



**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 MEDIA CENTER AT K-8 BUILDING
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 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, and Denise Woodsides – Assistant High School Principal.

Others present: Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Amy Rose – Board Member-Elect, Dr. Steve Still – Board Member-Elect, Matthew Benson – Board Attorney, Pam Pursell – DEA Co-President, Nikki Saunders – DEA Co-President, Pete Spittler – Du Quoin Weekly, Jim Whitley.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: McPherson, Rodely, Harsy, Woodside. Absent: Riley, Waller, and West. Riley present at 6:33 PM via Google Meet.		
III.	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Building principals – The principals shared the Reasons We Are Proud items for the month. B. Superintendent – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hickam acknowledged the re-election of board member Trent Waller and the election of new members Amy Rose and Dr. Steve Still. Rose and Still were acknowledged for being in attendance. • Mr. Hickam recognized the service of board members Dr. Patrick Riley and Mark Woodside and thanked them for their service. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Woodside (Dr. Riley was participating by phone). • Update regarding COVID-19 impacts – Mr. Hickam noted the recent impacts of the positive student case at the high school. It was noted that all of the students impacted are now back in school. In addition, with some of the impacted students being student-athletes, Mr. Hickam explained that the varsity football game was moved to Monday to allow students to return and be able to practice. He acknowledged Carterville for their cooperation in allowing this to happen. Mr. Hickam then noted that the Educational Foundation would be holding an in-person program to announce the members of the senior class receiving scholarships. This program will be held in Hibbs Auditorium and will be for the seniors and their parents as the 25% capacity rule remains in place. The high school and middle school graduation/promotion ceremonies will be held at Van Metre Field on their respective dates with the seniors/8th graders receiving six tickets for family members. It was noted that the ceremonies will follow the traditional program as in the past. 		

(Update: Since the meeting, the IHSA declared that the varsity football game could not be played on Monday due to season limitations. As a result, the game was restored to the original scheduled date.)

IV. **Public Hearing**

- A. DEA Representative – No comments
- B. Public – Jim Whitley addressed the Board and looked to follow up on the information he shared last month regarding symbols and logos used by pedophiles to identify sexual preferences. Mr. Whitley asked if the District had received its second-round of federal COVID-relief funds. Mr. Hickam explained that the District does not receive funds until a plan for using the funds is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. Once approved, he explained, the District expends local funds and then is reimbursed by the federal government. Mr. Hickam explained that the District has until June 1, 2021 to submit a plan for the second-round relief funds. Mr. Whitley then expressed his desire to donate his stimulus check to the District to help students. It was suggested that if he desired to do so, that he consider the Educational Foundation as they provide scholarships for students and grants to teachers for classroom projects.

V. **Executive Session:**

The Board entered into closed session at 6:51 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation/performance of specific employees, purchase of real property and collective bargaining matters in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).

The Board returned to open session at 7:56 PM.

VI. **Consent Agenda:**

The Board approved the following:

- A. The minutes of the March 18, 2021 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes);
- B. The release of executive session minutes from October 2020 through March 2021 and to dispose of closed meeting audio recordings from October 2018 through September 2019;
- C. The annual Interagency Working Agreement with Child & Family Connections;
- D. The summer food service program application to ISBE;
- E. The annual renewal of membership in the Illinois High School Association.

VII. **Financial Items:**

- A. The Board approved the payment of bills for March 2021.
- B. The Board approved the March 2021 financial report.

VIII. **New or Unfinished Business**

- A. Mr. Hickam provided an update on the principal search for DES. Mr. Hickam noted the pool of applicants started at seventeen, seven were interviewed in the first round, and two candidates were proceeding for the second round. After brief discussion, the Board expressed their interest in being able to watch recordings of the interviews of the finalists.
- B. Mr. Hickam shared the preliminary amended district budget for this school year. He noted the preliminary amended budget was balanced and would be on public display in the district office for 30 days. Next month, a budget hearing will be conducted and the amended budget will be formally approved.
- C. Mr. Hill and Mr. McChristian shared their recommendations for parent/student handbook changes for the 2021-2022 school year. (There were no changes recommended for the elementary school handbook.) Mr. Hickam noted these recommendations would be acted upon at the May meeting.

	<p>D. Mr. Robbins presented a proposal for a 1-year contract extension with Durham Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year. The proposal was a 2.5% increase from the current year. The Board approved the 1-year extension and formally acted to bid the transportation contract in November 2021 (for services beginning with the 2022-2023 school year).</p> <p>E. The Board considered the calendar proposal receiving the most votes from the DEA. Mr. Hickam suggested one change to the proposal which would alter the Christmas break from Dec. 22-Jan. 4 (return to school on Wed., Jan. 5) to Dec. 22-Dec.31 (return to school on Mon., Jan. 3). The Board adopted the 2021-2022 school calendar as presented with the recommended change to the Christmas break.</p> <p>F. The Board set a special meeting of the Board of Education for the purpose of board reorganization for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:00 PM.</p>		
IX.	<p>Resignation</p> <p>A. The Board accepted the resignation of Kasey Spencer as a middle school aide, effective immediately (letter received on March 23, 2021).</p> <p>B. The Board accepted the resignation of Amy Fornear as high school cheer coach effective May 1, 2021.</p>		
X.	<p>Employment</p> <p>A. The Board employed Dylan Samuel as a middle school physical education teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>B. The Board employed Kassy Edwards as an elementary school dual-licensed teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>C. The Board employed Esther Roy as an elementary school special education teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>D. The Board transferred Amy Lee to a middle school aide position effective immediately.</p> <p>E. The Board approved the spring sports volunteer additions as presented.</p> <p>F. The Board re-employed non-licensed (support) staff for 2021-2022 school year.</p>		
XI.	<p>Leave Request</p> <p>A. The Board approved the maternity leave request for Lanae Leposky.</p> <p>B. The Board approved the maternity leave request for Kirsten Gill.</p>		
XII.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The Board adjourned at 8:57 PM.</p>		