



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 K-8 MEDIA CENTER
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 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, Aaron Hill – Middle School Principal, Justin Engelmann – Elementary School Principal. Others present – Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Donna Lively – DEA Co-President, Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly, John Billingmeier – First Student, Rick Foster – First Student, Gary Kuberski – First Student, Michael Spence – First Student, Gail White – White & Borgognoni Architects, Scott Satterlee – White & Borgognoni Architects, several high school volleyball players.

Prior to the meeting, Ministerial Alliance representative Bob Morwell delivered a prayer.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: Rodely, Rose, Harsy, Still, and West. Absent: Waller and McPherson.		
III.	Reports Superintendent – 2022-2023 Planning Update to include updates on “Return to Learn Plan” – Representatives from First Student were present to discuss their progress and plan for the new school year. Rick Foster shared a slide presentation with the Board and questions were taken from the Board. Mr. Hickam shared with the Board the responses to a required survey for the Illinois State Board of Education on health and sex education. Mr. Hickam noted that while ISBE will later be providing a model curriculum for sex education based on the National Sex Education Standards, this curriculum is optional for school districts. The Board was informed that there were no plans to make any changes to the existing curriculum being utilized and also noted that parents are required to have the opportunity to opt their child out of sex education. Mr. Hickam shared updates regarding Tri-County Special Education and the impacts of their shortage of teachers. Specifically, one Early Childhood program will be closed along with a REACH classroom which was housed in the middle school. Mr. Hickam noted that the district students in the REACH program were being placed within existing programming at DMS. Tri-County is opening an ED transition classroom at the high school as part of their reorganization plan to deal with staff shortages. Lastly, Mr. Hickam provided updates on the official “Return to Learn Plan” in accordance with ESSER grant requirements. Based on recent COVID-guidelines from IDPH/ISBE, key points covered included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child tests positive for COVID-19, they are to be at home for 5 days. • Remote instruction will be offered if a student is out for a COVID-related reason. • If a child has symptoms, they are to be kept/sent home. In other words, if a child is sick, they are to be kept/sent home. (Our nursing staff, in cooperation with parents, will continue to make nursing decisions in these situations, just as they were in the latter part of last school year.) 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking is optional. We will support anyone who wants to wear a mask, but they are not required by the state. We are not required to contact trace a positive case at school. We will nonetheless inform parents/faculty/staff and allow them to make a decision based on the information. We are going to make testing available at school for students, faculty and staff. Students will only be tested if a parent provides consent (no change from the past). <p>Mr. Hickam lastly noted that public comment on the plan would be offered during the public hearing portion of the meeting.</p> <p>Curriculum Director – Mrs. Rea shared information with the Board regarding the implementation of honors English curriculum at the high school for all grade levels for the 2022-2023 school year. She shared that a meeting with parents and students was held in recent weeks which reviewed the higher expectations and shared required summer reading. The attendance at the meeting was good and feedback was positive. For those who were unable to attend the meeting, Mrs. Rea has had individual or small group meetings.</p>		
IV.	<p>Consent Agenda: The Board approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The minutes of the June 16, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Education; B. The low bid analysis and awarding of bids for food, milk, bread, cafeteria supplies, and custodial supplies; C. The continued Partnership for College and Career Success (dual credit and enrollment) agreement with John A. Logan College; D. An agreement with John A. Logan College for alternative secondary education program; E. A formal agreement with Dr. Brad Colwell to facilitate the superintendent search. 		
V.	<p>Public Hearing including comment on “Return to Learn Plan”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DEA Representative – No comments b. Public – High school volleyball players Callie Oestreicher and Sophie Hill expressed thoughts regarding the Board’s consideration of hiring the assistant volleyball coach. 		
VI.	<p>Executive Session: The Board entered executive session at 7:24 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).</p> <p>The Board returned to open session at 8:23 PM.</p>		
VII.	<p>Action of the Executive Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board approved the June 16, 2022 executive session minutes. B. The Board accepted the retirement notice as received from Diana Rea to be effective at the end of the 2025-2026 year. C. The Board accepted resignations as received from Kyle Geiger as elementary PE teacher and head baseball coach and Rebecca Harris as a cook. D. The Board approved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A transfer of Erin Kuhnert to the position of elementary school physical education teacher for 2022-2023; b. The employment of Kory Conklin as an instructional aide at DMS and Rhonda Bathon as an instructional aide at DHS; c. The employment of Stephanie Poiter as an EOC aide; d. The employment of Tim Davis as high school head baseball coach; e. The employment of Kerry Oestreicher as high school assistant volleyball coach; f. The fall extra-curricular activities volunteer lists for DMS and DHS. 		

VIII.	Financial Items: A. The Board approved the payment of bills for June 2022. B. The Board approved the June 2022 financial report. C. Mr. Hickam shared preliminary year end budget figures for FY 2022. It was noted that the Debt Service Fund is shown as a negative balance because of the accounting practice to include district activity funds as a liability. Mr. Hickam noted that the cash balance for this fund was a positive. It was also noted that the transportation fund has a healthy balance resulting from savings which were the result of less travel expenditures due to COVID and the continued use of 21 st Century grant funds to cover all student transportation connected to 21 st Century programming. Mr. Hickam noted that with the new contract coupled with increasing fuel costs, the fund balance would prove to be very beneficial in the coming months. Lastly, Mr. Hickam noted that the Capital Projects Fund ended the fiscal year with a high balance, but significant payments for the gym floor replacement and turf replacement would be forthcoming in the current fiscal year.		
IX.	New or Unfinished Business A. Update on summer maintenance work – Mr. Robbins provided a summary of the larger summer projects: i. Football Field Replacement: We are still looking at an early August delivery and mid-August installation of the new turf. We recently met with Byrne & Jones last week to discuss the evaluation and development of a preventative measure to deal with the issue we had last year during the torrential rain that pushed air back through the drainage system. We met with their engineer this week to further discuss this issue. ii. Middle School Basketball Court Replacement: We have replaced 150 feet of the drainage tile that was blocked and was preventing water from getting away from the building. Those repairs are complete and were water tested with the assistance of the Du Quoin Fire Department. Now that the moisture issues are resolved, our new floor should be onsite next week with installation beginning ASAP as the schedule allows. iii. K-8 Nursing Office Expansion: This project is near substantial completion and will be ready to punch list within the next week or two. iv. Pole barn building: We are still looking at an October date for construction. First Student is currently operating out of our old bus shed and will continue to do so until the new one is ready. Mr. Porter and Mr. Robbins have been meeting with utility companies to arrange the installation of gas and electric service and we are working with Rick Foster with First Student to arrange the installation of new fuel tanks. v. Network Infrastructure Upgrades: Wiring replacement at the K-8 School is going well. We are dealing with long delays for the arrival of network hardware. We anticipate the wiring being complete soon with the installation of new network hardware at both the High School and K-8 upon arrival. B. The Board approved an amended agreement with the City of Du Quoin concerning the early repayment of sales tax loan provided for the high school construction project C. The Board approved board policy updates as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards including the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board • 5:80 Court Duty • 6:290 Missed Homework • 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights • 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program D. The Board authorized the administration to make the necessary preparations to make a waiver request and post notice of a public hearing for the limitation of administrative costs in 2022 fiscal year as a result of summer food program expenditures and grant fund expenditures from 21 st Century and ESSER II grants. The public hearing will be conducted at a special meeting of the Board of Education to be held on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 6 PM.	X	X X X X

	E. The Board approved the updates to the “Return to Learn Plan” for 2022-2023 school year.		
X.	Adjournment The Board adjourned at 8:49 PM.		