



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, FEBRUARY 17, 2022
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, Diana Rea – District Curriculum Director, Cory Robbins – District Business Manager, Tim McChristian – High School Principal, Justin Engelmann – Elementary School Principal. Others present – Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Matthew Benson – Board Attorney, Pam Pursell – DEA Co-President, Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: Rodely, Waller, Harsy, McPherson, Still, and West. Absent: Rose. Zach McPherson was appointed as temporary secretary.		
III.	Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Building principals – Mr. Engelmann, Mr. McChristian, and Mr. Hickam shared the Reasons We Are Proud items. Curriculum Director – Mrs. Rea noted the elementary teachers who are piloting a reading program are reporting positive components of the program and a higher level of student engagement. She also shared that meetings with each school's leadership team had been completed regarding an instructional coaching program and now feedback from faculty was being garnered. Mrs. Rea concluded by sharing data from recent mid-year district assessments showing that all grade levels were reaching or exceeding the achievement levels prior to the pandemic. A chart of the data was shared with the Board and the significance of the data and the evidence of the successful work of teachers/staff was noted. Superintendent – Update regarding impacts of COVID-19 – Mr. Hickam echoed Mrs. Rea's sentiment regarding the assessment results. He mentioned that while outside the walls of the school much has been debated and politicized, inside the walls, "We've been having school". He noted that students have, generally, handled things well while at school and faculty/staff have been doing what they needed to do and the assessment results are one piece of evidence showing the success that teachers are having despite everything that they've had to deal with. In terms of current COVID numbers, he noted that there were currently six active cases in the District and eleven students out for a COVID-related reason. This illustrated a drastic improvement over recent weeks. Mr. Hickam noted that no appellate court ruling had yet been made public regarding the Governor's mandates for schools and school personnel. Regardless of the ruling, he felt the District was poised to continue with a local approach based on the plan originally created in July 2021 which has been modified to reflect the recommended approach which the majority of school districts in the state are now following. 		

IV.	Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DEA Representative – no comments b. Public – no comments 		
V.	Executive Session: The Board entered into executive session at 6:18 PM 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). The Board returned to open session at 7:50 PM.		
VI.	Consent Agenda: The Board approved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The minutes of the January 20, 2022 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes); b. An agreement with the University of West Florida to accept internship students for supervised learning experiences 		
VII.	Financial Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the payment of bills for January 2022. b. The Board approved the January 2022 financial report. 		
VIII.	New or Unfinished Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board considered a tentative date for 8th grade promotion ceremony. Mr. Hickam noted that, as of now, the last day for student attendance should be May 27th and that he and Mr. Hill recommended this day for the promotion ceremony. The Board agreed with May 27th. Mr. Hickam noted this would be tentative until the March meeting when formal action will be taken. B. The Board authorized the administration to begin budget preparation, advertise for bids of cafeteria/custodial items, and to post required budget hearing notice for September 2022. C. 1ST reading - Consideration of policy related to student/staff/faculty memorials. Mr. Hickam noted that this proposed policy will set some parameters and procedures and allow for more consistency moving forward. He further noted that this policy, if adopted in March, will not alter any current memorials already in existence. D. Consideration of bids for student transportation – Mr. Robbins presented a draft document of bid specifications to the Board. It was noted that the bid request includes an additional special education route to better accommodate the number of students who travel to programs outside the District. It was also noted that the bid request asks for the fleet utilize buses which are five years old or newer. Mr. Robbins stated that he is looking into getting fuel storage for buses on-site as this could help control fuel costs in the long run. A board member asked if it would have been possible to extend the current transportation agreement another year. Mr. Robbins noted that this would have been possible, but prior Board discussion resulted in the conclusion that it was time for the contract to be re-bid. E. The Board approved a 3-year agreement with Rice Sullivan, LLC for audit services 		
IX.	Leave of Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board approved Kirsten Gill's request for a leave of absence as a health aide at Du Quoin High School to be effective on February 7th, 2022 until the end of the school year. 		
X.	Employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board transferred Stacy Stratton to the position of 1st grade teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. B. The Board employed Sarah McKinnies as a high school agricultural education teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. 		

	<p>C. The Board employed Michele Harbin as a high school business education teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <p>D. The Board employed Susan Szymcek and Haley Stanton as middle school Builders Club sponsors beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <p>E. The Board employed Michele Harbin as the high school FBLA sponsor beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <p>F. The Board employed Ann Piotrowski as the high school FFA sponsor beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.</p>		
XI.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The Board adjourned at 8:14 PM.</p>		