

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at the Longfellow Center.

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 John D. Cooper; Vice President Doug Purcell; and Members Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu, Miller, and Sigale. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Matthew Rich, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services; James Popernik, Controller; Richard Bubula, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Pamela A. Osika, Board Secretary. Attending this meeting were at least 38 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

2. FLAG SALUTE

Mark Stange, principal of Kingsley School, recognized Student Council sponsor Ashley Bidlencik and then introduced Student Council officers Caden Sexton, President; Lily Myszak, Vice President; Angelina Hernandez, Secretary; and Hunter Moravec, Treasurer. The students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The officers talked about activities, fundraisers, and events. Students raised funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital by participating in a Math-a-Thon. In early November, students will collect old or used towels, sealed dog treats and toys, which will then be donated to One Tail at a Time, a new dog rescue organization. Less fortunate children in the Kingsley community will receive a holiday gift thanks to donations made by students through the Giving Tree. During Spirit Week, students participate in Pajama Day, Sports Day, and Super Hero Day. Every other year, Kingsley holds a walk for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) and last year raised nearly \$4000 for this cause.

PTA President Gail Scherquist explained that the Kingsley PTA focuses on enriching and enhancing students' experience while they attend Kingsley. Fall Fest and the Pancake Breakfast are two annual fundraisers sponsored by the Kingsley PTA. With a fundraising target of \$25,000 and a spending budget of approximately \$22,500, nearly \$25 is allocated per student each year.

3. NON-ACTION REPORTS

A. "Spotlight on our Schools" – Technology Infrastructure

Director of Innovative Technology and Learning James Eichmiller shared an overview of the District's technology infrastructure with the Board. The District's technology infrastructure is secure, maintained and sufficient for the District's current needs. At this time, District 58 has Internet access totalling 1,100 megabytes per second provided by three different sources.

Three Internet lines provide redundancy in the event a technical issue should arise with any one source. The District's bandwidth use rarely exceeds 40% capacity; even during MAP testing this fall, the bandwidth was not strained. During PARCC testing, the District allocates one dedicated Internet line to PARCC testers to ensure they can complete the assessment without experiencing connection interruption. The District's Wide Area Network (WAN) and Local Area Network (LAN) are both well maintained and sufficient for the District's current needs. The Dell Sonicwall Firewall was recently updated and approximately two-thirds of the District's wireless access points were replaced during the summer of 2015. Looking to the future, the District will continue monitoring bandwidth utilization and consider increasing bandwidth if needed. The District will also pursue an upgrade to its WAN contract, will evaluate its wireless network, and upgrade remaining access points.

B. Hillcrest Playground Update

Margaret "Peg" Chaidez, Hillcrest parent, has been leading an effort to fundraise for and build an inclusive playground at Hillcrest School. With the help of her son, Owen, Ms. Chaidez provided the Board with an update on fundraising efforts. The estimated cost for the full playground and installation is approximately \$450,000. The crowdfunding effort is known as the "Dream Build Play Experience" and has received many generous community donations since the effort launched last year. Still far from their final goal, Ms. Chaidez and Owen recently met with two private donors seeking larger donations. Owen announced that as a result of that meeting, the Dream Build Play Experience received \$325,000 in pledged donations. Combined with previous donations, the project is near its fundraising goal. Project planning will take place during the remainder of 2015 with the inclusive playground becoming a reality in 2016.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Freedom of Information Act request from Scott O'Connell for documents relating to the creation of a sinking fund
(Response from Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent)
- B. FOIA request from Patrick McCraney, Better Government Association, for various documents including contracts and bargaining agreements, legal settlements, 2015-2016 budget, and payroll information
(Response from Pamela Osika, Sec'y to the Supt/Board Sec'y)
- C. FOIA request from Bob Grogan for list of all current subscribers to Communicate 58
(Response from Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent)
- D. E-mail from Ben West regarding Facebook Group for Longitudinal Discussion
- E. E-mails from Marla Gilbert, DGEEA President, regarding assistance requested
President Cooper mentioned that two members of the Board met with representatives of the DGEEA and information gathered will be shared with all Board members and discussed at the upcoming Curriculum Workshop.

- F. E-mail from Jason Sparks regarding Second Grade Class Size at Pierce Downer
- G. E-mail from Mark White regarding fall 2015 data
- H. E-mail from Gary Franzen regarding Technology in Classroom

