

November 13, 2017

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, November 13, 2017, at the Downers Grove Village Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and announced that it was the regular monthly meeting of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Doug Purcell; Vice President Elizabeth Sigale; and Members Gregory Harris, Darren Hughes, John Miller, Jill Samonte, and Beth Taylor. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services; Ken Young, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary. Attending this meeting were at least 24 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

2. FLAG SALUTE

Michelle Rzepka, principal of Hillcrest School, introduced Student Council sponsors Jennifer Skolimowski and Sue Anderson, who in turn introduced student council officers Sofia Pieranunzi, Molly Mungan, Owen Chaidez and Lily Sylvester. The students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The officers talked about activities, fundraisers, and events for this school year, including a "Be Thankful" campaign, Random Acts of Kindness week, and Pennies for Patients, which raised over \$4000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Hillcrest celebrated Red Ribbon Week with various spirit days to encourage healthy decision making, and plans to sell Jolly Holiday grams in the winter. Student Council also plans a winter clothing drive for DuPage PADS and a "Hugs and Kittens" event to collect items for the West Suburban Humane Society.

Jennifer Haselhorst, Hillcrest PTA Co-President, shared how Hillcrest PTA is raising money through fun events such as the Hillcrest Game Night, which raised approximately \$25,000, a mother-daughter dance-a-thon, father-child movie night, and fun run. The PTA continues to try to reach more parents in the community by emphasizing how the PTA supports kids by funding in-class experiences, field trips, and other activities.

Principal Rzepka and Assistant Principal Melissa Sawisch presented a video showcasing the Hillcrest Families program. The monthly small group "family" meetings, made up of staff and students across all grade levels, foster positive social relationships and a sense of community among everyone at Hillcrest.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED TAX LEVIES

President Purcell opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments regarding the 2017 tax levies. No comments were made by members of the audience.

4. NON-ACTION REPORTS

A. Recognition of Students

The names of Student Council officers were presented to the Board for special recognition.

B. "Spotlight on our Schools" – Assessment for Learning

Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, explained the different types of assessments: standardized, summative and formative. He noted that all district staff receive training in the Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning. James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning, provided an overview of the district's common assessments in math, explaining that the data from these assessments gives a high-level view across the district of student performance in an entire grade level, school by school, on a particular topic, allowing adjustment of instructional strategies, resources, and assessment design. Continuing education on assessment is built into professional development for teachers and administrators. Ongoing review of math assessments will continue within the Math Committee and at grade level and department meetings. Mr. Sisul and Mr. Eichmiller also shared a video that illustrated many of the innovative ways District 58 teachers assess their students' learning.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Email from Theresa Steiner regarding invitation to Herrick Fall Band and Choir Concert

B. FOIA request from Michael Timothy, National Association of Environmental Engineering Students, regarding Director of Buildings & Grounds ~ *response from Melissa Jerves*

C. FOIA request from Matthew Topic regarding math assessment policies ~ *response from Kari Cremascoli*

D. FOIA request from Mike Webber regarding district MAP scores ~ *response from Kari Cremascoli*

E. Email from Carrie Minium regarding special education bus transportation

F. Letter from Tom Sleeter regarding follow-up on earlier communications

- G. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding Superintendent's Advisory Council

5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Kari Cremascoli reported that School Board Members Day is November 15. Dr. Cremascoli thanked board members for their time and efforts serving the students of District 58. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled this week, and November 27 is the next Teacher Institute Day. The 5Essentials survey, an ISBE requirement, will be administered to staff and students in grades 4-8. Parents will have the opportunity to complete the district school environment survey, which will be available from after Thanksgiving break until Winter Break. The district is preparing to launch a new strategic planning effort. There will be several opportunities in January for the community to engage in the process, from parent and community forums to an online survey. The District 58 Education Foundation has awarded grants to teachers to support innovative school projects. The recipients will attend the January board meeting to be recognized and show examples of their projects.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports, the investment report, and revenue and expenditure summary reports for the month ending October 31, 2017. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO David Bein reported that the State of Illinois has paid nearly all the funds due to the district for last fiscal year. The outstanding balance is down to approximately \$94,000. In comparison, in April the state still owed the district \$2.5 million. For this year, the state has vouchered but not yet paid approximately \$416,000 for special education and transportation funding.

Federal tax reform proposals, if enacted, could affect District 58 by eliminating advance refunding of tax exempt bonds as of January 1, 2018. Future debt restructuring would require the issuance of taxable bonds, which would increase borrowing costs. At the state level, House Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 851 has passed the House and is pending action in the Senate. The amendment implements a mandatory two-year property tax freeze, increases homestead exemptions by 60-67%, and proposes to make the extension limitation 0%, rather than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for levy years 2017 and 2018. The rate currently applicable for the 2017 levy is 2.1%, and the CPI rate applicable for the 2018 levy is currently about 2.2%. If enacted, the legislation will cause a reduction of approximately \$750,000 in revenue for this year from taxes collected in the spring, and a reduction of \$1.6 million in revenue next year. The five-year impact to District 58 is estimated to be \$8.9 million in lost revenue.

The board will consider the final 2017 levy adoption in December. The Downers Grove assessor is expecting a 4.78% increase in assessments overall. The tentative levy will cover approximately \$35 million of new construction. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) mandates that school districts

report expenditures, including centralized expenditures such as district administrator salaries, by source of funds at a school building level beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. ISBE is working with an advisory group to prepare guidance for districts on what may be a significant change in reporting.

C. 2012-2017 Auditors' Report

The 2016-2017 fiscal year audit is complete. Betsy Allen from auditors Miller, Cooper & Co., highlighted key points from the audit. Allen noted that of the \$26 million in long-term liabilities, \$12 million are pension liabilities for IMRF and TRS. She also emphasized that of the few minor deficiencies in practices for collecting student fees and disbursing Student Activity funds, none were found after January 2017, indicating that the district successfully modified its practices after receiving last year's audit report. Finally, Allen encouraged the district to maintain an awareness of data security and be proactive in mitigating risk.

D. Treasurer's Report

There was nothing special to report in regard to the Treasurer's Report.

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee did not meet in October.

E. Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee did not meet in October.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee did not meet in October.

G. Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee

Member Sigale reported on the October 12 and November 9 Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee meetings. The committee's mission has evolved, and it is now working to support efforts of strategic planning facilitators from Hazard, Young & Attea (HYA). At the most recent meeting, the committee discussed ways to connect with community members. HYA will begin interviews with individual board members and district administrators in November. Over 40 focus groups and an online survey will follow in January. A strategic plan draft is expected to be presented in March, with a final plan ready for board approval in April.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Enrollment

As a result of the Board's direction at the October 10 board meeting to narrow the available options to address forecasted enrollment growth at Highland School, Dr. Cremascoli presented more specific details on the remaining two options. Option 2 is a boundary adjustment affecting only new and future students. New students within the current Highland attendance area north of Ogden Ave. and west of Main St. would attend Belle Aire School. All current

students and their younger siblings would be grandfathered into Highland. Dr. Cremascoli noted that although this option has a limited impact on current students and families, it may not yield the desired change in enrollment because it is based on forecasted numbers. The roll-out would be lengthy and the effects would not be realized immediately.

She next presented additional information regarding Option 4, which allows for case-by-case enrollment adjustments based on board Policy 5102. In this case, kindergarten enrollment at Highland would be capped at 56 students, and enrollment would be capped in 1st, 3rd and 4th grades for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. New students unable to enroll at Highland would be administratively transferred to Belle Aire with transportation provided by the district. This option would have an immediate effect on class size and total enrollment while maintaining the neighborhood and limiting the impact on current students and families. Transportation cost is not a significant factor because the current bus routes to Belle Aire have sufficient capacity to accommodate administrative transfer students.

Dr. Cremascoli recommended the implementation of Option 4 for the next two years, with the possibility of revisiting the option of a boundary adjustment in two years in light of actual enrollment as well as the new strategic plan. She emphasized the need for a decision at the December board meeting so that the district can communicate options regarding the upcoming school year to families as soon as possible. Either option will benefit from an early Kindergarten Round-Up, and younger siblings of current Highland students would have the first option to enroll.

The board discussed both options. Members of the Board expressed concern that waiting another two years before committing to a boundary adjustment would amount to postponing a solution to higher enrollment. The board then discussed the possibility of implementing both Option 2 and Option 4. This would allow time for the boundary adjustment to take effect, while the enrollment cap would immediately address class sizes. No matter which option is pursued, the board and administration agreed that clear and early communication to the community is necessary. The board indicated that it supports moving forward with Option 4, and will decide at the December meeting whether to move forward with Option 2 as well.

B. PARCC

Dr. Cremascoli gave some background information about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment in District 58.

- PARCC is the required state test by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
- Students take the assessment in the spring, but the district does not receive the results until the following fall.
- Standardized testing, the PARCC in particular, has been a hot topic of discussion; many in the community have expressed concerns over the

PARCC assessment throughout the past three years and several families have chosen not to have their children take the exam.

- While state assessment results are not currently used for educational planning for individual students, the results do affect other factors, such as school ratings on real estate websites.
- There is a significant discrepancy between District 58 PARCC results and much stronger student achievement as demonstrated on other measures.
- The district still values the education of whole child, rather than an over-emphasis on test preparation.

Following discussion at the October Curriculum Workshop where assessment results were reviewed, including student achievement on the NWEA-MAP and PARCC, the Board agreed that additional analysis and discussions would be helpful on this topic. The Board indicated support for ongoing dialogue regarding a shift in the District's approach to PARCC administration, especially with regard to helping students to better understand the assessment platform, to understand the importance of the assessment and of taking all assessments seriously, and to demonstrate their learning and aptitude on this measure in ways similar to those demonstrated through other measures of similar academic content (i.e. MAP and classrooms assessment). However, support for not over-emphasizing the PARCC alone was noted, as well as a recognition that the District is not aiming for broad-based shifts in instructional practices or curricula at this time based on this assessment alone.

Administration summarized the question before the district: "Is it possible to help students more accurately demonstrate their true achievement capability on state-mandated tests and better succeed on the PARCC without sacrificing our values, instructional approaches, creativity, collaboration, and most importantly, the child-centered approach to education within our district?" The district set out to investigate this question further.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul, summarized findings thus far to the Board in terms of themes and recommended next steps. The first theme that emerged from conversations with teachers and administrators across the district regarding our approach to and value of PARCC was that students have the perception that PARCC does not matter. It has received negative attention in the media and community, some students opt out or witness other students opting out, and there is no immediate access to the results. The second theme that emerged centered on the unfamiliarity of the test format. Many questions are multi-step and require in-depth reading and writing, although the size of the text box presented for their answer may visually suggest concise responses instead of detailed responses. In addition, the online platform and tools for the test are unique to PARCC. Furthermore, unlike the MAP assessment, students can skip questions and continue with the test.

Although 2018 is the last year of the current ISBE contract with PARCC, the ISBE media relations director was recently quoted as saying, "The state will

continue administering the accountability assessment and will remain a part of the PARCC consortium...”

Member Hughes noted that the new ELA curriculum includes assessments more aligned to the PARCC format. He stated that a small investment of time in familiarizing students with the format can make big impact in students’ perception of the test. Member Miller emphasized that the state standardized testing requirement is not going away, and that regardless of which test is administered, students should be expected to give their best effort. Member Harris pointed out that PARCC data affects how the community views schools. These data are an important output of our schools.

The Board expressed appreciation for the district’s and administration’s investigation into students’ performance on PARCC and requested that the district pursue options to encourage students’ best effort, participation and familiarity with the exam in preparation for this spring’s administration. The Board expressed support for the administration’s recommendations for next steps relative to the PARCC.

7. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Steve Smetana, Highland parent, commented that a boundary adjustment for Highland is unlikely to solve future enrollment issues, and that a different approach to enrollment changes across the district may be necessary.

