



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 MEDIA CENTER AT K-8 BUILDING
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 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, Aaron Hill – Middle School Principal, Denise Woodsides – Assistant High School Principal. Others present: Dr. Steve Mayerhofer - Superintendent-elect, Denise Hirsch - Recording Secretary, Matthew Benson – Board Attorney, Amanda Milam – DES Dean of Students, Zach Jones - DEA Co-President, Donna Lively - DEA Co-President, Erin Kuhnert – DES faculty, Pete Spitler - Du Quoin Weekly and a number of high school students, staff, and community members .

	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 (via phone), McPherson, Still, and West. Absent: None.		
III.	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Building principals – The Reasons We Are Proud items (see attached) were shared by Erin Kuhnert on behalf of DES, Mr. Hill for DMS, and Mrs. Woodsides for DHS. B. Curriculum Director – Mrs. Rea shared information related to matters of curriculum/instruction including the Educators of the Month. (See attached document) C. Operations & Maintenance – Mr. Robbins shared an update on operational items (see attached). D. Superintendent – Mr. Hickam shared more information pertaining to the news shared by Mrs. Rea that there was a mistake made by the Illinois State Board of Education impacting 21st Century grant funding statewide for the future. Mr. Hickam noted that during a visit to the area by the new State Superintendent of Schools he was able to ask if the error would impact the 21st Century grants awarded this year (as received by the District for the K-8 schools). The State Superintendent said the awardees for this year would not be impacted. In addition, Mr. Hickam shared information related to legislation recently passed in the state known as Faith's Law (a law intended to better protect children from sexual predators). Mr. Hickam referenced the added component to the law which requires school districts to initiate an employment history check for new employees including those who provide a contracted service. Mr. Hickam noted the challenge districts are facing in implementing this and that additional information is being gathered. 		
IV.	Consent Agenda: The Board approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The minutes of the March 16, 2023 regular Board of Education meeting; 		

	<p>B. The release of executive session minutes from October 2022 through March 2023 and to dispose of closed meeting audio recordings from October 2020 through September 2021;</p> <p>C. An annual Interagency Working Agreement with Child & Family Connections;</p> <p>D. An annual Interagency Working Agreement with Archway, Inc. to provide early intervention services;</p> <p>E. The summer food service program application to ISBE;</p> <p>F. Annual agreements with the Regional Office of Education for alternative education opportunities (COPE and SOAR programs);</p> <p>G. The annual renewal of membership in the Illinois High School Association.</p>		
V.	<p>Public Hearing:</p> <p>A. DEA Representative – No comments</p> <p>B. Public – Jason Furlow expressed concerns regarding the March board meeting and his contention that the Open Meetings Act was violated resulting in a complaint being filed. He offered a deal to the Board stating that he would drop his complaint if the Board would post the positions of assistant principal and Principal of Instruction.</p> <p>C. An opportunity was provided to receive testimony regarding the District’s intent to submit an application for the renewal of a waiver regarding non-resident tuition for students of faculty/staff members who wish to attend school in the District. There was no testimony or comments.</p>		
VI.	<p>Executive Session:</p> <p>The Board entered into closed session at 6:26 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). The Board returned to open session at 9:38 PM.</p>		
VII.	<p>Action of the Executive Session:</p> <p>A. The Board approved executive session minutes for March 16, 2023.</p> <p>B. Consideration of maternity leave request</p> <p>a. The Board accepted the maternity leave request for KyLee Behm.</p> <p>C. Consideration of high school administrative contracts (Principal, Principal of Instruction, Assistant Principal)</p> <p>a. The Board approved a 3-year contract with Eric Kirkpatrick.</p> <p>b. The Board approved a 3-year contract with Denise Woodsides.</p> <p>c. The Board approved a 3-year contract with Zach Jones.</p> <p>D. Consider motion to approve recommendation for hire/transfer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board transferred Amanda White to special education teacher for 2023-2024. • The Board employed Bri Chapman as a speech/language pathologist for 2023-2024. • The Board employed Elizabeth Thompson as an English/language arts teacher for 2023-2024. • The Board transferred Danielle McCowen to the position of secretary effective immediately. • The Board transferred Jennifer Mason to 4th grade teacher for 2023-2024. • The Board employed Alexis Hughes as elementary art teacher for 2023-2024. • The Board employed Kallista McIntyre as elementary computer teacher for 2023-2024. • The Board employed Mallory Yeager as Kindergarten teacher for 2023-2024. • The Board transferred Hannah Sims to the position of high school counselor for 2023-2024. • The Board employed Kerry Oestreicher as high school head volleyball coach for 2023-2024. • The Board employed Charles Wayne O'Dell as custodian, effective immediately. • The Board employed the 2023 summer food employees as presented. 		