5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Kari Cremascoli began by congratulating Board members Roberta Diehl and Elizabeth Sigale on becoming IASB LeaderShop Academy Members, which is the first step in learning more about best practices in school board governance. The District has hosted eight parent education series sessions so far this fall with approximately 15 to 40 participants at each session. These meetings offered an opportunity for parents to learn more about SQUIRREL, 1:1 in Learning, and Standards-Based Learning & Longitudinal Reporting. October 13th was a District Teachers' Workday; while a non-attendance day for students, teachers worked to enhance curriculum and lesson plans while collaborating with fellow teachers. The District is in the process of preparing for the Board a report on OKEEP (Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program), including a review of revenues and expenditures. Preliminary figures indicate that expenses appear slightly lower than budgeted and enrollment is slightly higher than expected. The State recently made adjustments to the District's allowable use of Title I funds; these changes will be incorporated into the report being prepared. In September, the Board was informed of concerns regarding transportation service provided by Septran to individual students receiving special services. Some improvement in service has been reported over the past few weeks. A few families are still experiencing challenges; the District is working with those families to make individualized adjustments for providing transportation. The District will move forward and continue to work with Septran under the current contract. Superintendent Cremascoli announced that a Board Curriculum Workshop is scheduled on Monday, October 26, 2015 and invited everyone to attend that workshop. Teachers and administrators have been working hard over the last three years aligning the curriculum with Common Core standards and looking at reporting procedures. That work will be reviewed at the Curriculum Workshop. An update on School Improvement Plans will also be presented.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports, the investment report, and revenue and expenditure summary reports for the month ending September 30, 2015. Controller James Popernik reported that the business office continues to adjust to and utilize the new iVisions administrative software. Employee benefits open enrollment period will begin on October 15th. For the first time, all employees are required to enroll online in the new iVisions portal. The first quarter has ended and Education Fund revenues are higher when compared to revenues posted during the same period last year. The reason for this is the District received a payment from the State in July, which was for FY15. Expenditures were also higher during the first quarter of FY16, which was

projected in the 2015-2016 budget. The Medical Reserve Fund ended the month closer in terms of operating within balance but continues to run a deficit for this year overall. Copies of the draft audit for FY15 have been provided to the District by the auditors; the October 15th filing deadline will be met. As a result of the Annual Financial Report (AFR), District 58 will retain "Financial Recognition" status with the State.

C. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Popernik noted that at the time of this Board meeting, the District had not yet received the Treasurer's Report for September 2015. A revised Treasurer's Report for August 2015 had also been expected. The Board will be provided these delayed reports in time for the November Board meeting. Dr. Popernik explained the reason for the delay was not only due to the administrative software conversion, but was also a result of the District's treasurer relocating out of state. Considering this obstacle, the District will explore options in relation to services provided by the treasurer.

D. Policy Committee

Member Lupescu reported on the September 22, 2015 Policy Committee meeting. One policy was reviewed at that committee meeting and suggested revisions are based on changes to State law enacted August 3, 2015.

First Reading – Policy #5100.2 – Students – Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

Member Diehl moved and Member Lupescu seconded her motion to approve for first reading Policy #5100.2 regarding students health, eye, and dental examinations; immunizations; and exclusion of students and place it on the November board agenda for final approval.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

E. Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee did not meet in September.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

Member Cooper reported on the October 5, 2015 Financial Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed a summary of the Open Meetings Act; received and reviewed monthly financial reports; received information and discussed the 2015-2016 budget, District 58 fund balance history over the last 10 years, the 2015 tentative levy, CPI for September 2015, and the District's plan for a change in medical benefits carrier to Aetna beginning January 1, 2016.

6. **DISCUSSION**

Controller James Popernik gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board explaining the tax levy process and its importance. The Board's authority to impose property taxes is found in the School and Pension Codes. Other laws pertaining to the levy process can be found in the Property Tax Code, the Truth in Taxation Law, and the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). The District is limited to increasing its tax extension each year by 5% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI),

whichever is lower, plus any new construction that may have occurred during the past year. Since PTELL was enacted, CPI has not exceeded 5%. Things to consider when setting the levy include the prior tax year extension, the prior calendar year CPI, new property coming on the tax rolls, individual fund balances, annual fund expenditures, fund balances as a percent of expenditures, and prior year results of operations for each fund. Dr. Popernik reviewed historical data pertinent to District 58 including Equalized Assessed Valuations (EAV), new property, tax rates, and tax extensions. It was noted that since 2008 the EAV of District 58 has decreased as a result of the declining real estate market. There is hope that this decline has hit bottom and that an increase in the EAV will be seen in 2015. The CPI relevant to the 2015 tax levy year is 0.8%, which was the CPI for calendar year 2014. The estimated new growth applicable to the 2015 levy is 1.2% of total District EAV. The total 2015 levy request for capped funds is \$52,450,000, an increase of 1.99% over the 2014 extension, or the actual amount the District received in tax money, which was \$51,428,192. Special attention was given to the Transportation Fund. In order to address concerns regarding the fund balance of the Transportation Fund, there is a plan to shift levy dollars from IMRF/Social Security and Working Cash. The \$1,393,345 levy for the District's Debt Service is set by the County Clerk. The overall aggregate increase of the 2015 tentative levy over the 2014 extension is 1.90%. Next steps will be for the Board to announce and approve the tentative levy, set the levy hearing for November 9, 2015, and adopt the levy on December 14, 2015. Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments at this time.

7. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

There were no comments or questions from members of the audience at this time.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Miller moved and Member Lupescu seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2015 regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

9. CONSENT AGENDA

There being no request for individual consideration of any items on the consent agenda, the President stated that a motion would be in order relative to items on the consent agenda, consisting of the Personnel Report and Financial Statements consisting of the List of Bills and Summary. Member Diehl moved and Member Purcell seconded her motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

The retirement date change for one administrator from June 2017 to June 2016; the appointment of one certified staff member and four instructional assistants; the request for Family Medical Leaves of Absence for two certified teachers; the resignation of five educational support personnel employees; and the 2015-2016 supplementary assignments and stipends.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and payroll totals as shown on the list submitted under the date of September 30, 2015 in the total amount of \$7,035,249.73 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 SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES**

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$2,199,606.14
Gross Payroll	\$2,167,914.53

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$122,883.86
Gross Payroll	\$1,184,513.85

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$0.00
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TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$3,764.71
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IMRF

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$75,826.98
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$76,886.26
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SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$662,003.00
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WORKING CASH FUND

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$0.00
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FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$0.00
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MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$541,850.40
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SINKING FUND

List of Bills & Revolving Fund	\$0.00
Gross Payroll	\$0.00

Total	\$7,035,249.73
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ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Cooper, Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu,
Miller, Purcell, and Sigale
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Recommended Tentative 2015 Property Tax Levies

Member Purcell moved and Member Miller seconded his motion to adopt the Truth in Taxation Law Resolution regarding the estimated amounts necessary to be levied for the year 2015 (\$53,843,345.00 of which \$1,393,345.00 is the debt service levy); and that a public hearing regarding the 2015 property tax levies be scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Longfellow Center. (Attachment 10/13/15 A)

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Cooper, Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu, Miller, Purcell, and Sigale
NAYS: None Motion carried

B. Section 125 Flexible Spending Account

Member Lupescu moved and Member Diehl seconded her motion to approve a two and a half (2.5) month grace period related to processing claims in District 58's Flexible Spending Accounts commencing January 1, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Cooper, Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu, Miller, Purcell, and Sigale
NAYS: None Motion carried

11. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

There were no comments or questions from members of the audience at this time.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Cooper announced the following dates:

- Tuesday, October 20 Policy Committee Meeting
7:00 a.m. Administrative Service Center
- Tuesday, October 20 Building Tour & PTA Meeting
7:00 p.m. Fairmount School; 6036 Blodgett; D.G.
- Wednesday, October 21 Legislative Committee Meeting
3:45 p.m. Administrative Service Center
- Thursday, October 22 PTA Presidents / Administrators Meeting
9:00 a.m. Longfellow Center
- Monday, October 26 Curriculum Workshop
7:00 p.m. **Herrick Middle School; 4435 Middaugh; D.G.**
- Monday, November 2 Building Tour & PTA Meeting
7:00 p.m. Indian Trail School; 6235 Stonewall, D.G.
- Monday, November 9 Regular Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Longfellow Center

13. CLOSED SESSION

Member Purcell moved and Member Lupescu seconded the motion to move to closed session for the purpose of discussing matters relating to

- the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1);
- collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2);
- litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11);
- 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).

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Cooper, Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu,
Miller, Purcell, and Sigale
NAYS: None Motion carried

Member Diehl moved and Member Sigale seconded the motion to reconvene in open session.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 7:53 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:05 p.m.

14. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Member Miller moved and Member Diehl seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2015 closed session meeting.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

B. Review of Closed Session Minutes

Member Diehl moved and Member Lupescu seconded the motion to keep the minutes from the September 15, 2015 closed session meeting permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

15. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Superintendent Cremascoli shared with the Board an update on a student that was reported missing on Thursday, October 8th. Information regarding a recent Freedom of Information Act request was also shared.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Member Miller moved and Member Sigale seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

John D. Cooper, President

Pamela A. Osika, Secretary

TRUTH IN TAXATION LAW RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of Downers Grove Grade School District Number 58, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: That the Board hereby determines that the proposed aggregate levy, exclusive of election costs and levies for debt service and certain leases, estimated to be necessary to be raised by taxation for the year 2015 upon the taxable property in the District is \$52,450,000.

Section 2: That the amount of property taxes, exclusive of election costs and levies for debt service and certain leases, extended on behalf of the District for the year 2014 was \$51,428,192.

Section 3: That the foregoing proposed estimated aggregate levy for the year 2015 is equal to 1.99 percent of the foregoing taxes extended for the preceding year, 2014.

Section 4: That the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to publish or cause to be published a legal notice of public hearing, in the form of **EXHIBIT A** attached hereto, in accordance with the requirements of the Truth in Taxation Law.

Section 5: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 13th day of October, 2015.

John D. Cooper
President, Board of Education

Pamela A. Osika, Secretary
Board of Education
Downers Grove Grade School District 58

EXHIBIT A

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE
FOR DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 58**

- I. Public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Downers Grove Grade School District Number 58 for 2015 will be held on November 9th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Longfellow Center, 1435 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Pamela A. Osika, Board Secretary, Downers Grove Grade School District Number 58, 1860 63rd Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516; 630/719-5800.

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2014 were \$51,428,192.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2015 are \$52,450,000. This represents a 1.99 percent increase over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2014 were \$1,409,714.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2015 are \$1,393,345. This represents a 1.14 percent decrease from the previous year.

- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2014 were \$52,837,906.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2015 are \$53,843,345. This represents a 1.90 percent increase over the previous year.