



REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING BULLETIN
DU QUOIN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #300
CENTRAL OFFICE - 845 EAST JACKSON ST.
DU QUOIN, ILLINOIS 62832
MEETING HELD IN DISTRICT PD ROOM NEXT TO DISTRICT OFFICE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
6:30 P.M.

Zach McPherson - President
 Trent Waller - Vice President
 Brian Rodely - Secretary
 Crystal Harsy - Member
 Patrick Riley - Member
 Kevin West - Member
 Mark Woodside – Member

Administrators present: Matthew Hickam – Superintendent, Cory Robbins – Business Manager, Diana Rea – Director of Instructional Services/Elementary Principal via Google Meet, Aaron Hill – Middle School Principal via Google Meet, Tim McChristian – High School Principal via Google Meet and Denise Woodsides – High School Assistant Principal via Google Meet.

Others present: Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Pam Pursell – DEA Co-President via Google Meet, and Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly via Google Meet. Parents in attendance via Google Meet included Angela Darnell, Erin Foster, Cori Maynor, Marsha Morgenstern, and Crystal Rogers.

Prior to the meeting, Jane Shelton, member of the Du Quoin Ministerial Alliance delivered a prayer.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Vice President Trent Waller at 6:33 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: Harsy, McPherson via Google Meet, Riley, Rodely, Waller, West, and Woodside.		
III.	Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The building principals shared the Reasons We Are Proud. Mr. Hickam made mention that the District had received notification that a \$10,000 grant has been awarded to improve the wifi network in the media center at the high school. This grant was completed and submitted by Mr. Robbins. Superintendent – Mr. Hickam provided a brief review of state school report card information noting that since there was no state testing in the spring due to COVID-19, all schools received the same rating as the previous year. All schools were designated “Commendable”. Mr. Hickam also provided an update regarding impacts of COVID-19 including the decision to add Nov. 23/24 as remote learning days. Mr. Hickam explained that this week was the biggest impact on faculty/staff and students. He noted that the challenge to cover all faculty/staff who were out was the biggest factor in making the move to full remote learning for Nov. 23/24. The Board asked about remote learning plans for the upcoming remote learning days. The principals each provided an overview of how their building was approaching remote learning. 		
IV.	Public Hearing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DEA Representative – No comments Public – Via Google Meet, Erin Foster and Marsha Morgenstern expressed concerns about remote learning and the impact on students and asked Mr. Hickam several questions on the topic. 		

V.	<p>Executive Session: The Board entered into executive session at 7:21 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees and purchase of real property in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). The Board returned to open session at 8:45 PM.</p> <p>The Board entered into executive session again at 8:49 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees and purchase of real property in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). The Board returned to open session at 10:30 PM.</p>		
VI.	<p>Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the minutes of the October 22, 2020 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes). b. The Board approved the Risk Management Plan for the District. c. The Board approved an updated job description for District Bookkeeper. 		
VII.	<p>Financial Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the payment of bills for October 2020. b. The Board approved the October 2020 financial report. 		
VIII.	<p>New or Unfinished Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Mr. Hickam provided a review of existing plans for in-person/remote learning. He noted that the plan to bring students back in the K-8 building for four in-person days went well and would remain the plan following the scheduled remote learning days. In regard to extra-curricular activities, Mr. Hickam noted that the IHSA had just released a statement calling for all winter sports activities to be suspended. B. The Board was provided the Annual Statement of Affairs for FY20. Mr. Hickam noted this had just appeared in the newspaper as required. C. The Board was provided an Engagement Letter from Rice Sullivan, Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Hickam noted that Rice Sullivan was updating a letter that was part of a 3-year agreement with Emling & Hoffman for audit services. He noted that the services and fees included in the letter are identical to those in the original letter. The Board accepted the letter as presented. D. Mr. Hickam presented a tentative tax levy request and rate for 2020 (payable in 2021). The amount tentatively requested was \$4,688,378 (an increase of approximately \$23,000 from the previous year). The resulting tentative rate was 5.3012 which would be lower tax rate from last year (5.315). Mr. Hickam noted this could be the 6th consecutive year that the District reduced its tax rate. Some Board members expressed a desire to be able to guarantee that property tax bills do not increase. Mr. Hickam will present options for consideration at the December meeting and noted that the Board must adopt a tax levy by Dec. 30th. E. Mr. Robbins shared information regarding the refinancing of one series of General Obligation Bonds. With a lower interest rate secured, the refinance will save the District approximately \$35,000 in interest payments over the next 4 years. The Board approved a resolution authorizing refinancing of Series 2012 General Obligation Bonds. F. Consideration of purchase of real property – No action or discussion occurred on this item. 		
IX.	<p>Employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board employed Kirsten Gill as a health aide at Du Quoin High School for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. b. The Board employed Melissa Tilley as District Bookkeeper beginning in 2021-2022. 		
X.	<p>Adjournment The Board adjourned at 11:23 PM.</p>		