



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, MAY 18, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Amy Rose - President
 Steven Still - Vice President
 Tracy Taylor - Secretary
 Tracy Fenton - Member
 Rich Gossett - Member
 Trent Waller - Member
 Josh Williams – Member

Administrators Present: Matthew Hickam - Superintendent, Diana Rea - District Curriculum Director, Justin Engelmann - Elementary School Principal, Tim McChristian - High School Principal, Denise Woodsides - Assistant Principal High School, Cory Robbins - District Business Manager

Others Present: Denise Hirsch - Recording Secretary, Zach Jones - DEA Co-President, Mandy Davis - DEA Vice President, Dr. Steve Mayerhofer, Eric Kirkpatrick, Matt Benson - Board Attorney, Pete Spitler - Du Quoin Weekly, faculty members and community members.

Before the meeting was called to order, Jeff Baker, representative from the Du Quoin Ministerial Alliance delivered a prayer.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Amy Rose.		
II.	Roll Call Present: Rose, Still (via phone), Taylor, Fenton, Gossett, and Williams. Absent: Waller		
III.	Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Building principals - Mr. Justin Engelmann, Mr. Matt Hickam, and Mrs. Denise Woodsides shared with the Board Reasons We Are Proud. B. Curriculum Director - Mrs. Diana Rea shared with the board matters relating to curriculum/instruction. C. Operations & Maintenance - Mr. Robbins shared information on operational items. Michael Spence, local transportation director for First Student, introduced himself to the new board members and discussed the number of trips that were taken this year. He stated that he is currently fully staffed and should be fully staffed for next year. D. Superintendent - Board meeting dates have been moved to the 3rd Tuesday of every month. November 17th-19th will be the joint association conference hosted by the Illinois Association of School Boards. Mr. Hickam asked that any board members that would like to participate to let him know. The Illinois Association of School Administrators is looking to recruit board members and superintendents for a service project. Dr. Mayerhofer asked that information be shared with the Board for any possible interest. Graduation is Friday night and 8th grade promotion will be Wednesday May 24th. Mr. Hickam thanked the board and administration for being so gracious to allow him to work with them as this could be his final board meeting. Mr. Hickam recognized Mrs. Diana Rea on her continued education as she just finished her master in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on gifted education. He then recognized Mr. Justin Engelmann on his continued education as he pursues his superintendent's endorsement. Mr. Hickam acknowledged the work done by Mrs. Rea and Mr. Robbins on seeking and securing grant funding which has been a strength of the 		

	<p>District over the years. Mr. Hickam acknowledged Mr. Tim McChristian for his efforts as he moves on to take the principal position at Granite City. Last he acknowledged Mr. Aaron Hill on all his successes here at Du Quoin as he moves on to the high school principal position in West Frankfort. Finally Mr. Hickam gave all in attendance some words of advice. In summary, the message was to give grace and give everyone a chance; stand back and take a deep breath; work on relationships, listen and have patience.</p>		
IV.	<p>Consent Agenda: The Board approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The minutes of the April 20, 2023 regular Board of Education meeting B. The resolution confirming membership in The Interlocal Purchasing System 		
V.	<p>Public Hearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. DEA Representative - Zach Jones noted he has received letters from the DEA representatives looking to build communication. The union would like to rebuild the Mutual Concerns Committee so that we can move on and grow. The Board indicated they welcome the idea of sitting down with this committee to work out concerns and better the communication between the board and DEA. B. Public - Jean Ann Mathis, teacher - At this time a lot of people are unhappy. A number of teachers are not willing to speak as they are afraid that the board will come after them. Concerns were expressed about communication and trust. Debbie Ritter, teacher and coach - Expressed that she loves working here and it has always been her dream to work in District 300 but a lack of support from the board has caused a number of employees to leave the district. We would like a change in the communication between board and staff. 		
VI.	<p>Executive Session: The board entered into close session at 7:00 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). The Board returned to open session at 8:45 pm.</p>		
VII.	<p>Action of the Executive Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board approved executive session minutes for April 20, 2023. B. Consideration of maternity leave request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board accepted the maternity leave request for Jessica Hamburger. C. Consideration of retirement notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The board accepted the retirement request for Cheryl Poe. D. Consideration of resignations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The board accepted the resignation of David Gaytan as an assistant football coach. b. The board accepted the resignation of Mike Riggio as an assistant football coach . c. The board accepted the resignation of Esther (Roy) Higgerson as special education teacher. d. The board accepted the resignation of Eric Kirkpatrick as high school cross country coach. e. The board accepted the resignation of Missy Montgomery as middle school math teacher. f. The board accepted the resignation of Aaron Hill as middle school principal. g. The board accepted the resignation of Airika Williams as special education teacher. E. Consideration of the filling of vacancies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board employed Alex Quinn as elementary special education teacher for 2023-2024. b. The board employed April Poole as middle school special education teacher for 2023-2024. c. The board employed Josh Calloni as high school special education teacher for 2023-2024. d. The board employed Ashley Cook as a school nurse for 2023-2024 pending the finishing of her RN certification. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. The board employed Olivia Fitch as a middle school math teacher for 2023-2024. f. The board employed Brittne Kellerman as high school cross country coach for 2023-2024. g. The board decided to move the hiring of the high school boys' basketball coach for 2023-2024 to a later meeting. h. The board employed Bri Chapman and Kaylee Storey as a competitive dance coaches for 2023-2024. i. The board employed Isaac Miller as an assistant football coach. j. The board employed John White as an assistant football coach. k. The board employed the 2023 21st Century program grant summer workers as presented. <p>F. Consideration of the approval of volunteer coaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The board approved the volunteer coaches as presented. 		
VIII.	<p>Financial Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Board unanimously approved the payment of bills for April 2023 with the exception of First Mid bond payment. B. The Board approved the payment of the First Mid bill for April 2023. (Mr. Gossett abstained.) c. The Board approved the April 2023 financial report. 		
IX.	<p>New or Unfinished Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consideration of additional high school parent/student handbook changes for the 2023-2024 school year - The Board approved of the additional parent/student handbook changes for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. B. Presentation of preliminary FY23 amended budget. C. Consideration of the appointment of board representatives to the Du Quoin CUSD 300 Educational Foundation Board of Directors - The board appointed Rich Gossett and Tracy Fenton to the Du Quoin CUSD 300 Educational FOundation Board of Directors. D. Consideration of the authorization to proceed with the parking lot improvement project for the K-8 building and Ward School - The Board authorized the administration to proceed with the parking lot improvement project for the K-8 building and Ward School. E. Consideration of the authorization to proceed with the carpet replacement project at Ward School - The Board authorized the administration to proceed with the carpet replacement project at Ward school. F. Consideration of board policy updates as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards – 1st reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers - 4:60 Purchases and Contracts - 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria - 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting - 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct - 5:150 Personnel Records - 6:230 Library Media Program G. The board would like to add new business to a later meeting regarding board policy on the hiring process. 		
X.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was called to an end at 9:27 pm by President Amy Rose</p>		

Reasons we are proud...

DES

- This month the elementary students will be celebrating Courage as our core value for our Choose to be Nice promise.
- Mrs. Tilley's class had a publishing party last week. Each student in her class wrote their own book and Mrs. Tilley had each book published. Each student received a copy of their book and pillow with their main character on it.



- I would like to congratulate all of the elementary staff members that joined together for the autism awareness color run/walk. The elementary school had a group of 50 individuals participate.



- Congratulations to Violet Oetting for winning the 3rd grade spelling bee.
- I want to thank the DES staff for going above and beyond all year long. From purchasing/donating goods to opening their doors to help all in need, I can't thank them enough for their generosity and willingness to go the extra mile.
- Thank you to the PTO and State Farm agent Gooden for providing Farm Fancy Coffee to the teachers for teacher appreciation week.

- Elementary Papoose Pride winners for the Month of March were 4th grade Dakota Shelton, 3rd grade Max Elder, 2nd grade Willow Hale, 1st grade Drake Heape, and Kindergarten Levi Miller.



DMS

- 7th grader, Beckett File, earned a first superior rating at the Illinois Grade School Music Associations State Competition. Becket plays the baritone.
- Thank you to our local State Farm Insurance office for providing coffee for our teachers. Farm Fancy came in and set up a coffee bar for everyone.
- Mr. Isaac Miller was nominated and chosen as our Teacher of the Month for April. Mr. Miller is our Title Math Teacher and also our volleyball coach.



- Our March students of the month are:

5th Grade - Mason Kern

6th Grade - Noah Koehn

7th Grade - Khloe DeMarie

8th Grade - Joshua Bautista-Powell



DHS

- The Student of the Month for April is senior Kaylen Fields-Sawyer



- On Tuesday, May 2 Mrs. Butler took students Lauren Bauman, Derrick Davis, Brock Hamburger, Thomas Hanks, Malayna Russell, and Ella West to the SISHA Banquet at SIUC. This is an annual banquet that recognizes the top students from all schools in Southern Illinois.

L to R: Mrs. Butler, Ella West, Malayna Russerll, Thomas Hanks, Brock Hamburger, Derrick Davis, and Lauren Bauman

- Friday, May 5, 2023 the Elk's Boys Sports Banquet was held at the SI Center where SUIC Men's Basketball coach Bryan Mullins spoke and former 1969 Du Quoin grad Don Stanhouse was recognized. At the banquet Kameron Hugya received the Whitey Miller Award, Gage Green was recognized as the Male Athlete of the Year, Thomas Hanks received the William Theobald Award, and Malik Jones received the the Darrell Anders Award.

L to R: Kameron Hugya, Gage Green, Thomas Hanks, and Malik Jones

- Saturday, May 6, 2023 , was the annual Foundations Awards and Banquet Ceremony was held in Hibbs Auditorium and the Commons. Twenty-six seniors were recognized and \$87,500 were awarded in scholarships through the Foundation.

- Sunday, May 7, 2023 was the annual Girls Sports Banquet held in the Commons and Hibbs Auditorium. Lauren Bauman received the Kris Stacey Scholarship Award, Sophie Hill was recognized as the Female Athlete of the Year, Ella Davis received the Spirit of Kris Stacey Award, and Ella West received the Kris Stacey Academic Award.



L to R: Lauren Bauman, Sophie Hill, and Ella Davis (not pictured Ella West)



... Curriculum Director Report

- The 1st year new teacher group completed their initial year in the mentorship program and are excited about returning for the second year. The teachers were supported throughout the year with building mentors and collaborative new teacher meetings. This summer the group elected to read The Surprising Truth about How We Learn and Why it Happens by Benedict Carey. The topics on "how we learn" will be the focus of the year two professional learning sessions and discussions with their mentor teachers. As mentors, the veteran faculty accumulated at least 27 hours in addition to their faculty duties and responsibilities. We are truly thankful to these educators and their dedication to helping to make our district lives our motto "Working Together for All Students". The follow are the year one teachers and their respective mentors:

Mentee	Mentor
Jill Funk, K-4 Technology	Erin Kuhnert, K-4 PE
Michele Jones, K-4 Music	Kim Loyd, 3rd Grade/Gifted Teacher
Jennifer Mason, K Spec.Ed.	Mandie Davis, 4th Spec. Ed.
Sammy Morris, 1st Grade	Stacy Stratton, 1st Grade
Alicia Van Zandt, RtI Intervention	Deana Kelly, RtI Intervention
Katrina Lance, 5th Grade	Charles Montgomery, 6th Social Studies
Ike Minton, 5-8 Music/Band	Candace Campanella, 3-8 Art
Coleman Fitch, English	LaTasha Baxter, English
Michele Harbin, Business Ed.	Denise Woodsides
Emily McKinney, Math	Leah Winter, Math
Branden Morris, Math	Bryson Potts, Math



DUQUOIN CUSD #300
Working Together For All Students

- District Leadership met and received presentation overviews of social-emotional product solutions from the social workers, Natalie Hubler and Allison Sims. The selected product will provide effective screening of social-emotional needs, help identify student needs for support and include curriculum content for lessons. The program will begin with pilot grade levels next year with full implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. The team also analyzed the employee climate poll, reflected on the year and were provided with an organizational self-assessment survey to complete by the end of the year. The survey will help to identify strengths and areas of challenge in three areas for the district to develop goals next year.
- The 21st Century summer program has been finalized to offer academic support, enrichment camps and high school credit options. Letters were sent to K-8 students required or recommended by each school faculty & administrator. Miss Kelly is enrolling students at the high school for credit recovery and we have a large section of consumer education enrollment at the high school. The students attending after school were provided the summer enrichment camps to enroll this week. Also 8th grade families were provided with details concerning the summer freshman academy and science course. The summer program will be held June 5 - 30 with the freshman science class July 10-28. Included in the report is the program notice distributed to all families. Finally we are beginning the program fully staffed, one of the first times this has happened in many years. Thank you to all the faculty and staff who have expressed interest in the summer positions, have offered to help as a sub or "hey, I'll help wherever you need me."



DUQUOIN CUSD #300
Working Together For All Students

BOARD UPDATE

From: Cory Robbins, District Business Manager

Operations & Maintenance Report

Staffing:

- We have one potential retirement in our custodial department. If it happens next week, we will post that position right away.

Grants Update:

- We will be finalizing our Summer Food Service Program applications next week and that program will begin on June 1st. Additionally, we have begun investigating the possibility of applying for the Community Eligibility Provision for our District's breakfast and lunch programs. (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications.

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. The school board approved a 180 day Lease Option Agreement with the IEC at last month's meeting in order to move forward with finalizing a proposal for our own solar options. The IEC should be onsite soon to begin their data collection.

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 has received 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. Our current health plan with BCBS has been running at a 127% loss ratio for the last year. Therefore, receiving competitive pricing has been difficult. Aetna declined to price our group, Unite Healthcare offered a 42% increase, Health Alliance could not offer a matching/comparable PPO plan that was reasonable but offered a plan with much more managed care that was slightly higher. BCBS offered an initial renewal of 22%, but I was able to negotiate that rate down to 14%. We hope to get that renewal down into the 13's. I will meet with the DuQuoin Education Association next week when we have a firm renewal from BCBS and hope to have the renewal process wrapped up barring anything

unforeseen. I would expect that we would renew with BCBS. I am still awaiting our renewal and comps for our property, casualty, liability, worker's comp, etc. but expect those at any time.

Summer Worklist and Projects:

- I have attached a copy of the Summer Work List. Additionally, next week I will be pursuing the hiring of 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. We plan to seek faculty and staff members that may be interested in summer work to assist with the painting.

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 red items are project we have already approved and the highlighted items are projects we will be seeking approval for at this month's meeting
 - 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 \$305,850.00**
 - 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 (\$269,000-\$283,000)
 - Baseball field turf replacement (\$274,000-\$288,000)

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- 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 \$65,000
 - Parking lot maintenance and repairs \$168,003.00
 - List as provided by Tri-County
 - Asbestos Study - HLS
\$3,500-\$5,000