

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 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 7:00 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; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; James Eichmiller, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Learning; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Todd Drafal, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Sonali Patil, Manager of Business Services; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Britta Waszak, principal of Henry Puffer School, introduced Student Council members Caitlin Sandridge, Madeleine Novotny, Weston Ittner, Cody Wilson and Brendan Eddington, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The students then reported on fundraisers and activities Student Council has sponsored in the past and hopes to resume this school year. They reported that Student Council strives to spread happiness in school and the community.

Puffer-Hefty PTA presidents Janet Sandridge and Amy Klawitter reported that their mission is to make an impact on each child at Henry Puffer. Their fundraising supports programming and events, such as learning labs, assemblies, an ice cream social, holiday events and the talent show. The PTA also provides staff meals during conferences, staff appreciation events, and an alumni scholarship. They thanked the Puffer parent community that raised funds for the new playground.

Principal Waszak shared a video highlighting how the school is working toward the District's strategic goals. Clubs and activities have resumed at Henry Puffer. The school has implemented a daily intervention block to support students who need intervention support, targeted small group instruction, or enrichment in reading and writing. During professional learning time, staff use student assessment data to design and evaluate the instruction during this block. Puffer students are enjoying two major facility improvements: the new playground and the new lower level and library.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Written Communications

1. Text message from Justin Behm regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Board Member Steve Olczyk.*
2. Email from PlanSmart 58 regarding Longfellow status.
3. Email from Porus Dadabhoy regarding close the gap/listen to students ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
4. Email from Jill Goodman regarding mask wearing at board meetings ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
5. Email from Stephen Ray regarding unsolicited praise of Principal Wagner ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
6. Email from Allison Hannam regarding new D58 families ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board Member Emily Hanus.*
7. Email from Tony Lorenz regarding Highland School indoor air quality ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board Member Kirat Doshi.*
8. Email from David Pierce regarding social media posts ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
9. Email from parent regarding Pierce Downer parent-led taskforce on masking best practices ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
10. Email from Kyle Gansel regarding ESSER funds for District 58 ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Asst. Supt. for Business Todd Drafall.*
11. Email from Francisco Medrano regarding grievance.
12. Email from Louise Dechovitz, Avoca School District 37, regarding IASB Resolution #1.

Meeting Follow-up Communications

1. Email from Board Vice President Gregory Harris to Stephen Ray.
2. Email from Board Vice President Gregory Harris to Brian Sewell.
3. Email from Board Vice President Gregory Harris to Porus Dadabhoy.
4. Email from Board Vice President Gregory Harris to Melissa Kapheim.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Stephen Ray regarding detrimental effects of mask wearing ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
2. Freedom of Information Act request from Janie Jordan, Data Research Partners, regarding staff contact information ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
3. Freedom of Information Act request from Vince Espi, LocalLabs, regarding student and faculty COVID-19 data sent to local health department.
4. Freedom of Information Act request from Vince Espi, LocalLabs, regarding 1619 Project materials.
5. Freedom of Information Act request from PlanSmart 58 regarding the sale and development of Longfellow.
6. Freedom of Information Act request from Katy Smyser, NBC, regarding unclaimed property.

4. SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOLS

A. Fall Data Snapshot

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul gave a presentation on fall benchmarking assessment data. This data helps identify struggling students as well as measure overall trends. The District is in the process of making long-term decisions about measuring student growth data. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) was recently administered to students in grades four through nine, as it was postponed from last spring. Students in grades three through eight will take the IAR again in the spring, according to the usual schedule.

MAP and aimsweb assessments were administered in late August and early September. Primary students were administered the aimsweb assessment in early literacy and numeracy. The data for numeracy is typical compared to previous years, but the literacy data showed more students demonstrating lower achievement than usual, particularly in first grade. Mr. Sisul noted that these results reflect the impact of the pandemic on instruction and learning last year, when students received some or all of their instruction remotely and OKEEP was not offered.

MAP data showed that, overall, students continued to achieve at a high level. The District will administer MAP again in winter and spring and compare results to assess student growth. Federal funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) is being used to address learning loss; for example, summer school offerings were expanded to assist students needing additional support.

Benchmarking data are reviewed at each building. Tier I data are reviewed to determine whether any changes to core instruction for all students are necessary, and to address enrichment and extension. Tiers II and III data are reviewed by specialists and IRT teams to determine intervention and support needs. In addition, Instructional Leadership Teams at each building use the school improvement Cycles of Inquiry process to review all building and student-level data, engage in root cause analysis to verify areas of need, and select research-based strategies to implement based upon those needs.

5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell reported on the following items:

- **Facilities:** The District administration completed its move to a new District Office located at 2300 Warrenville Road. The renovation of the current ASC has begun; when complete, the technology and maintenance staff will vacate Longfellow Center, which was recently sold for \$4.1 million.
- **Personnel:** The Personnel agenda includes the approval of stipends for

extracurricular club sponsors. In bringing back student clubs and activities, the District ensures that each school has the same number of opportunities. PTAs may also expand after-school offerings, but the District would like to do so equitably across schools with the assistance of ESSER funds.

- **Public Relations:** The District received 64 responses to its Strategic Plan council and School Board committee recruitment effort, and all applicants were placed in a group. The Bonfield Express Foundation donated \$1,000 to each District school to recognize students who demonstrate a love of learning, extra effort, or good citizenship.
- **Curriculum:** The District has received questions about the data privacy practices of Panorama, a company that provides SEL assessments for students. While District 58 does not have a current relationship with Panorama, it did pilot a Panorama assessment tool in 2019 with approximately 350 students. All families were notified and given the chance to opt out. Panorama has confirmed that no student data was shared outside of Panorama. The work on SEL assessment was paused due to the pandemic; as the SEL Curricular Audit Committee resumes its work, the goal is to balance the importance of measuring students' social-emotional competencies with the need for student data privacy.
- **Technology:** A PowerSchool outage affected parent-teacher conference registration, the second such outage during an event when large numbers of families are attempting to access PowerSchool simultaneously. The District will continue to work with PowerSchool to improve service, but will seek alternative solutions if necessary.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending September 30, 2021. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO Todd Drafall reported that the year-to-date report reflects the expected revenues; expenses are somewhat lower than usual as some transportation bills have not been received.

Mr. Drafall provided an overview of how the District has spent federal ESSER funds. Funds from the CARES Act and ESSER 2 were mostly spent to cover operational costs necessitated by the pandemic, such as PPE, tents, and additional staff for lunchroom supervision. ESSER 3 funds, which are tied to Title I eligibility based on poverty rates, is primarily allocated to address learning loss due to the pandemic, such as the cost of additional interventionists and summer school programming. The District did not receive sufficient funding to permit large capital expenditures.

Budget planning for fiscal year 2023 has begun. The Board will approve the tax levy at its November meeting. Any increase in the tax levy is limited to the consumer price index (CPI) plus the value of new property. As the downtown Downers Grove tax increment financing district will expire this year, adding a significant amount of new property to the District's tax rolls, the District expects a greater than 5% increase in the tax levy over last year.

- C. Treasurer's Report
There was nothing special 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
Member Hanus gave a report on the September 22, 2021 Legislative Committee meeting. The committee discussed its primary goals for the year, which include reviewing and making recommendations on the resolutions presented at the IASB Delegate Assembly, and hosting the annual Legislative Breakfast. The committee also discussed avenues to seek additional assistance for families at a potential new homeless shelter.
- F. Financial Advisory Committee
The Financial Advisory Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.
- G. District Leadership Team
The District Leadership Team did not meet in September.
- H. Health and Wellness Committee
Vice President Harris gave a report on the September 30, 2021 meeting. The committee reviewed August claims data, which was negative, likely due to staff scheduling health care appointments before school started. Depending on claims during the last four months of the year, the Medical Reserve Fund is expected to break even or possibly end with a slight deficit. The committee has recommended an 8% rate increase for three of the plans, with no increase for the high deductible/HSA plan. While a deficit is anticipated for 2022, it is offset by the surplus in 2020.

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Timing of Public Information Program for a Potential Facilities Referendum
Dr. Russell reported that the Citizen Task Force reconvened over the summer and expressed overwhelming support for resuming the District's plan to engage the community on the issue of facility needs. Two possible referendum dates were discussed, June 28, 2022 and November 8, 2022. The majority of the task force and consultant Paul Hanley recommended the November date, citing reasons including larger voter turnout expected, increased opportunity for in-person outreach, and an election date while school is session. The action item on the agenda is simply a vote on the target date to begin the public information process; it is not a vote on whether to go to referendum.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

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

B. Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 special meeting as presented.

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

10. 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) as presented in the packet materials. Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

- The family medical leaves of absence of five certified staff employees.
- The appointment of one certified staff employee and five support staff employees.
- The resignation of two support staff employees and one custodial maintenance employee.
- Teacher stipends as presented in the attached stipend list.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on October 13, 2021, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in September 2021 as shown on the list submitted under the date of October 13, 2021 in the total amount of \$1,276,266.19 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 OCTOBER 13, 2021
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$505,454.61
Revolving Fund - September 2021	\$19,212.92
Imprest Checks - September 2021	\$24,937.43

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$272,162.03
Revolving Fund - September 2021	\$198,641.41
Imprest Checks - September 2021	\$7.97

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - September 2021	\$0.00

TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$66,078.79
Revolving Fund - September 2021	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - September 2021	\$57.84

IMRF

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$0.00
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - September 2021	\$0.00

SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$189,713.19
Revolving Fund - September 2021	\$0.00

WORKING CASH FUND

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$0.00
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FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$0.00
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MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$0.00
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SINKING FUND

List of Bills - October 13, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - September 2021	\$0.00

	Total	\$1,276,266.19
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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)

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Approval of Timing of Public Information Program for a Potential Facilities Referendum

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to pursue a public information program, including public opinion research, based on a possible November 8, 2022 referendum.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

B. 2022 Insurance Rates

Member Olczyk moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve 2022 insurance rates as presented.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

C. School Maintenance Project Grant

Member Hanus moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the District's application for the School Maintenance Project Grant.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

D. Surplus Equipment: Computer Carts, Push Blower, Rolling Cabinet, Desks, Refrigerator, File Cabinet

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to designate as surplus the items in the attached memo.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

E. Approve Policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:30, 2:130, 3:30, 5:10, 6:100, 6:145, 6:160, 6:170, 6:235, 6:255, 6:260, 7:200, 7:220, 7:230, 7:280, 8:90

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to adopt revisions to policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:30, 2:130, 3:30, 5:10, 6:100, 6:145, 6:160, 6:170, 6:235, 6:255, 6:260, 7:200, 7:220, 7:230, 7:280, 8:90 as presented.

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Wednesday, October 20, 7 p.m. Special Board Meeting/Self-Evaluation Workshop
O'Neill Middle School

Monday, October 25, 7 p.m. Curriculum Workshop
O'Neill Middle School

13. CLOSED SESSION

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

- 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 Doshi, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

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

The Board convened to closed session at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 8:59 p.m.

14. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

- A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – September 13, 2021
Member Weiner moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

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

and Weiner
NAYS: None

Motion carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary