



BULLETIN
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
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, NOVEMBER 18, 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, Denise Woodsides – High School Assistant Principal, Aaron Hill – Middle School Principal, Justin Engelmenn – Elementary School Principal.

Others present – Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Pam Pursell – DEA Co-President, Matthew Benson – Board Attorney, Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly, several community members (those speaking noted below) and students.

Prior to the call to order, Lon McPherson, representing the Du Quoin Ministerial Alliance, delivered a prayer.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: Rodely, Rose, Harsy (remote participant), Still, and West. Absent: Waller		
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 noted that a team of math teachers are examining options to adopt new curriculum resources for high school math, high school English teachers are working on writing curriculum/assessment, and vertical articulation between middle school and high school English departments is upcoming. Lastly, Mrs. Rea noted that the elementary school has updated its gifted education handbook/policy and share a copy with the Board. c. Superintendent – Mr. Hickam reviewed points of information in ISBE's District Report Card and shared updates regarding impacts of COVID-19. He noted that the past several weeks have had low incidents of cases, but added that cases are increasing in the state and the district has had an uptick in faculty/staff cases this week. Mr. Hickam concluded COVID information with an update regarding current court cases related to Governor Pritzker's mandates. 	X	
IV.	Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DEA Representative – Pam Pursell referenced the consideration of girls' soccer on the agenda and asked the Board to consider that a new coaching stipend would need to part of collective bargaining and that there are existing club sponsorships which are not part of the existing agreement. b. Public – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sarah Phipps expressed her support for adding girls' soccer as a high school sport noting that 50 girls attended a meeting at DHS. ii. Bruce Rodely spoke in reference to the solar project proposed on Kimmel Road. He asked that the Board consider remaining neutral on the topic. 		

V.	<p>Executive Session:</p> <p>The Board entered closed session to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review, to discuss pending litigation and the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).</p> <p>The Board returned to open session at 8:01 PM.</p>		
VI.	<p>Consent Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board approved the minutes of the October 21, 2021 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes). The Board approved the District's Risk Management Plan. The Board approved a clinical agreement with Marshall Browning Hospital for high school students in the nursing program to receive clinical experiences. 		
VII.	<p>Financial Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board approved the payment of bills for October 2021. The Board approved the October 2021 financial report. 		
VIII.	<p>New or Unfinished Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Hickam reviewed the original plan for the return to in-person learning/COVID-19 mitigation strategies with an addition of on-site COVID testing and test-to-stay option during times of low/moderate transmission. The Board reviewed the Annual Statement of Affairs for FY21 which will be published in the newspaper. Mr. Robbins provided an update regarding the student transportation bid proposal process. He noted that January would be the target for bidding. Mr. Hickam presented a tentative 2021 district property tax levy (payable in 2022). The proposal included an overall levy request increase of approximately twenty thousand dollars, but another projected decrease in the tax rate for the District. Mr. Hickam reviewed information regarding a proposed Kimmel Road solar project based. The project is a private endeavor, but the company involved reports that an Illinois law creates property tax revenue for the local school district. The Board and administration agreed that more information about the law was needed. Mr. Hickam shared information regarding the consideration of high school girls' soccer being added as a competitive sport. The administration expressed the need to consider sustainability in the long-term. Mr. Hickam recommended that the next step be practices/work-outs in the spring to build skill and determine the level of interest. Following Board discussion, the Board expressed interest in proceeding with a competitive season in March. The Board tabled the proposal until the December meeting and directed the administration to check into the availability of teams to schedule. 		
IX.	<p>Employment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board approved a proposal to offer Denise Woodsides an administrative contract for 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 as High School Assistant Principal. The Board approved a proposal to offer Tim McChristian an administrative contract for 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 at High School Principal. The Board approved a proposal to offer Matthew Hickam an administrative contract for 2022-2023 as District Superintendent. The Board approved Kevin Coleman and Noah Coleman as speech/theater volunteers. 		
X.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The Board adjourned at 9:30 PM.</p>		