VIII.	Financial Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board approved the payment of bills for March 2023. B. The Board approved the March 2023 financial report. 		
IX.	New or Unfinished Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consideration and awarding of the bid/proposal for mowing - The Board approved the proposal from Hirsch Lawn Care to provide mowing services for the school district for three years. B. Consideration of Lease Option Agreement with Econergy (through a partnership with the Illinois Energy Consortium) to develop a solar energy proposal - The Board approved the Lease Option Agreement with Econergy as presented allowing a proposal for solar energy to be developed. C. Consideration and awarding of additional contract for K-8 building entrance safety project (electronic locks and software) - The Board approved the contract with Comm Squad in the amount of \$27,415 for the installation of electronic locks and software for K-8 building entrance safety project. D. The Board approved of parent/student handbook changes for the 2023-2024 school year including an acceleration policy update. E. Consideration to approve a waiver application to be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education regarding non-resident tuition for students of faculty/staff members who wish to attend school in the District - The Board approved the administration's submittal of a waiver application to ISBE regarding non-resident tuition. F. The Board approved the job description for Principal of Instruction. 		
X.	Adjournment		



Du Quoin CUSD 300

Working Together for All Students

Reasons we are proud...

DES

- This month the elementary students will be celebrating Patience as our core value for our Choose to be Nice promise.
- Congratulations to 3rd grader Sofie Williams. She finished third in the 2023 SIRC Short Story Contest. This is Sofie's second year in a row placing in the top three.
- I would like to congratulate 1st grader Matthew Blakemore on winning the 1st Grade Spelling Bee.



- The elementary students led by Mrs. Kuhnert raised \$8,000 for American Heart Association, Kids Heart Challenge. They were able to set a new school record for money raised. They were rewarded for their generosity with the opportunity to attend a glow party during PE and the chance to tape Mr. Engelmann to the wall.



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- The elementary school would like to thank the high school for celebrating Agriculture safety day with us. The kids had a great time petting the animals, seeing the tractors, and learning from the national guard and fireman.
- Elementary Papoose Pride winners for the Month of March were 4th grade Macy Darnell, 3rd grade Nixon Jetton, 2nd grade Nola Gregory, 1st grade Matthew Blakemore, and Kindergarten Kru Kondoudis.



DMS

- Thank you to TCC (our local Verizon Wireless store) for donating gift cards for our teachers.
- Congratulations to Coach Miller and our Volleyball Team for winning regionals and advancing to the State Tournament.
- Congratulations to Mr. Nathan Crain for being selected as our Teacher of the Month for February. Mr. Crain is our 8th grade social studies teacher.
- We appreciate Cheryl Poe for donating \$200 to DMS to be used for students in need. Mrs. Poe donated the money in honor of her late husband. Cheryl is a long time custodian for District 300.
- Natalia Harris was selected as the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Youth Citizen Award. Natalia was selected based on the criteria of service to others, courage, leadership, and patriotism.
- Our March students of the month are:
 - 5th Grade - Jaylee Reid
 - 6th Grade - Ashlynn Stroud
 - 7th Grade - Gage Brown
 - 8th Grade - Matilyn Brown



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DHS

- The Student of the Month for March was Drake Brown



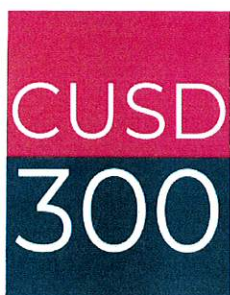
- The girls basketball team was recognized by the IHSA for their cumulative team GPA of 3.73. Congratulations to Coach File and the 2022-2023 girls basketball team. .
- On March 28 Mr. Summers, and a representative from the Perry County Clerk's Office registered students who were eligible to vote.



- Senior Lauren Bauman and sophomore Addison Pursell were named to the 3rd Annual All-State Dance Team. This is composed of schools from all over the state of varying sizes



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... Curriculum Director Report

- The March Educators of the Month honorees for advancing the district vision of "Working Together for All Students" are KyLee Behm, DES special education/2nd grade homeroom teacher, Natalie Hubler, middle school social worker, Tina Kurtz, high school instructional aide and Donna Lively, district food service director. Recognition this month included many student recommendations. The website announcement can be accessed here: [Educators of the Month](#)
- The instructional coaches participated in a two day training and have another day of planning upcoming. As part of the two day training, the coaches will work on developing a list of strategies for the 2023-2024 school year, coordinate teacher lists for each coaching group, begin on schedules and plan communication to all stakeholders. As a reminder the instructional coaches are Mandie Davis who will facilitate the K-5th group, Katie Prather, facilitating the 6th-12 English & Social Studies educators, and John Vercellino, facilitating 6th-12th Science and Math teachers.
- We are beginning the process of identifying the staffing needs for the 21st Century summer academy. Teachers and administrators are submitting names of students for academic support, focusing on reading and math. We have also opened requests for summer enrichment proposals provided by our teachers and staff. The summer program will be held June 5 - 30.
- We received the unfortunate news that ISBE inaccurately forecasted available funding for 21st Century programs. Due to ISBE's actions, there is no funding for the FY19 cohort when the contracts run out this summer. This grant currently serves 140 high school students in 9th - 12th, provides social work, academic support including credit recovery and SAT practice as well as sponsors for the Art, Book, Engineering, French, Soccer, and Spanish.
- The Illinois Art Council art grant work has begun for the first implementation cycle of April 1 - Nov. 1. The elementary art teacher position was posted with a recommendation, funded through the grant, detailed information on goals and activities have been shared with administrators and art teachers for scheduling and planning and beginning curriculum designing has started with the current art departments.



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Working Together For All Students

BOARD UPDATE

From: Cory Robbins, District Business Manager

Operations & Maintenance Report

Staffing:

- As discussed last month, we did approach one of our substitute custodians (Charles Wayne O'Dell) and he has accepted the open position at the High School. He has already started working the fulltime shift and we will formally hire him at next week's meeting.

Grants Update:

- We have a couple of other applications that have been submitted and we are awaiting a decision on those. We were not awarded the Cafeteria Equipment Grant, but are exploring the option of using ESSER Grant Funds to support the replacement of some of our original equipment in the K-8 building.

Utilities Update:

- We are continuing to work with our energy supplier (Illinois Energy Consortium) to investigate and pursue some cost saving measures and we should continue to see some relief as the markets improve. Also, we will be seeking approval of a 180 day Lease Option Agreement with the IEC at next week's meeting in order to move forward with finalizing a proposal for our own solar options.

Insurance Update:

- This is the time of year where we are awaiting final renewal figures for our group health insurance as well as our property, casualty, liability, worker's comp, etc. Our health insurance broker is seeking comparable proposals for comparison, and we have instructed our property, casualty, liability, worker's comp broker to seek proposals as well for comparable coverages that match our existing plans coverages.

Summer Worklist and Projects:

- We will be providing you with our annual list of summer work and projects next month. Additionally, I will discuss next week a couple of things we plan to pursue in regard to hiring some high school and college students to help with summer projects, as well as a plan to start painting classrooms at the K-8 School.

Current Projects:

- **Bus Shed:** Tanks should be installed very soon as permits have been submitted and are awaiting approval.
- **Network Infrastructure Upgrades:** We are still dealing with the delays for the arrival of network hardware. With the wiring now complete, the installation of new network hardware at both the High School and K-8 will take place upon arrival.

Future Capital Projects:

- As we have been discussing each month, below is updated list of potential projects for the next 3 years. The highlighted items or projects I am working on budgets for with our architect and may be bringing to you next month for approval to proceed.
 - K-8 School
 - Phone System/Tones update/replacement - ESSER
\$31,570 phone upgrade cost, \$1,487 monthly savings + \$6,212 for tones
 - Maintenance Grant – hardening of entrances for security, we will be awarding a contract at this month's meeting.
\$185,000 (\$50,000 grant)
 - Interior painting (Summer Help)
 - Awning replacements/additions
 - Floor tile replacement
 - Parking lot maintenance and repairs (Investigate for Budget)
 - Need for additional classrooms
 - Upgrade of Wi-Fi
 - Upgrade of security cameras
 - Central clock system (\$103,148)
 - High School
 - Softball field upgrade to turf – SALES TAX-we are reviewing shop drawings this week/
See Attached (\$269,000-\$283,000)
 - Baseball field turf replacement
(\$274,000-\$288,000)
 - Concrete repairs (in-house) HLS
 - Parking lot maintenance and repairs
 - Hardening of entrances for security
 - Cleaning and sealing of split face block exterior of IE Building
 - Interior painting
 - Replacement of exterior steps at band room
 - Football field bleacher repairs, upgrades/Pressbox renovation
 - Track resurfacing
 - Installation of Vape Detection System – LOCAL FUNDS/HLS
\$5,295

- Theobald Gymnasium
 - Interior painting
 - Storage room/weight room repairs and renovation
- Ward School
 - Flooring replacement (Pending Asbestos Survey) ESSER-survey ordered
 - Parking lot maintenance and repairs
 - List as provided by Tri-County
 - Asbestos Study - HLS
\$3,500-\$5,000