Zaida Morillo, who lives within the current Highland attendance area, asked whether the Board will consider grandfathering families who have lived in the area for some time, but do not yet have children enrolled in school.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2017

Member Taylor moved and Member Harris seconded her motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2017 regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

B. Approval of Minutes – October 23, 2017

Member Hughes moved and Member Miller seconded his motion to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2017 special meeting/curriculum workshop 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 Miller moved and Member

Hughes seconded his motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

The request for Family Medical Leaves of Absence for one administrator and one certified teacher, the retirement of two certified staff and five support staff, and the resignation of one educational support employee.

The appointment of one certified teacher and three support staff employees.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on November 13, 2017 as well as the revolving and imprest issued in October as shown on the list submitted under the date of November 13, 2017, in the total amount of \$3,316,654.90 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, 2017
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills – Nov 13, 2017	\$1,305,291.69
Revolving Fund – Oct 2017	\$32,251.09
Imprest Checks – Oct 2017	\$8,323.92

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills – Nov 13, 2017	\$163,709.55
Revolving Fund - Oct 2017	\$2,015.07
Imprest Checks – Oct 2017	\$572.80

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$1,298,422.35
Revolving Fund - Oct 2017	\$0.00
Imprest Checks – Oct 2017	\$6,819.60

TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills – Nov 13, 2017	\$303,152.83
Revolving Fund - Oct 2017	\$192,065.00
Imprest Checks – Oct 2017	\$4,031.00

IMRF

List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$0.00
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$0.00
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SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND

List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$0.00
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WORKING CASH FUND

List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$0.00
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<u>FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS</u>	
List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$0.00
<u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND</u>	
List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$0.00
<u>SINKING FUND</u>	
List of Bills - Nov 13, 2017	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - Oct 2017	\$0.00
Total	\$3,316,654.90

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. American Education Week Resolution

Member Samonte moved and Member Taylor seconded her motion to adopt the American Education Week Resolution as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor
NAYS: None Motion carried

B. Acceptance of the 2016-2017 Audit Report

Member Sigale moved and Member Harris seconded her motion to accept the FY 2016-2017 Audit Report as prepared by Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor
NAYS: None Motion carried

C. Approval to bid the Lester Addition Project

Member Miller moved and Member Hughes seconded his motion to approve issuing bids related to the Lester addition project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor
NAYS: None Motion carried

D. Appointment of Architect and Construction Manager

Member Hughes moved and Member Miller seconded his motion to approve the contract for architect services with Wight & Co. as presented, which includes a guaranteed maximum price for the Lester addition of \$2,242,000, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Business to negotiate and

execute contracts for construction management and general conditions with Wight & Co. consistent with Exhibit A of the architect agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor
NAYS: None Motion carried

E. Appointment of Financial Advisor

Member Harris moved and Member Taylor seconded his motion to approve the financial advisory services agreement with PMA Securities, Inc.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor
NAYS: None Motion carried

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Purcell announced the following dates:

November 17-19	IASB / IASA / IASBO Joint Conference Chicago, Illinois
Tuesday, November 21	Policy Committee Meeting 7:00 a.m. ASC
Monday, November 27	Staff Meet & Greet with BOE 6:15 p.m. Highland School
Monday, November 27	BOE Financial Workshop 7:00 p.m. Highland School
Thursday, December 7	Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee 7:00 a.m. Longfellow
Monday, December 11	Regular BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m. Downers Grove Village Hall

13. CLOSED SESSION

Member Hughes moved and Member Harris 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, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1);

- the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10);
- 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 Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,
Samonte, Sigale, and Taylor
NAYS: None Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 9:48 p.m. A motion to reconvene in open session was made.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The Board reconvened to open session at 10:17 p.m.

14. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Member Hughes moved and Member Harris seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2017 closed session meeting.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

B. Review of Closed Session Minutes

Member Taylor moved and Member Miller seconded the motion to keep the minutes from the October 10, 2017 closed session meeting permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Doug Purcell, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary