

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 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 7:00 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, Melissa Ellis, Emily Hanus, and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: Steve Olczyk. 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 Drafall, 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

Mr. Zac Craft, principal of Highland School, and assistant principal Christine Priester introduced Student Council members Eshan Mehta, Johnny Vlahos and Abram Roberts, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Craft showed a video with highlights from Highland. He explained the variety of methods teachers are using to make progress toward reading and math school improvement goals, including the implementation of new math curricular resources Bridges and Big Ideas, as well as implementation of Foundations and Michael Heggerty reading resources in first grade. Student Council members also shared why they ran for office and what they like about their school.

The students then reported on fundraisers and activities Student Council has sponsored in the past and hopes to resume this school year.

Highland PTA co-president Amanda Wiley reported on PTA-sponsored events that have adapted to COVID safety precautions, such as the outdoor family night, virtual book fair, and the Read-a-thon that raised over \$16,000. The PTA has also resumed events such as Halloween parties, Treat Day, Fun Lunch, Geography Night and One Book One School.

3. TRUTH-IN-TAXATION HEARING

Todd Drafall reported that the estimated tax levy amount was introduced to the Board at the October meeting. A Truth-in-Taxation hearing is required when the

levy is expected to exceed 105% of last year's levy. That threshold may be reached this year due to the expiration of the downtown Downers Grove Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. Tax revenue from that property has been frozen for the past 23 years; the redeveloped property will be added to the tax rolls this year as new property. The hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions or make statements regarding the tax levy.

The president opened the floor to public comment. There were no public comments. The president declared the hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Written Communications

1. Email from Allison Folkerts regarding aimsweb results ~ *response from Asst Supt for Curriculum Justin Sisul.*
2. Email from Porus Dadabhoy regarding meeting with District 58.
3. Email from Julie Wojtowicz regarding mask mandates.

Board Meeting Follow-up Communication

1. Email from Vice President Gregory Harris to Ami Johanson.
2. Email from Vice President Gregory Harris to Brian Sewell.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Vince Espi, LocalLabs, regarding Panorama Education ~ *verification inquiry from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
2. Freedom of Information Act clarified request from PlanSmart 58 regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Board attorneys Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn.*
3. Freedom of Information Act request from Marcell Kentre regarding transportation and beverage RFPs ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
4. Freedom of Information Act request from Tanner Fa regarding student transportation ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

In honor of School Board Members Day on November 15, Dr. Russell recognized the leadership and commitment of the members of the Board of Education. He then reported on the following items:

- **Special Services:** Children ages 5-11 are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is not mandatory and the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) has not indicated whether it will be mandatory in the future. The Illinois State Board of Education has amended its process for placing a district on probation for failing to comply with the mask mandate so that it is more uniform between public and private schools. School districts must still comply with the mask mandate. The IDPH and governor have not indicated when mitigation

strategies will end.

- **Technology:** The Technology Department continues to work on the reconfiguration of District offices during the renovation of the District Service Center (formerly ASC). Level 1 Technicians will be working out of the middle schools, providing a higher level of service by having a technician on each side of town.
- **Facilities:** A leaking heating supply pipe in a Pierce Downer School classroom has older insulation containing asbestos. Before repairing the pipe, proper asbestos abatement must occur. This emergency project will occur between November 8 and November 11. The students have been temporarily moved to a different classroom and all safety protocols are being followed.
- **Personnel:** New teachers are receiving ongoing structured support from a mentor and through New Teacher meetings, which focus on topics such as effective discipline, classroom management strategies, and grading and reporting practices. In an attempt to attract more instructional assistant substitutes, the District will increase its rate of pay to \$90 per day.
- **Community Relations:** The Education Foundation recently awarded 22 grants worth nearly \$12,000 to District 58 teachers and staff to support student learning. To support the Education Foundation, the community is encouraged to participate in the new Grove Express 5K on Thanksgiving Day. This event replaces the Bonfield Express 5K and is co-sponsored by the Education Foundation, the Rotary Club, and the Roadrunners Soccer Club.
- **Curriculum:** The Illinois School Report Card will be released in three installments this year. The first release on October 30 shared primarily demographic information and is posted on the District website. A December 2 release will include ACCESS scores (an assessment taken by English Learner students). The third release on April 27, 2022 will include the data from the remaining state assessments. Half-day grade level meetings have been conducted and continue to provide value to teachers to increase teacher efficacy and promote strong instructional practices. Feedback from teachers was overwhelmingly positive.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending October 31, 2021. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO Todd Drafall reported that the year-to-date report reflects normal operations. The transportation bill is larger than usual as the bus companies have caught up on their billing that was delayed due to all available staff being used as drivers. Revenue is slightly greater than in previous years because the property tax distribution arrived in the new fiscal year rather than in the previous fiscal year as usual.

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 October 27, 2021 Legislative Committee meeting. The committee discussed the resolutions to be presented at the IASB Delegate Assembly and made recommendations to the Board. The committee disagreed with the recommendation of the IASB Resolutions Committee on four items and recommended the following positions:

- #2 Student Safety and Protection Plan - **Do Not Adopt**
- #4 Board Member Childcare Reimbursement - **Do Not Adopt**
- #22 Prepare All Students to Succeed - **Do Not Adopt**
- #23 Physical and Mental Health of Students - **Do Not Adopt**

The Board discussed these items, as well as #5, Remote-Virtual School Board Open Meetings.

F. Financial Advisory Committee

President Hughes reported on the November 5, 2021 meeting. The committee reviewed the tax levy, had a discussion regarding health insurance rates, and reviewed the year-to-date report.

G. District Leadership Team

The District Leadership Team did not meet in October.

H. Health and Wellness Committee

Vice President Harris reported on the November 4, 2021 meeting. The plan year-to-date amount toward reserve is still showing a deficit, but it is hoped the amount will be closer to balanced by the end of the year. The Board approved premium increases for three out of four plans. The committee discussed the wellness incentive program; a healthier staff keeps claims down and, in human terms, the District values healthier and happier staff and families.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Next Steps for Portrait of a Graduation/Key Performance Indicators and Strategic Planning

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul described how two key areas of the strategic plan, the Portrait of a Graduate and Key Performance Indicators (KPI), can be used to consistently define and measure student success across the District. He presented seven draft descriptors that would define the Portrait of a Graduate and requested Board feedback. To measure success, KPIs will be developed for each descriptor. Both proficiency and growth will be measured; much of the student data may be already collected with the District's current assessments. The District has also engaged the consulting firm ECRA, whose expertise will support this

work by analyzing student data, developing personalized targets and goals, and recommending measurement and monitoring tools. The District Leadership Team will review all recommendations before sending them to the Board for approval.

Dr. Russell gave an overview of the history of the current strategic plan and presented possible options for next steps. He recommended that the Board extend the current strategic plan for an additional two years and renew the KPIs. This option allows for key work to be completed and leaves the possibility of including new ideas and goals, recognizes the current institutional capacity, and allows testing and review of new KPIs.

The informal consensus of the Board was to pursue an extension of the strategic plan for the next two school years, followed by a new strategic planning process during 2023-2024.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Colleen McLachlan, Lester attendance area, commented that it is important for the Board and administration to know how grateful their family is for the team at Lester that supports their student with Type 1 diabetes.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – October 13, 2021

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

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

B. Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2021 special meeting as presented.

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

C. Approval of Minutes – October 25, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 Curriculum Workshop as presented.

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice President Harris requested individual consideration of IASB Resolution #5, and Member Doshi requested individual consideration of IASB Belief Statement #23. 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), and the IASB Resolutions, minus numbers #5 and #23, as presented in the packet materials. Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

- The family medical leave of absence of one certified staff employee.
- The resignation of four support staff employees.
- The assignment of three support staff employees.
- The resignation of one custodial maintenance employee.
- Teacher stipends as presented in the attached stipend list.
- An increase in the rate of pay to \$90 per day for substitute instructional assistants.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on November 8, 2021, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in October 2021 as shown on the list submitted under the date of November 8, 2021 in the total amount of \$1,484,552.80 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 8, 2021
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills – November 8, 2021	\$519,249.84
Revolving Fund - October 2021	\$17,857.66
Imprest Checks - October 2021	\$17,600.55

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills – November 8, 2021	\$178,545.28
Revolving Fund - October 2021	\$1,989.46
Imprest Checks - October 2021	\$151.41

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills – November 8, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - October 2021	\$0.00

TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills – November 8, 2021	\$731,635.67
Revolving Fund - October 2021	\$0.00

Imprest Checks - October 2021	\$40.00
<u>IMRE</u>	
List of Bills - November 8, 2021	\$0.00
<u>FICA/MEDICARE</u>	
List of Bills - November 8, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - October 2021	\$0.00
<u>SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 8, 2021	\$17,482.93
Revolving Fund - October 2021	\$0.00
<u>WORKING CASH FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 8, 2021	\$0.00
<u>FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS</u>	
List of Bills - November 8, 2021	\$0.00
<u>MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 8, 2021	\$0.00
<u>SINKING FUND</u>	
List of Bills - November 8, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - October 2021	\$0.00
Total	\$1,484,552.80

C. IASB Resolutions

1. Pre-Service Teacher Education and Licensure in Literacy - **Adopt**
2. Student Safety and Protection Plan - **Do Not Adopt**
3. School Board Member Compensation - **Do Not Adopt**
4. Board Member Childcare Reimbursement - **Do Not Adopt**
6. Reorganize Board - From 28 to 40 days - **Adopt**
7. Indigenous People Curriculum Inclusion - **Adopt**
8. Science of Reading Curriculum - **Do Not Adopt**
9. Health & Sex Education Curriculum - **Adopt**
10. Cannabis Sales - **Adopt**
11. Clean Energy Infrastructure Federal Funding - **Do Not Adopt**
12. Electric School Buses/Charging Stations Federal Funding - **Do Not Adopt**
- Adopt**
13. Landscaping Federal Funding - **Adopt**
14. Expand Broadband Internet Access - **Adopt**
15. Child Safe Gun Storage - **Do Not Adopt**
16. School Code Review - **Do Not Adopt**
17. Position Statement 2.20 - Constitutional Amendment on School Funding - **Adopt**
18. Position Statement 1.16 - Charter School Renewal of Charters - **Adopt**
19. Position Statement 1.17 - Charter Schools At-Risk Students - **Adopt**
20. Position Statement 2.25 - State Authorized Charter School Funding -

- 21. Position Statement 2.04 - Funding Special Education Programs - **Adopt**
- 22. Prepare All Students to Succeed - **Do Not Adopt**

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

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

Member Hanus moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adopt IASB Resolution #5, Remote-Virtual School Board Open Meetings. The Board discussed Member Harris' concern that the resolution as drafted is not in the spirit of the Open Meetings Act, prevents transparency, and allows for the potential of abuse.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Ellis and Hanus
 NAYS: Members Doshi, Harris, Weiner and Hughes Motion failed

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to not adopt IASB Belief Statement #23, Physical and Mental Health of Students. Member Doshi commented that this belief statement could promote the importance of student mental health. Other Board members noted that the general concern is not with the belief statement itself, but with the rationale presented, which raises concerns about capturing mental health data about students.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes and Weiner
 NAYS: Members Doshi, Ellis and Hanus Motion tied

Member Hanus will vote **Do Not Adopt** on Resolution #5, and abstain from voting on Belief Statement #23 at the Delegate Assembly.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. 2021 American Education Week Resolution
 Member Ellis moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to adopt the American Education Week Resolution as presented.

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

B. 2021 Certificate of Levy
 Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to adopt

the 2021 Certificate of Levy in the amount of \$62,610,000.

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

C. Surplus Equipment: HP Printers

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to designate 14 HP printers as surplus equipment.

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

D. Revised 2021-2022 Board of Education Meeting Calendar

Member Ellis moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the revised 2021-2022 Board of Education Meeting Calendar as presented.

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Monday, November 14, 3:45 p.m. District Leadership Team Meeting

~~Tuesday, November 16, 7 a.m. Policy Committee Meeting~~ **CANCELED**

~~Wednesday, November 17, 3:45 p.m. Legislative Committee Meeting~~
CANCELED

Monday, December 6, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

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

- 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);
- 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, and
Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

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

The Board convened to closed session at 9:57 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:59 p.m.

14. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – October 13, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

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

B. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – October 20, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2021 closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary