



**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 K-8 MEDIA CENTER
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021, 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, Aaron Hill – Middle School Principal Tim McChristian – High School Principal.

Others present: Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly, Renee Trappe – Du Quoin Call, Jim Whitley.

Prior to the meeting, Pastor Lon McPherson of Liberty Church delivered a prayer.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: McPherson, Rodely, Harsy, Riley, West, and Woodside. Absent: Waller.		
III.	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Building principals – The principals and superintendent shared the Reasons We Are Proud. b. Superintendent – Impacts of COVID-19. Mr. Hickam noted the continuing positive trends regarding positive cases and close contacts. He mentioned the plan for five days of in-person learning beginning next week. He expressed that faculty/staff have been supportive of the return in contrast to some national headlines. It was noted that the number of full remote learners is at its lowest total for the year with about 90 district-wide. Each principal was asked to share an update regarding students at-risk of retention or course failure. Mrs. Rea and Mr. Hill approximated that there could be ten students in each of their buildings who are at a high risk of being retained. Mr. McChristian noted that the high school had over one hundred students with a failing grade for the quarter. All principals mentioned that efforts to communicate with families of these students had occurred and that some students were taking advantage of 21st Century programming or had returned to school from full remote. 		
IV.	Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DEA Representative – Co-President Pam Pursell expressed appreciation for the work that teachers have done. In addition, she shared a letter from 8th grade teachers expressing concern for the 8th grade promotion possibly occurring multiple days after the end of the school year. b. Public – Jim Whitley addressed the board and shared information regarding symbols and logos used by pedophiles to identify sexual preferences. He also expressed concerns with the reliability of federal funds. 		

V.	<p>Executive Session</p> <p>The Board entered into closed session at 7:13 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees and collective bargaining matters in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). The returned to open session at 8:03 PM.</p> <p>The Board entered into closed session again at 8:07 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees and collective bargaining matters in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). The returned to open session at 9:25 PM.</p> <p>The Board entered into closed session a final time at 9:26 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees and collective bargaining matters in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). The returned to open session at 9:59 PM.</p>		
VI.	<p>Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the minutes of the February 18, 2021 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes) and minutes of the March 4, 2021 special Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes). b. The Board approved an agreement with Archway, Inc. to provide early intervention services. 		
VII.	<p>Financial Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the payment of bills for February 2021. b. The Board approved the February 2021 financial report. 		
VIII.	<p>New or Unfinished Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consideration of revised guidance from IDPH/ISBE for schools including spectators at athletic events – Mr. Hickam noted the major changes in the most recent school guidance. Namely, the adjustment to social distancing for a range of 3-6 feet as well as the removal of the recommendation for symptom checks, but instead guidance to conduct self-certification. Mr. Hickam made mention that he and the principals determined to continue symptom checks upon student arrival. In regards to spectators at events, Mr. Hickam shared the change announce earlier in the day allowing for 25% capacity at outdoor events as well as 25% capacity at indoor events where the facility can hold 200 or more people. He noted that the administration would be working on adjustments in accordance with these revisions, in particular for inside events. B. The Board considered a rule in the high school athletic/extra-curricular Rules & Regulations which prohibits students from quitting a sport and immediately starting participation in another sport. The Board suspended the rule for the remainder of the school year. C. The Board authorized the administration to amend the FY21 district budget. D. The current school calendar was amended so that May 25 will be the last day of student attendance with a teacher institute day on May 26. 8th grade promotion was set for May 25th at 6:30 PM. E. Operational items update – Mr. Robbins shared that the District is awaiting a proposal from Durham transportation regarding a one-year extension. He also noted that the K-8 door project preparations are underway with work set to begin after the school year ends. Lastly, the Board authorized the administration to seek proposals for trash removal service for the 2021-2022 school year. 		

IX.	Leave Request A. The Board approved Lauren Scheks' revised letter reducing the time of her leave of absence.		
X.	Employment A. The Board re-employed licensed probationary continued contractual and tenured licensed faculty for the 2021-2022 school year. B. The Board approve the annual reduction-in-force notices for certain extra-curricular positions held by non-association members in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the Du Quoin Education Association and Board of Education. C. The Board approved the transfer of Lanae Leposky to a 2 nd grade teaching position for the 2021-2022 school year.		
XI.	Adjournment The Board adjourned at 10:23 PM.		