

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, April, 2022, 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 Drafal, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Sonali Patil, Manager of Business Services; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Megan Hewitt, Community Relations Coordinator; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Fairmount principal Lisa Niforatos introduced Fairmount Student Council sponsors Karen Kroll and Jennifer Glynn. Student Council Executive Board members Abby Stapleton, Kaleo Davis and Mason Fuller led the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and then reported on the activities and fundraisers they planned for this year. These included collecting donations of winter gear for Metropolitan Family Services; organizing a Spirit Week around the One Book, One School selection *Nim's Island* and raising \$300 for Team Seas; and sponsoring Penny Wars for Fairmount students to benefit FISH Pantry of Downers Grove.

PTA President Dominic Zucchero reported that the PTA has enjoyed sponsoring more in person events year, including a Trunk or Treat Halloween event, classroom holiday parties, Fun Lunch, Art Appreciation, a One Book One School program, and Field Day. Their major fundraiser, Trivia Night, is scheduled for April 23rd. The PTA also funds the teacher grant program that offers teachers the opportunity to receive funds for classroom enhancements.

Principal Niforatos presented a video that highlighted how the various staff and student committees at Fairmount are working toward achieving the District's strategic goals. The Happiness Advantage committee is implementing positive psychology to improve school culture and climate; the Instructional Leadership Team reviews student data to assess areas of strength and potential growth; the Student Focus Committee explores ways to recognize and celebrate positive student behaviors; the Building Leadership Team brainstormed ways to support

student transitions and schedule adjustments, and worked on a schoolwide system to support positive behaviors; and the Student Advisory Committee, made up of fifth and sixth graders, generated new ideas such as reinstating student-led announcements.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Written Communications

1. Email from Tiffany Melnyk regarding 2022-23 school calendar ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
2. Email from Kelli Janczewski regarding 2022-23 school calendar ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
3. Email from Jennifer DeBruin regarding 2022-23 calendar and beyond ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
4. Email from Abbey Green regarding presentation of student data ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
5. Email from Alan Scott regarding Champions 22-23 school year enrollment ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
6. Email from Karen Schmidt regarding question about Herrick drop off/pick up traffic ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
7. Email from Deb Rosenberg regarding Board question on teachers not rehired ~ *response from Board Member Tracy Weiner.*
8. Email from parent regarding student issue ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
9. Email from Bonnie Summers regarding District 58 and NextDoor ~ *responses from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board Vice President Gregory Harris.*
10. Email from Lex Talamo regarding allegations on social media ~ *response from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell.*
11. Email from Jill Samonte regarding health and wellness specialist ~ *response from Board Vice President Gregory Harris.*

Freedom of Information Act Requests

1. Freedom of Information Act request from Jonathan Fagg, ABC7Chicago, regarding challenged books ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*
2. Freedom of Information Act request from Lynn Sebold, Canon Solutions America, regarding copier and printer contracts ~ *response from Board Secretary Melissa Jerves.*

4. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Superintendent

Dr. Russell thanked the Fairmount staff, students and PTA for their presentation. He then reported on the following:

- **Curriculum:** The District is in the second week of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) testing window; participation is greater than 99 percent. All students grades 1 through 6 will have a local field trip this spring. Grades 1-3 will visit Lyman Woods, and

grades 4-6 will visit the Morton Arboretum. Ken Lerner of the Heritage Alliance presented a \$1,500 donation to support outdoor education and Lyman Woods through these field trips.

- **Technology:** The Technology Department has ensured that spring assessments, which are administered online, have proceeded smoothly.
- **Student Services:** The Safe2Help service has been launched and provides multiple confidential pathways for students, staff and families to report potential mental health or safety concerns. Roadrunners Soccer Club donated \$12,000 of funds they raised from the Grove Express race to the Developmental Learning Program's daily living skills program.
- **Finance:** An overview of the District's draft five-year financial plan will be presented.
- **Facilities:** Thanks to partners in the Village of Downers Grove and District maintenance staff for snow removal this year.
- **Community Relations:** Elementary schools have returned to normal lunch procedures.
- **Personnel:** The hiring process is underway; as families have completed student registration, staff who were affected by last month's reduction in force are beginning to be rehired. Candidates for principal at Kingsley and Henry Puffer will be presented to the Board later this month or in May at the latest.

B. Monthly Business

The Board received business reports and the investment report for the month ending March 31, 2022. Assistant Superintendent for Business Todd Drafall reported that the year-to-date report shows typical revenue and expenses. Purchased services and operations and maintenance funds were affected by the unusually hard winter and costly repair projects, but some budget adjustments have been made in response.

Mr. Drafall presented an overview of the draft five-year financial plan for fiscal years 2023-2027. He noted that the District is in a better place financially; all groups are prioritizing fiscal responsibility, transparency, and strong stewardship of taxpayer dollars. The District has implemented a five-year planning process with balanced budgets, as well as a 35% fund balance policy. The strategic plan guides the prioritization of resources. The five-year plan includes an annual transfer of \$1 million in operating funds to the capital fund, funding for the staffing plan as presented to the Board in March, the remaining ESSER funds allocated to address learning loss and student mental health needs, the continuing shift to in-district special education programs instead of outplacements, a federal grant for iPad replacements in summer 2022, funding from the state for playground improvements, and the potential removal of OKEEP fees in 2023-2024 due to the implementation of full-day kindergarten (only if a referendum passes for capital projects.) While the plan projections show a deficit in fiscal year 2027, this is likely the

accumulation of conservative projections for each year; the plan will be adjusted annually to avoid this deficit if possible.

- 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
The Legislative Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.
- F. Financial Advisory Committee
President Hughes reported on the April 8, 2022 meeting of the Financial Advisory Committee. The committee reviewed the staffing presentation and the five-year financial plan draft. They also discussed the expansion of special education in-district programs, the Rexnord property tax abatement agreement, and an anonymous donation for Pierce Downer playground improvements.
- G. District Leadership Team
The District Leadership Team has not met since the last Board meeting.
- H. Health and Wellness Committee
The Health and Wellness Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

5. DISCUSSION

- A. Two-Way Dual Language Program
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul gave a presentation on the proposed two-way dual language program. The District is obligated to provide dual-language instruction if there are 20 or more students in any attendance center who speak the same language. District 58's current program is open to all Spanish-speaking students in the District. The Dual Language Committee's research showed that a two-way program is more effective than the one-way program currently offered. Two-way programming provides the strongest long term outcomes both in English acquisition and academic performance overall. The model does not isolate or segregate students from their English-speaking peers, and provides the opportunity for bilingual education for a small number of students. The committee was prepared to make a recommendation before the pandemic. It now recommends initiating a two-way program beginning with one kindergarten class and continuing to support the current students in the one-way program. The entire program would be consolidated at El Sierra.

If the plan is approved, next steps include identifying English Learner eligible students; balancing the number of monolingual students with an offer to El

Sierra kindergarten students first and then a districtwide lottery if necessary; and hiring an additional dual language teacher. Monolingual English students would pay the same fee as OKEEP. The District is seeking a Spanish-speaking curriculum coordinator to oversee the dual language program.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2022

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022 regular meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Personnel

- The assignment of six certified staff employees and one support staff employee.
- The resignation of one administrator, five certified staff employees, one support staff employee, and three custodial/maintenance employees.
- The Family Medical Leave of Absence of one certified staff employee.
- The retirement of two certified staff employees and one support staff employee.

B. Financial Reports

The list of bills and obligations prepared for payment on April 11, 2022, as well as the revolving and imprest issued in March 2022 as shown on the list submitted under the date of April 11, 2022 in the total amount of \$1,374,867.66 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 APRIL 11, 2022
LIST OF BILLS & EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION FUND

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$459,256.00
Revolving Fund - March 2022	\$41,915.54
Imprest Checks - March 2022	\$8,013.81

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$274,147.25
Revolving Fund - March 2022	\$2,428.40
Imprest Checks - March 2022	\$78.00

DEBT SERVICE

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$350.00
Revolving Fund - March 2022	\$800.00

TRANSPORTATION FUND

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$587,766.11
Revolving Fund - March 2022	\$0.00
Imprest Checks - March 2022	\$112.55

IMRF

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$0.00
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FICA/MEDICARE

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - March 2022	\$0.00

SITE & CONSTRUCTION FUND

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - March 2022	\$0.00

WORKING CASH FUND

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$0.00
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FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FUNDS

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$0.00
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MEDICAL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$0.00
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SINKING FUND

List of Bills - April 11, 2022	\$0.00
Revolving Fund - March 2022	\$0.00

Total	\$1,374,867.66
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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)

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. 2021-2022 Amended School Calendar

Member Weiner moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the 2021-2022 Amended School Calendar as presented.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

B. Rexnord Property Tax Abatement

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Property Tax Abatement for the Rexnord Facility for the 2021 Tax Year.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

C. Affirmance/Ratification of Current COVID Mitigations

Member Weiner moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to (1) affirm the COVID mitigations that are currently in place in District 58, (2) affirm the Superintendent's recommendation to return to pre-pandemic lunch protocols (in alignment with a layered approach for removal of mitigations per the CDC), (3) authorize the Superintendent to make further adjustments to COVID mitigation measures as necessary based on local conditions, and (4) rescind the Board resolution of February 10, 2022, to the extent inconsistent with this motion.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

D. Potential Action on a Two-Way Dual Language Program

Member Ellis moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to approve the initiation of a two-way dual language program for incoming Kindergarten students in the 2022-23 school year.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried

E. K-5 Social Studies Resource Adoption

Member Olczyk moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve

the purchase of myWorld Interactive Illinois, published by Savvas, in the quantities defined in the attached quote for a total cost of \$329,024.48.

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

NAYS: None Motion carried

F. Pierce Downer Playground Improvements Phase I Donation

Member Doshi moved and Member Olczyk seconded the motion to accept a \$99,000 anonymous donation for playground improvements at Pierce Downer School.

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

NAYS: None Motion carried

10. CONSENT AGENDA: BIDS

Member Doshi requested that Item 15.B., Bid for Miscellaneous Painting at Various Schools, on the second consent agenda be considered separately. The President stated that a motion would be in order relative to the remaining item on the second consent agenda, consisting of one bid, as presented in the packet materials. Member Weiner moved and Member Hanus seconded the motion to approve the following item:

A. BID: Pierce Downer Playground Improvements Phase I

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

NAYS: None Motion carried

Member Doshi moved and Member Ellis seconded the motion to approve the bid for Miscellaneous Painting at Various Schools as presented in the packet materials. After inquiry from the Board, Mr. Drafall responded that it was unclear why one of the bids was four times the other bids.

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

NAYS: None Motion carried

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Monday, April 25, 7 p.m.

Special Meeting/Financial Workshop

Monday, May 9, 7 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

12. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – March 14, 2022

Member Ellis moved and Member Weiner seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022 closed session meeting and keep them permanently closed due to the confidential nature of the contents.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

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

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary