

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met for a special meeting and curriculum workshop on Monday, March 4, 2024, 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 p.m. and announced that it was a 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 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. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Liz Ehrhart introduced Curriculum Coordinator Christine Priester, who provided an overview of the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan. The plan's key goals focus on high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction. Ms. Priester reviewed the seven components of literacy, and how the plan includes instructional considerations for all types of learners with a wide variety of needs. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will provide a template for districts to align instruction, a curriculum evaluation tool, and stakeholder-specific overviews by July 2024. Further steps include training opportunities for educators and a plan to update the content area test for new educators. District 58 will continue sharing the seven components of literacy with the administrative team and ELA Committee, and then to all staff in 2024-25. ELA curricular materials that have been piloted are aligned to the plan.

The ELA Committee shared that they have led a pilot of multiple curricular resources at every grade level. Teachers Diana Springer and Megan DuPass reported on their experiences with the K-2 foundational skills pilot of UFLI Foundations and Bridge to Reading. Kristina Cardinal reported on the pilot of Benchmark 2022 for K-5, which provides several enhancements over the currently used Benchmark 2018. Robin Panico shared the middle school experience piloting Amplify and CommonLit 360. The committee reviewed their work from the past year, which included student achievement data, implementation data, and curriculum review, as well as feedback from pilot teachers and students. They

recommend the adoption of the following resources for implementation in the 2024-25 school year:

- UFLI Foundations (K-2 foundational skills curriculum)
- Benchmark 2022 (K-5 core ELA curriculum)
- CommonLit 360 (6-8 core ELA curriculum)

Ms. Ehrhart shared the financial considerations and professional learning timeline for implementation of these resources. Remaining ESSER funds, which must be used this year, can be used to fund a portion of the adoption, allowing the District to pay for all materials up front. The recommendation for approval will be brought to the board at the April board meeting.

Board members and audience members then attended 20-minute staff presentations on the Dual Language program and the Schoolwide Writing Workshop curriculum.

Ms. Priester gave an update on the work of the Writing Committee. The implementation of the Schoolwide Writing Workshop has inspired more than 3,000 published student authors, and over 42 hours of professional development have been provided. The committee has gathered feedback from staff to guide next steps in professional learning and updates to scope and sequence. The committee also created a writing overview for the district website.

Curriculum Coordinator Eleni Gajewski reported on the work of the Gifted Committee, which consists of both gifted program and general education teachers, a psychologist, and administrators. Topics the committee has discussed are gifted standards and programming models, criteria and identification of students, curriculum and pedagogy, SEL, differentiation, and a presentation from the Illinois Association for Gifted Children. The committee will recommend transitioning to an in-building program, beginning with fourth grade in 2024-25.

Dr. Gajewski reported on the work of the Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) Committee. MTSS provides comprehensive supports for students, based on evidence and data. The committee's goals include learning about best practices, developing consistent systems for implementation districtwide, improving attendance, implementing MTSS in the Dual Language program, and building strong Tier 1 practices through positive behavior support systems and differentiation. She distinguished the types of supports provided at each tier.

Curriculum Coordinator Sandy Cristobal shared celebrations from the Dual Language Program. The two-way program is going into its third year with all seats filled. Staff are incorporating MTSS Tier 1 work in the program. The BPAC is active and encourages parental involvement. The program's goals are to strengthen Tier 1 instruction, roll out the two-way program to second grade, and increase parental involvement. Dual Language teachers also participated in the ELA and SLA pilot, recommending the adoption of Benchmark Advance 2022 and Benchmark Adelante 2023 for dual language students.

Ms. Ehrhart gave a brief summary of plans for outdoor education in District 58. Outdoor education is currently a single-day, curriculum-based field trip for sixth graders. This year they will travel to Lorado Taft; last year they went to Camp Manitoqua. Once the District has decided which of these locations is the best for future trips, the cost will be included in registration fees. When sixth graders move to the middle schools in 2026-27, the trip will become a fifth grade experience. In 2025-26, both grade levels will attend.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Outdoor Education Fees Spring 2024

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the Outdoor Education Fee for the 2023-24 school year of \$50 per student.

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

4. DISCUSSION

A. Construction Alternates for the Referendum

Dr. Russell gave an update on current capital projects. Substantial work will begin during spring break. At this point in the project, 68% of funds are committed. As bids come in, the amount budgeted for owner contingency adjusts up or down depending on whether the bids are over or under budget. At this point, there are sufficient funds in the owner contingency that the District would like to recommend including some alternates and added items. The first is a network wiring update in the elementary schools. The original budget allowed for cabling in the renovated spaces and one cable run for the intercom system. The alternate would include cabling for phones and wireless access points. Most of the District's existing wiring is over 25 years old, which is beyond the industry standard, and it would be cost effective to replace it while other work is being completed. Some of the cost can also be reimbursed through the E-Rate program.

The next item is door replacement at elementary schools. The budget includes replacement of door handles to be ADA compliant. Many doors are aging and will eventually need to be replaced; it is more cost effective to replace the doors when the hardware is already removed to avoid paying double in labor. These alternates will be on the March 11 board agenda.

Future added items may include equipment and renovation to accommodate hot lunch in elementary schools if the Board approves that program, as well as new furniture for spaces that are not being substantially renovated.

Vice President Harris moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to move

Public Comment ahead of the Construction Consent Agenda on the agenda.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

6. 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 Doshi seconded the motion to approve the following items:

1. Phase I Elementary Bid Group #3
2. Furniture Design and Services Contract
3. O'Neill Library Furniture Purchase

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

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

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

8. CLOSED SESSION

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

1. 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).

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 9:40 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 10:25 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary