

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, July 12, 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, Steve Olczyk and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: none. 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

President Hughes led the flag salute.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Written Communications

1. Email from Debbie Rudi regarding student issue ~ *response from Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jessica Stewart.*
2. Email from Teri Donnelly regarding disposition of Longfellow School ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
3. Email from Jasmine Glover regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
4. Email from Hannah Sila regarding Longfellow community input ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
5. Email from Heidi Sila regarding our Downers Grove community ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
6. Email from Ashley Tobie regarding dual language program ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
7. Email from Katherine Marra regarding Longfellow School ~ *response from Board President Darren Hughes.*
8. Email from Marge Vander Wagen regarding Longfellow School ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*

9. Email from Daniel Danko regarding Longfellow.
10. Email from Allan and Lili Gray regarding proposed sale of Longfellow ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
11. Email from Stephen Ray regarding strong support for the sale of Longfellow.
12. Email from Tim Curley regarding don't save Longfellow School.
13. Email from Doug regarding Save Longfellow poem.
14. Email from Martha Mulligan regarding don't sell Longfellow School ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
15. Email from Julie Ruffolo regarding do not sell Longfellow property ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
16. Email from Jolie Fredette regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
17. Email from John Murray regarding Longfellow School ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
18. Email from Richard Roche regarding objection to the sale of Longfellow School ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board Vice President Gregory Harris.*
19. Email from Jim Rendulich regarding Longfellow ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
20. Email from Jennifer Shea-Danalewich regarding Longfellow School ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
21. Email from Jason Ghera regarding questions for District 58 ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
22. Email from Cathy Malay regarding New York Times article.
23. Email from Alex Leventis regarding mask wearing ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
24. Email from Cynthia Ferguson regarding preservation of Longfellow Center land ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Karen Parker regarding payroll and invoices for backflow testing/repairs for 2018-2021 ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

4. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell provided the Board an update on the learning model for fall based on guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), noting that one significant change will be that only three feet of distance is required, including during lunch periods. Masking is mandated on school buses. The guidance states the social distancing should not be a hindrance to bringing all students to school in person full time; layers of mitigation should be added where necessary. It is anticipated that ISBE will release a FAQ that will answer some of the remaining questions regarding the guidance.

The remainder of the Superintendent's Report was issued in the Board Briefs following the meeting:

- **Administrative Retreats**

During the months of July and August, the administration conducts two retreats to reflect on the previous year, set goals for the upcoming year, align our work, and practice team-building. The Central Office Team completed its retreat, and the entire administrative team will meet in late July and August.

- **The Optimistic School Community**

To combat the toll the pandemic has taken on our community, the District is beginning the *Optimistic School Community*. This ongoing and systematic work is based on Shawn Achor's positive psychology work in books like the *Happiness Advantage* and *The Orange Frog*. The desired outcomes of this work include increased stakeholder satisfaction, increased student achievement, higher employee retention rates, lower absenteeism for students and staff, and a positive impact on the cultures of each school and the District as a whole.

- **Curriculum and Instruction**

Summer School Update

Summer Session I concluded on June 25th, which was a first-ever opportunity for students who were deemed eligible for additional support based upon their performance or experience during this pandemic year. The program was funded with federal ESSER grant dollars to address potential COVID-related learning loss. Summer Session II began on June 28th, which mirrors our typical summer offering. 220 students entering grades K-8 attend classes for three weeks focused on upcoming grade level readiness. Summer Session III follows, which includes enrichment opportunities for students in art, STEM, and more.

Social Studies Adoption

The adoption of a new social studies resource for students in grades 6-8 is being recommended to the Board. The District is grateful for the work of our teachers who have piloted and reviewed all of the available options, and excited to see these resources fully implemented in our classrooms this fall.

- **Finance**

The independent auditors were on-site to start the audit process the week of June 21 and will return in September. Much of the data is sent via a secure worksheet system, which reduces the time on-site. Because the District has a modified accrual audit and receives a significant level of state and federal grant funds, the conclusion of the audit happens after receipt of those revenues in the months of July and August. This year is particularly challenging because of the added ESSER funds and the continual changes between federal guidelines and state review and implementation right up to the end of the fiscal year. The final audit will likely be reviewed by the Board in November or December.

- **Facilities**

The District 58 Citizen Task Force will meet virtually on July 21st at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to restart Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, *Focus on the Future*. Dr. Russell and Todd Drafall participated in a planning call today with Paul Hanley and have mapped out a tentative agenda. Members Hughes and Weiner are the Board representatives on the Task Force.

- **Personnel**

Twenty-four of 33 certified staff positions have been filled thus far. We anticipate being able to fill the remaining nine positions with high quality candidates. The finalists will be recommended for hire at the August Board meeting.

- **Technology**

The technology department is in the process of cleaning, inspecting, and resetting student devices in preparation for the upcoming school year. The technology department has partnered with the Student Data Privacy Consortium to collect data privacy agreements for almost all of our essential operators, in compliance with the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA). Our database of agreements is posted on the District 58 website. Some applications may be prohibited on student devices due to a lack of SOPPA compliance.

- **Student Services**

Extended School Year (ESY) for eligible students with special needs started strong on Thursday, July 8, 2021, this past week at Indian Trail School. About 60 students are enrolled and attending the full program daily with an additional 20 attending weekly to receive speech and language services. The goal of ESY is to support students with special needs to retain critical skills identified within their individualized education plan. Summer staff include special education classroom teachers, instructional assistants, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nursing and an ESY principal and secretary. We are proud to share that the majority of our staff positions are filled by District 58 staff, and students and families were excited to reconnect with familiar faces. We look forward to a great four weeks of reinforcing skills and preparing for the upcoming school year!

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending June 30, 2021. Director of Buildings and Grounds Kevin Barto gave an update on construction projects around the District, including the Highland playground, floor tile at O'Neill and the Henry Puffer basement, mechanical equipment at Fairmount, the Pierce Downer roof and masonry work, the Kingsley server room, and pavement at Herrick and Henry Puffer. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO Todd Drafall reported that although the year-to-date report is on a cash basis, the June report includes July and August salaries. Furthermore, expected revenue from the third distribution of property taxes was not received until just after the report was finalized, and

the distribution of ESSER II funds from the state has still not been received. Once those additions are accounted for, the District will be in a positive position for the end of fiscal year 2021. The Medical Reserve Fund ended the year with less than at \$500 difference from the beginning of the year.

Mr. Drafall also provided an update on the ASC and Longfellow facilities. The District did not receive any responsive bids for the Longfellow property; the one bid received did not meet the minimum price set by the Board. Continued ownership of Longfellow will divert resources away from schools, while sale proceeds could be used to fund capital updates to schools in the summer of 2022. The initial bid process revealed that the price of the land plus demolition costs were higher than the market would accept, especially factoring in the unknown costs of asbestos abatement. A suggested timeline for moving forward with the sale process includes approving a new resolution with a lower sale price at the August Board meeting, then leasing administrative office space, and approving a bid for the renovation of the ASC.

- C. 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 June.
- E. Legislative Committee
The Legislative Committee did not meet in June.
- 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 June.
- H. Health and Wellness Committee
The Health and Wellness Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

- A. E-Learning Discussion for School Year 2021-2022
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul shared a presentation on a potential e-learning program for the 2021-2022 school year. An e-learning program is only designed to replace emergency days when schools would need to close for weather or other emergencies; only five e-learning days are permitted in a given school year. The state requires an e-learning day to include five clock hours of instruction, which would include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities, and measures to

ensure access to e-learning for all students. The decision whether to use an e-learning day in lieu of a regular emergency day would be made on a case-by-case basis. The Board discussed the pros and cons of an e-learning program. The administration will continue with the next steps toward submission of an e-learning plan to the state, including a public hearing at an August Board meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Leo, Pierce Downer attendance area, commented that the Village of Downers Grove's plan to build a new village hall, with the opportunity to include the police department and District 58 administrative offices, should be discussed and explored. He also asked how much the District will receive in federal COVID relief funds and whether they can be used for next year's summer capital projects.

Marshall Schmitt, Pierce Downer attendance area, commented that the process for the sale of Longfellow has been flawed and has not sufficiently engaged the public. He stated that waiting three years could provide the community an opportunity to figure out how to preserve the property.

David Rose, Pierce Downer attendance area, asked the Board to reconsider the sale of Longfellow. He made further comments about the lack of coordination between taxing bodies and suggested the repurposing of Longfellow as a public resource dedicated to learning about environmental sustainability.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2021

Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, Hanus, Hughes, and Weiner
ABSTENTIONS: Members Harris and Olczyk
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 appointment of one administrator, 15 certified staff employees, and three educational support staff employees.
- The resignation of one administrator, four certified staff employees, one educational support staff employee, and two custodial maintenance employees.
- The family medical leaves of absence of two certified staff employees.
- The retirement of one certified teacher.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on July 12, 2021, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in June 2021 as shown on the list submitted under the date of July 12, 2021 in the total amount of \$1,292,273.18 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 JULY 12, 2021
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills – July 12, 2021	\$942,577.29
Revolving Fund - June 2021	\$40,402.94
Imprest Checks - June 2021	\$9,099.07

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills – July 12, 2021	\$52,714.36
Revolving Fund - June 2021	\$773.47
Imprest Checks - June 2021	\$498.47

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills – July 12, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - June 2021	\$30,952.50

TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills – July 12, 2021	\$210,255.08
Revolving Fund - June 2021	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - June 2021	\$0.00

IMRF

List of Bills – July 12, 2021	\$0.00
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills – July 12, 2021	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - June 2021	\$0.00

SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND

List of Bills - July 12, 2021	\$4,000.00
Revolving Fund – June 2021	\$1,000.00

WORKING CASH FUND

List of Bills - July 12, 2021 \$0.00

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS

List of Bills - July 12, 2021 \$0.00

MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

List of Bills - July 12, 2021 \$0.00

SINKING FUND

List of Bills - July 12, 2021 \$0.00

Revolving Fund - June 2021 \$0.00

Total \$1,292,273.18

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Ellis, 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. Social Studies Curricular Resource Adoption, Grades 6-8

Member Ellis moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the purchase of National Geographic Learning, published by Cengage Learning, in the quantities defined in the attached quote for a total cost of \$310,028.46.

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

B. Server and Storage Upgrade

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the purchase of 2 Dell PowerEdge R640 servers, a Dell EMC ME4024 Storage Array, 3 years of support, and configuration of the storage from Sentinel Technologies, Inc for a total cost of \$26,916.00.

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

C. Bid: Custodial Supplies

Member Ellis moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to award the Custodial Supplies bid to Warehouse Direct at the prices as presented in the

attached memo.

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Friday, August 6, 7:00 a.m. Financial Advisory Committee
ASC

Monday, August 9, 7:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting
Village Hall

13. CLOSED SESSION

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis 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; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1);
- the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5);
- 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, Ellis, Hanus, Harris, Hughes,
Olczyk and Weiner
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

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

The Board convened to closed session at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:07 p.m.

14. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – June 14, 2021

Member Doshi moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 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, Hughes, and
Weiner
ABSTENTIONS: Members Harris and Olczyk
NAYS: None Motion carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary