

September 11, 2017

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met in regular session on Monday, September 11, 2017, at the Downers Grove Village Hall.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 19 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

## 2. FLAG SALUTE

Robin Bruebach, principal of Indian Trail School, introduced student council officers Matthew Passo, Jessica Lander, Kimmy Torres and Kaylie McDaniel. The students gave a short presentation in honor of Patriot Day to remember the events of September 11, 2001. They led the audience in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The officers talked about their first successful fundraiser, Hats for Houston, which raised over \$1,500 for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Other fundraisers planned are candy cane and taffy apple sales, a BoxTops contest and school supply sales at Indian Trail's School Store. Student Council coordinates Spirit Days to encourage school spirit, organizes activities during Teacher Appreciation Week, reminds students during Red Ribbon Week to stay drug free, and invites parents and community volunteers to teach mini lessons to students on Community Day. Students will also collect supplies to create birthday party kits for children in shelters through Humanitarian Service Project's "Party in Bag."

## 3. BUDGET HEARING

### A. Public Hearing on Proposed 2017-2018 Legal Budget

President Purcell opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments regarding the 2017-2018 Legal Budget. Members of the audience made no comments. The President declared the hearing closed at 7:09 p.m.

### B. Adoption of the 2017-2018 Legal Budget

Having prepared a tentative budget and having made same conveniently

available for public inspection for at least 30 days prior to the public hearing, and, further, having considered input on that tentative budget and determining to make adjustments to that document, Member Taylor moved and Member Sigale seconded her motion to adopt the 2017-2018 Legal Budget as presented in final form.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Harris, Hughes, Purcell, Samonte,  
Sigale, and Taylor  
NAYS: Member Miller Motion carried

#### 4. NON-ACTION REPORTS

- A. "Spotlight on our Schools" – New Teacher Induction & Phone System Update  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Justin Sisul shared highlights from New Teacher Week, when the District welcomed 40 new staff members. New teachers were introduced to the District's administrators, available resources such as instructional coaches and LRC, EL and reading specialists, and the District's core beliefs, outlined in its mission and vision statements. New teachers also explored content areas including Social and Emotional Learning, differentiation, assessment practices, specific curricula such as Math and English/Language Arts, and goal-setting.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Dr. Jayne Yudzentis also shared that new teachers were introduced to the District's community partnerships through the 86th Annual Lions' Club New Teacher Luncheon at Gatto's and the Education Foundation's luncheon at Carlucci's, where they learned about programs that support our schools such as the Downers Grove public library, police, fire department and park district. New teachers are also supported through a mentor program that pairs veteran teachers with a new teacher. Through systematic contact, they can observe one another, collaborate and give feedback. Additional support comes from building principals, grade level teams, specialist groups, instructional coaches and three more new teacher meetings during the year. Second year teachers continue to receive training in areas such as lesson development, and have opportunities to identify areas of success and areas where growth is needed. Dr. Yudzentis stressed that all aspects of new teacher induction stem from the core philosophies of putting students first and supporting people in every role within the District and community.

Director of Innovative Technology and Learning James Eichmiller, along with Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO David Bein, gave an update on the planned upgrade to the District's phone system. The new system will have lower annual operating costs and alleviate outages caused by old hardware that can no longer be serviced. It will also offer increased productivity and mobility features that can be customized to staff needs. Cutover from the old system to the new is planned for Oct. 10.

#### 5. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding MAP data
- B. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding coverage of SB1 by WGN
- C. Email from Tony Guercio regarding Biliteracy Program
- D. Emails from Teresa Arlis regarding middle school sports
- E. FOIA request from Megan Seagraves regarding 2nd grade enrollment  
~ *response from Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent*
- F. FOIA request from Illinois Retired Teachers Association regarding staff email addresses ~ *response from Melissa Jerves, Sec'y to Supt/Board Sec'y*
- G. Email from Maneesh Sharma regarding school ratings and curriculum
- H. Email from Tracy Weiner regarding school funding
- I. Letter from Tom Sleeter regarding PARCC scores

## 6. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### A. Superintendent

Superintendent Kari Cremascoli reported that School is off to a great start and everyone has enjoyed the comfortable cooler weather. Patriot Day was recognized in each school in various ways. Dr. Cremascoli thanked the Board for supporting the change in special education transportation service providers, stating that there has been dramatic improvement in transportation services so far this year. Reliable transportation makes a huge difference to students, families and staff. Curriculum Nights were held last week for north side schools, O'Neill Middle School and Herrick 8th grade, and will be held this week for south side schools and Herrick 7th grade. These nights provide a valuable opportunity for parents and teachers to get to know each other and establish channels of communication as well as for parents to understand the classroom instructional approaches and curriculum. All of District 58 benefits significantly from strong home-school partnerships. Coordinated by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Justin Sisul, curriculum committee meetings, professional development, grade-level meetings and specialist groups have begun to be scheduled.

Dr. Cremascoli also shared an enrollment update. Average class size in grades K-6 is 23.6 students. The average class size for each school ranges between 21-25. About 10 sections have less than 20 students, while another 10 have greater than 27. The District tries not to have classes above 30, and has used instructional assistants to support larger classes. Compared to the forecasts from last year's demographer's report, district-wide enrollment is within a 2 percent range of those predictions. Lester's enrollment grew more than predicted, while Highland and Kingsley also showed growth. The largest class cohorts are in eighth, second and fifth grades. District enrollment overall shows no notable growth or decline, but there are pockets of growth and decline in various neighborhoods. In a neighborhood school model, there is no perfect boundary modification that would ensure stable, even enrollment every year across the district and within each classroom. Policy adjustments are another option to help balance enrollment. The Board will discuss next steps at the Oct. 10 meeting, and Dr. Cremascoli encouraged the Board to reach out with ideas, comments and suggestions for the administration to

consider. She stressed that decisions should be made in light of what is best for students, making sure that there is access to programming for all.

Dr. Cremascoli further reported that the Teacher and Administrative Salary and Compensation Report and the IMRF Salary and Compensation Report are available for viewing on the District website. Generous donations of school supplies were made by the Downers Grove Roadrunners Soccer Club, Downers Grove Public Works, Downers Grove Old Navy and the Smith Family. Supplies have been distributed to schools and are in use by students. The District 58 Education Foundation's Oktoberfest will be held Sept. 16 and 17 in downtown Downers Grove.

**B. Monthly Business**

The Board received business reports, the investment report, and revenue and expenditure summary reports for the month ending August 31, 2017. Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO David Bein reported that Illinois has new school funding legislation. The evidence-based model is intended to bring districts across the state to an adequate level of funding, and guarantees that districts will not receive any less funding than they did the year before. Final state funding numbers are still being calculated by the Illinois State Board of Education. The District is working to increase short-term interest earnings on available deposits, which is especially helpful during the low cash-flow point in May when liquidity is necessary. Mr. Bein recommended IDB Bank as a new depository for District funds to facilitate investments in CDs. The state has made three of the four mandated categorical payments for last year, bringing the outstanding amount owed to the District down to \$922,357.45. The District has also begun to receive this year's state aid payments.

**C. Treasurer's Report**

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

**D. Committee Reports**

None of the standing committees of the Board met in August.

**7. RECEPTION OF VISITORS**

Steve Smetana, parent from Highland, commented on enrollment trends and supports exploring as many options as possible before considering redistricting.

Tia Nash, parent from Highland, in reference to enrollment, stated that the Board should consider strategies other than redistricting.

Laura Legare, parent from Highland, asked the Board to look at all possibilities to adjust enrollment across the entire district.

Julie Batkiewicz, teacher at Henry Puffer, issued an invitation to a presentation by Noah Rachlin regarding growth mindset, to be held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Herrick.

Ellen Jorstad-Stein, parent from Highland, stated that she is not in favor of redistricting and is interested in exploring the possibility of expanding the middle schools to include sixth grade.

Jessie Warmbir, parent from Highland, asked whether the new phone system has the capability to send out emergency calls or text messages. *Superintendent Kari Cremascoli responded that the District already has that capability, which is independent of the phone system hardware.*

## 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2017

Member Harris moved and Member Miller seconded his motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2017 regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

### B. Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2017

Member Taylor moved and Member Hughes seconded her motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2017 special meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

### C. Approval of Minutes – August 28, 2017

Member Hughes moved and Member Harris seconded his motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2017 special meeting/budget 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 Leave of Absence for one certified teacher, the retirement of two certified staff and one support staff employee, the resignation of four support staff employees, the appointment of 27 support staff employees, and the appointment of one custodian from part-time to full-time.

### B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on September 11, 2017

as well as the revolving and imprest issued in August 2017 as shown on the list submitted under the date of September 11, 2017 in the total amount of \$1,574,220.10 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 11, 2017  
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

**EDUCATION FUND**

List of Bills – Sept 11, 2017	\$1,087,715.09
Revolving Fund – Aug, 2017	\$18,717.05
Imprest Checks – Aug, 2017	\$20,335.38

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND**

List of Bills – Sept 11, 2017	\$238,592.19
Revolving Fund - Aug, 2017	\$53,460.19
Imprest Checks – Aug, 2017	\$238.95

**DEBT SERVICE**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$396.00
Revolving Fund - Aug, 2017	\$0.00
Imprest Checks – Aug, 2017	\$219.60

**TRANSPORTATION FUND**

List of Bills – Sept 11, 2017	\$55,799.65
Revolving Fund - Aug, 2017	\$98,680.00
Imprest Checks – Aug, 2017	\$66.00

**IMRF**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$0.00
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**FICA/MEDICARE**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$0.00
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**SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$0.00
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**WORKING CASH FUND**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$0.00
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**FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$0.00
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**MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$0.00
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**SINKING FUND**

List of Bills - Sept 11, 2017	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - Aug, 2017	\$0.00

	\$1,574,220.10
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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. CDARS Deposit Placement Agreement

Member Harris moved and Member Hughes seconded his motion to adopt the CDARS Deposit Placement Agreement naming IDB Bank as a depository of Downers Grove Grade School District 58 and authorizing the appropriate signatures.

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

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Purcell announced the following dates:

Thursday, September 14	Meet & Confer Strategic Planning Committee 7:00 a.m. Longfellow Center
Tuesday, September 19	Policy Committee Meeting 7:00 a.m. ASC Office
Wednesday, September 27	Legislative Committee Meeting 7:00 a.m. ASC Office
Monday, October 2	Financial Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00 a.m. ASC Office
Tuesday, October 10	Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Location To Be Determined

## 12. CLOSED SESSION

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

- the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or





the destruction of verbatim recordings that are at least twenty-four (24) months old having on file Board approved written minutes of the following closed meetings:

**District 58**

4/13/15  
4/20/15  
4/27/15  
5/11/15  
7/13/15  
8/10/15  
8/24/15  
9/2/15  
9/9/15

**NOTE:** District #69 Board approved written minutes are on file for closed session Wednesday, February 18, 2004 but no verbatim recording was ever given to District #58 upon annexation. A verbatim recording exists for closed session February 23, 2004 but no Board approved written minutes are on file. For that reason, the verbatim recording for District #69 dated February 23, 2004 shall not be destroyed.

District #69 -- verbatim recording exists for closed session June 28, 2004 (originally labeled June 29, 2004). No approved written minutes exist for this closed session. For that reason, the verbatim recording for District #69 dated June 28, 2004 shall not be destroyed.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

**Semi-Annual Review of Permanently Closed Minutes**

Member Taylor moved and Member Samonte seconded her motion to make available for public inspection the written minutes from the following District 58 closed session meetings upon the destruction of the verbatim recording:

4/20/15  
4/27/15  
7/13/15

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

Member Miller moved and Member Taylor seconded his motion to keep the District 58 closed session minutes listed in Attachment 09/11/17 and the District 69 closed session minutes listed in Attachment 09/11/17 permanently closed for reasons of confidentiality.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was introduced.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

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

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Doug Purcell, President

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Melissa Jerves, Secretary