 p.m.	Legislative Committee O'Neill Middle School
Friday, March 8, 7 a.m.	Financial Advisory Committee O'Neill Middle School
Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting Downers Grove Village Hall

13. CLOSED SESSION

Member Harris moved and Member Weiner 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. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- C. Consideration of student disciplinary matters; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)
- D. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)
- E. 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)
- F. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to reconvene in open session.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:27 p.m.

14. ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION

A. Closed Session Minutes

Member Doshi moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024, closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed for reasons of confidentiality.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary