



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, FEBRUARY 16, 2023
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 – Curriculum Director, Cory Robbins – District Business Manager, Tim McChristian – High School Principal, Justin Engelmann – Elementary School Principal, Denise Woodsides – Assistant High School Principal. Others present: Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Zach Jones – DEA Co-President, Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly. Two community members were present and are noted in the public comment.

	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, Still, and West. Absent: McPherson		
III.	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Building principals – The principals shared their Reasons We Are Proud items. (See attachment) b. Curriculum Director – Mrs. Rea shared updates related to matters of curriculum/instruction and the January Educators of the Month. (See attachment) c. Operations & Maintenance – Mr. Robbins shared that the District has received notice of the approval of Supply Chain Assistance Grant through the Illinois State Board of Education. This grant is in the amount of over \$46,000 and will be used to offset the food costs for the purchase of milk for the student meal program. He also noted that Donna Lively was successful in getting a grant through SIH for a total of over \$2,800 which will be used to purchase storage racks/carts for the food programs at the K-8 and high school buildings. Mr. Robbins noted the continued communication with the Illinois Energy Consortium regarding the possibility of solar options for the District. Mr. Robbins also noted the near completion of the pole barn project and an updated list of summer capital projects. d. Superintendent – Mr. Hickam provided the education-related highlights of the Governor's annual budget address. He noted that the Governor was proposing an additional \$350 million in the evidence-based funding formula which would include "tier funding" targeted for those district, like Du Quoin, who are the neediest based on lower property value. He further noted the Governor's proposal to increase funding for early childhood and pre-K programming as well as the continued practice of prorating the categorical funds for special education and regular education transportation. Mr. Hickam noted that if this was carried out as anticipated, it would mean the District would need to use more evidence-based funds for transportation expenditures. Mr. Hickam then shared with the Board information related to overall observations of student behavior. He shared that schools in general have dealt with more challenges in regards to student behavior since returning to school post-pandemic. He shared data from the District illustrating a greater frequency of disrespect, insubordination, and fighting. Mr. Hickam shared actions which each school is taking in the area of social-emotional learning to put greater emphasize on character education and 		

	<p>what was referred to as "The Golden Rule". Items noted included the Choose to Be Nice Program at DES, social-emotional curricula implemented at the 5th grade level along with activities carried out by Perry County Counseling for grades 5-8, the introduction at DMS and re-introduction at DHS of Rachel's Challenge along with Friends of Rachel clubs, as well as social-emotional learning activities in the 21st Century Program for elementary and middle schools. Mr. Hickam lastly noted he was putting together a message to share with families asking for help to emphasize the importance of treating others with respect and sharing possible resources to assist with this effort.</p>		
IV.	<p>Consent Agenda: The Board approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The minutes of the January 19, 2023 regular Board of Education meeting; b. An annual interagency agreement with Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council Head Start program to facilitate collaboration for transition from Head Start to kindergarten. 		
V.	<p>Public Hearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DEA Representative – No comments b. Public – Janel Tolliver spoke briefly and asked if the specifics of a recent incident at the school would be shared in a closed session with the Board. Mr. Hickam indicated that this would be shared. The Board asked if they could have Ms. Tolliver come into the closed session which was confirmed as an option. Jason Furlow addressed the Board and apologized for commenting on social media that each of them should resign. He stated that the Board ought to take a vote one way or another on Derek Beard. 		
VI.	<p>Executive Session: The Board entered into closed session at 6:47 PM to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review, to discuss a student disciplinary case 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 9:59 PM.</p>		
VII.	<p>Possible Action of the Executive Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board approved the January 19, 2023 executive session minutes. B. Consideration of leave requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the maternity leave request for Sarah McKinnies. C. Consideration of resignations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board accepted the resignation of Tim McChristian as high school principal to be effective June 30th. b. The Board accepted the resignation of speech-language pathologist Melissa Russell to be effective at the end of the year. c. The Board accepted the resignation of Guy Brosch as supervisory aide. d. The Board accepted the resignation of Eric Kirkpatrick as high school assistant girls' track coach. D. Consideration of the employment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board transferred Mandie Davis, Katie Prather, and John Vercellino to the position of instructional coaches for the 2023-2024 school year. b. The Board employed Robin Yancey as middle school assistant track coach. 		
VIII.	<p>Financial Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board approved the payment of bills for January 2023. b. The Board approved the January 2023 financial report. 		
IX.	<p>New or Unfinished Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board approved the proposal from Southern FS for fuel purchasing and the purchase of fuel tanks. B. Mr. Robbins presented items to be considered for summer projects. Mr. Robbins noted that the District typically piggy-backs with the City of Du Quoin for oil and 		

	<p>chip and/or asphalt for parking lots. He noted he would be in communication with the city regarding this. Other items discussed included the upgrade/replacement of the phone system, the installation of turf for the softball field, the installation of a vape detection system at DHS, the completion of an asbestos study at Ward School in preparation for possible carpet replacement. The Board authorized the administration to proceed with these projects.</p> <p>C. As an informational item, the Board considered a tentative date for 8th grade promotion ceremony. May 24th was discussed as this currently would be the last day of student attendance. Formal action will be taken at the March meeting.</p> <p>D. The Board authorized the administration to begin budget preparation for the 2023-2024 school year, to advertise for bids of cafeteria/custodial items, and to post required budget hearing notice for September 2023.</p>		
X.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The Board adjourned at 10:24 PM.</p>		



Du Quoin CUSD 300

Working Together for All Students

Reasons we are proud...

DES

- This month the elementary students will be celebrating responsibility as our core value for our Choose to be Nice promise.
- Mrs. Bookstaver and the elementary students created over 600 valentines cards and 2 banners to support our troops in Kuwait.



- The SIU football players came to visit Mrs. Stanhouse's first grade. The football players helped the students make an SIU football t-shirt and competed in a couple competitions. Mrs. Stanhouse's first graders did win. SIU created a video of the event. You can see it on the saluki football facebook page or the Du Quoin Elementary facebook page.



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- Family Reading night was a success. I want to say thank you to the fourth grade teachers for setting this event up, the PTO for joining us with a BBQ fundraiser, and all the readers and workers that volunteered their time including both Mr. Hickam and Mrs. Rea.

DMS

- Thank you to the DMS Student Council for donating a sign for DMS. The sign is located at the back of the school and directs visitors to the gym entrance.



- The Illinois Softball Coaches Association selected Jason James as the SIJHSAA Class L Coach of the Year. Congratulations to Coach James!
- The DMS January Students of the Month are: 5th Grader Tessa Casey, 6th Grader Jamey Vancil, 7th Grader Samantha Ramsey, and 8th Grader Ella Bradley



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- Our January Teacher of the Month is Mrs. Debbie Ritter. Mrs. Ritter is our 6th grade math teacher.



- Congratulations to Coach Heape and our Boys Basketball Team for advancing to the Regional Championship game.



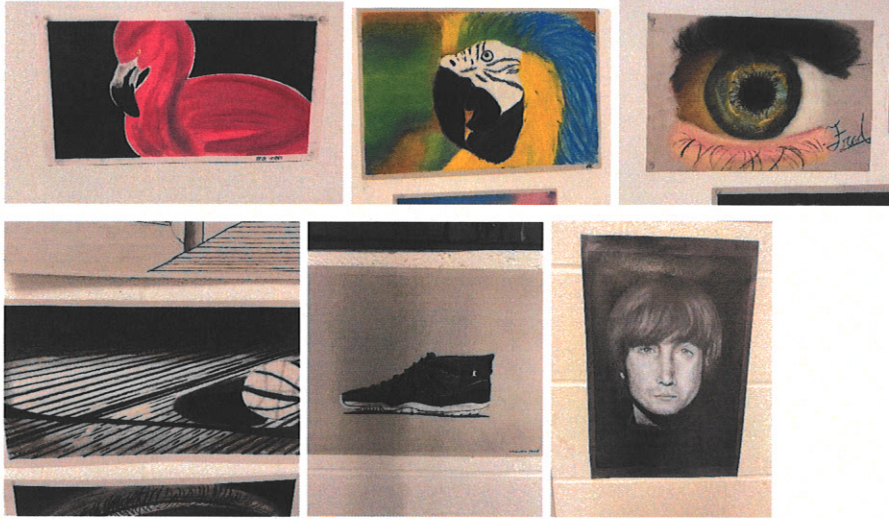
DHS

- Tuesday, January 31 FFA sponsored the 2nd Annual College and Career Fair.



February 2023

- The following works are from students in Mrs. Richelle Lietz's art class:



- The DHS January Student of the Month is junior Hannah Giese.



- On Saturday, February 4th the Indianettes qualified for placing 1st in Kick and 2nd in Hip Hop Jazz at the IDTA regionals in Highland.



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February 2023

- Congratulations to Brock Hamburger on receiving the SIUC Chancellor's Scholarship and to Malayna Russell for receiving Saluki Supporter Scholarship. Both scholarships include full ride tuition and room and board.

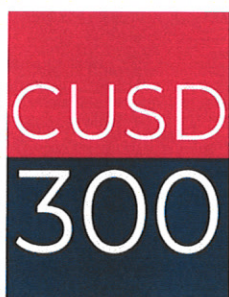


Brock and Malayna with representatives from SIUC

- Congratulations to the following DHS Band students for being named to the 2023 Southern Illinois River-to-River All-Conference Honor Band:
 - Mackenzie Jones, Flute
 - Grace Cook and Jolee Bailey, Clarinet
 - Carley Somers, Saxophone
 - Hunter Ping and Justice Davis, Trumpet
 - Cooper Iman, Trombone
 - Jayden Fred, Tuba
 - Samuel Vancil, Percussion



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... Curriculum Director Report

- Congratulations go to Katrina Lance! She is a 5th Grade social studies and multimedia teacher at the middle school. After the teacher institute speaker, she was inspired to get 3D printers to incorporate technology for special projects for her classes. After creating the project description on Donors Choose, a website where teachers post requests for classroom resources and within a couple of weeks the project was fully funded. Two new 3D printers have arrived and Katrina is excited to get started with her students!



Mrs. Lance

Grades 3-5
Duquoin Middle School
Du Quoin, IL

More than half of students from low-income households

This project will reach **105** students.

12 donors have given to this project.

SHARE PROJECT



My Project

My students are very technology driven and are very brilliant. They have asked me several times throughout the school year to add new technology pieces into the classroom. I currently teach ancient history and a multimedia project class. I would love to get these two 3-D printers in my classroom to let the students explore a new side of STEM! They are going to be able to use these printers for a number of things including recreating models of ancient history such as the The Great Pyramid of Giza, the Roman Colosseum, the Trojan Horse, etc. In my multimedia class, I am wanting to implement new projects that are more current with today's world, and adding these printers would give me a step in the right direction. Help me get these middle schoolers some awesome technology in our classroom!

Past projects

show projects from all time

3-D Print Parts of History!

Funded Jan 29, 2023

I am proud to announce that we have met our goal, plus some, so I will be able to purchase the filament needed for our printers as well!! Thank you so much for your donations and help towards this awesome experience for my 5th graders this year and all the 5th grade students that I will teach in the future! Everything is very much appreciated!

With gratitude,
Mrs. Lance

- The district curriculum articulation guides are beginning to take shape. Educators started and will continue working on these during the school improvement days to provide a survey type glimpse into the knowledge, skills and understandings at each grade level. Also we will use these documents in vertical articulation discussions and work across the district to ensure our students are being prepared for college and career readiness.
- The January Educators of the Month honorees for advancing the district vision of "Working Together for All Students" are Wendell Killian, First Student Bus Driver, Sarah McKinnies, DHS Ag Teacher, and Tena Rennison, DES Secretary. Each educator received a certificate, surprise recognition at school, website spotlight and school swag. The website announcement can be access here [January Educators of the Month](#)



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