



BULLETIN
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA
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, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Brian Rodely - President
 Trent Waller - Vice President
 Amy Rose - Secretary
 Crystal Harsy - Member
 Zach McPherson - Member
 Steven Still - Member
 Kevin West – Member

Administrators present: Matthew Hickam – Superintendent, Cory Robbins – Business Manager, Diana Rea – District Curriculum Director, Tim McChristian – High School Principal, Aaron Hill – Middle School Principal, Justin Engelmann – Elementary School Principal.

Others present – Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Pam Pursell – DEA Co-President, Nikki Saunders – DEA Co-President, Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly, and some parents/community members/high school students. Those who spoke during public comment are noted below.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: Rodely, Waller, Rose, Harsy, McPherson, Still, and West. Absent: None		
III.	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Building principals – The Principals shared the Reasons We Are Proud items. b. Curriculum Director – Mrs. Rea shared that the new curriculum resources for high school math are in the process of being reviewed with math teachers. A pilot of a new reading program is being implemented at the elementary school for future consideration. Also, work will be starting relating to writing instruction in collaboration with members of the faculty. c. Superintendent – COVID-19 impacts: Mr. Hickam began by sharing information about a request from the DEA to consider a change in the parent-teacher conference schedule. The request was to move the scheduled morning conference time from 8:00-11:00 AM on Oct. 7, to an afternoon time of 3:30-6:30 PM on Oct. 5. This was agreeable with administrators and the Board as well. Mr. Hickam reviewed recent data regarding COVID-cases/contacts pointing out that there are currently around 100 students on temporary remote learning district-wide. He noted that the district has had over 60 positive cases among students to date (there were 93 during the 2020-2021 year) and that the high school has exceeded the number of cases it had last year within these first five weeks of school. Mr. Hickam reviewed the three options currently available to students to return to school following a close contact and noted that he is awaiting to hear back from the SHIELD program for COVID-testing. 		
IV.	Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DEA Representative – no comments b. Public – Five members of the public spoke and included the following: Brenda Green expressed concern that students will be unprepared for college, students who are healthy and symptom free should be kept in school and expressed that the school district needs to “do better”; 		

	<p>Jeremy Colvin asked why the administration is not “fighting for our kids” and that Carterville, Harrisburg, and Murphysboro have test-to-stay programs in place while Du Quoin does not and did not begin looking into it until parents told Mr. Hickam about it;</p> <p>Cori Maynor stated that her son had three assignments during his time on temporary remote learning and asked why classes couldn’t be held outside or in the auditorium, why can’t teachers just turn their cameras on while teaching for remote learners, and why students can’t ride with parents to ballgames to avoid close contacts on a bus;</p> <p>Jason Bradley expressed his concerns with remote learning stating that the District is “failing at remote learning”;</p> <p>Emily King stated that her students were placed on temporary remote learning then upon their return had to take 9 tests noting that one test was open-note but her child was not provided the notes. She stated, “teachers are doing absolutely nothing” and that we are dealing with the flu – “This is exactly what it is.”</p>		
V.	<p>Executive Session:</p> <p>The Board entered into closed session at 6:52 PM to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review and to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). The Board returned to open session at 7:30 PM.</p>		
VI.	<p>Consent Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board approved the minutes of the August 9, 2021 special meeting (including executive session minutes) and August 19, 2021 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes); The Board approved the compensation reports for teachers/administrators/applicable non-certs in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.38; The Board approved a resolution to transfer funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund for approved budget purposes; The Board approved the state library grant application to be submitted to the Secretary of State; The Board authorized the submission of a School Maintenance Project Grant. 		
VII.	<p>Financial Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board approved the payment of bills for August 2021. The Board approved the August 2021 financial report. 		
VIII.	<p>Budget Hearing and Adoption</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board reviewed the 2021-2022 school year budget. Mr. Hickam noted that the budget represents approximately \$18.5 million in expenditures and slightly less than that in revenue with an approach that is conservative on the revenue side and liberal on the expenditure side. There were no public comments. The Board approved a resolution to adopt 2021-2022 school year budget. 		
IX.	<p>New or Unfinished Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board appointed Mrs. Denise Hirsch as Recording Secretary, per board policy 2:110, to assemble meeting materials, minutes, and maintain verbatim record of executive session. The Board reviewed and approved board policy 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7. The Board reviewed the ISBE performance report regarding providing special education and related services. Mr. Hickam noted that the district was given the designation of “meets requirements”. Mr. Robbins provided the Board with an operations and maintenance update which included the consideration of turf field replacement, middle school gym 		

	<p>floor replacement, the construction of a pole barn storage building, and the expansion of the nursing office in the K-8 building. It was noted that turf field replacement would be funded through the county facility sales tax revenue, the gym floor replacement would be a combination of a state school maintenance project grant with local funds, and the pole barn and nursing office projects were approved as part of the ESSER II grant.</p>		
X.	<p>Leave Request</p> <p>a. The Board approved KyLee Behm's request for maternity leave to begin on December 17, 2021 through March 31, 2022.</p>		
XI.	<p>Resignation</p> <p>a. The Board accepted Carolyn Dean's letter of resignation as high school Pep Club sponsor to be effective September 27, 2021.</p>		
XII.	<p>Employment of Personnel:</p> <p>a. The Board transferred Lauren Scheks to a 1st grade teaching position for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>b. The Board employed Danielle McCowen as an EOC aide position at the middle school for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>c. The Board employed Michelle Pippin-Pestka as a part-time Title I aide for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>d. The Board employed Debbie Moss as a cook for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>e. The Board employed Allie Myers as co-class sponsor for the junior class for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.</p>		
XIII.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The Board adjourned at 9:00 PM.</p>		