



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, MARCH 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, 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, Steve Alstat – bus driver, Jack Cavins – bus driver, Joseph Fronek – bus driver, Rick Klaus – Durham Transportation Vice President, Dedrae McIntosh – bus driver, Bryan Poston – Manager for Robinson Transportation, Kim Russell – bus driver, John Stanhouse – bus mechanic/driver, Bill Taylor – bus driver, Tracy Taylor – Local Manager for Durham Transportation and some senior government students.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Crystal Harsy who was chosen to preside given the Mr. Rodely's participation by phone and the absence of the Vice President.		
II.	Roll Call Present: Harsy, Rodely (by phone), Rose, Still, and West. Absent: Zach McPherson and Trent Waller.		
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 that the state had recently released an application for new 21st Century grants to provide before/after school and summer programming. The current 21st Century grant for the elementary and middle school is in its final year. Mrs. Rea expressed that she will be working on putting together an application to submit to the state and will have to do so by late April. Superintendent – Update regarding impacts of COVID-19 and other updates – Mr. Hickam echoed Mrs. Rea's sentiment regarding the 21st Century grant and noted some of the ways the District has been able to benefit from this grant. He expressed that while there is confidence in the application that will be submitted given the previous success Mrs. Rea has had, it is still a competitive grant process and there are no guarantees. He noted that a back-up plan which could be utilized to provide after school and summer programming for the next two years could be the final round of COVID-relief funds for the District. <p>In terms of current COVID numbers, he noted that the District had its first week with zero new cases last week. Overall, numbers continue to be low in the county and in the schools.</p>		

IV.	<p>Public Hearing</p> <p>a. DEA Representative – no comments</p> <p>b. Public –</p> <p>Steve Alstat spoke about his wages with Durham as a bus driver and asked the Board to look at the equipment requirements in the bid proposals. He asked whether existing mileage on a newer bus would be considered.</p> <p>Kim Russell spoke and stated that she had never met her boss at Durham. She expressed frustration with the buses having to be moved from the baseball field lot to the K-8 lot and told the Board if they chose to stay with Durham, she wouldn't be at work tomorrow.</p> <p>Joseph Fronek spoke about his bus, which transports students with disabilities, breaking down three times to the point of having to be towed. He stated that repair parts are scavenged from junk yards.</p> <p>Bryan Poston spoke and stated that he currently works for Robinson Transportation but formerly worked for Durham. He stated that wages and equipment for Robinson are on par. He stated, "This is just like listening to Carbondale a few years ago."</p> <p>Jack Cavins expressed concerns about Durham's equipment age and the struggle to find repair parts. He said he was probably one of those who would not be there tomorrow if Durham was chosen.</p> <p>John Stanhouse spoke and stated that he was supposed to work 40 hours/week on repairs but was only able to spend 15-20 hours because he has to drive a route. He stated that Durham was no help in getting back-up buses. He expressed that he was withered in trying to keep the fleet going given its age.</p> <p>Bill Taylor expressed that his wife, Tracy, had begged him to get his license so he could be back-up bus driver in case of emergency. He now has to drive every day. He stated that "Durham policy's and procedure's these people to death." He stated that every driver there had been offered a better job at some point.</p> <p>Rick Klaus spoke on behalf of Durham Transportation and noted he had been over Du Quoin since August. He said that a lot of the comments made before him "rings true, but there is another side of the story." He stated that their proposal includes a brand new fleet of buses and increases driver pay. He further noted that Durham proposed that the special education route to out-of-district schools be split into two routes and that "we've talked to the District about that".</p> <p>Dedrae McIntosh spoke about students on her bus getting wet when it was raining because of leaks. She asked the Board to think with their hearts when making a decision.</p>		
V.	<p>Executive Session:</p> <p>The Board entered into executive session at 6:54 PM to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review, to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).</p> <p>The Board left closed session for a short recess at 8:02 PM. The Board returned to closed session at 8:10 PM and came back to open session at 9:23 PM.</p>		
VI.	<p>Consent Agenda:</p> <p>The Board approved the following:</p> <p>a. The minutes of the February 17, 2022 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes);</p> <p>b. An agreement with Archway, Inc. to provide early intervention services.</p>		

VII.	<p>Financial Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the payment of bills for February 2022. b. The Board approved the February 2022 financial report. 		
VIII.	<p>New or Unfinished Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Mr. Hickam recommended that the Board consider tabling the awarding of the bid for student transportation so that they could have more time and the full Board could reach a decision. The Board made a motion to table the matter until the next meeting and it passed unanimously. B. The Board awarded the bid for the K-8 nursing office expansion (approved project through ESSER grant funding) to Evrard Construction for \$69,666. C. The Board adopted the presented policy related to student/staff/faculty memorials D. The administration reviewed tentative student handbook updates for 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Hickam noted that each school would be having focus group meetings involving faculty/staff and parents later in the month and that the handbook updates would be formally approved at the April meeting. E. Mr. Hickam expressed the annual need to amend the budget to reflect actual revenues/expenditures. He noted that to fulfill the requirement to put the amended budget on display for 30 days prior to adoption that it would be best to hold a special meeting in early April so that the required budget hearing could occur at the regular May meeting. The Board set a special meeting for this purpose for April 7, 2022 at 6 PM. It was also mentioned by the Board that the transportation bid could be considered at that time. The Board then authorized the administration to amend the FY22 budget. F. It was noted that with the use of 5 emergency days, the last day of school for students would be May 27th. The Board set the date for 8th grade promotion for this same date of May 27, 2022. G. Mr. Hickam shared that he was looking at additional ways of utilizing ESSER funding related to health-related services and special education services for students. In relation to health services, Mr. Hickam is collaborating with the health department on what services may be possible to incorporate and will be visiting an area school district who already has a program in place. In regards to special education services, Mr. Hickam expressed that after recent collaboration with Tri-County Special Education, there is a need for providing a classroom at the high school level which serves students in the same way Tri-County does through their REACH program. He noted this position would be ESSER grant-funded and needs could/should be re-evaluated in two years when ESSER funding will be completed. 		
IX.	<p>Resignation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board approved Amy Hill's resignation as a custodian to be effective immediately. 		
X.	<p>Employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board re-employed licensed probationary continued contractual and tenured licensed faculty as recommended for the 2022-2023 school year. B. The Board approved 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 employed Tim Craft as the District Technology Coordinator beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. D. The Board employed Coleman Fitch as an English teacher at DHS for the 2022-2023 school year. E. The Board employed Emily McKinney as a math teacher at DHS for the 2022-2023 school year. F. The Board employed Jaymee Fleming as a secretary at DHS for the 2022-2023 school year. G. The Board transferred Lesley Hamburger to the position of library aide at DES for the 2022-2023 school year. 		

	<p>H. The Board employed John Qualls as a custodian to be effective immediately.</p> <p>I. The Board employed Hannah Sims as DHS Speech Team sponsor for the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <p>J. The Board employed Nicole Heisner and Hannah Sims as DHS theatre/play sponsors for the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <p>K. The Board employed Sarah McKinnies as the high school concessions manager for the 2022-2023 school year.</p>		
XI.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The Board adjourned at 9:58 PM.</p>		