



**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, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Zach McPherson - President  
 Trent Waller - Vice President  
 Brian Rodely - Secretary  
 Crystal Harsy - Member  
 Patrick Riley - Member  
 Kevin West - Member  
 Mark Woodside – Member

Administrators present: Matthew Hickam – Superintendent, Cory Robbins – Business Manager, Diana Rea – Director of Instructional Services/Elementary Principal, Aaron Hill – Middle School Principal, Tim McChristian – High School Principal and Denise Woodsides – High School Assistant Principal.

Others present: Pam Pursell – DEA Co-President, and Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly. A group of parents were in attendance. Those who addressed the Board are noted below.

Pastor Bill Wiggs of Sunfield Methodist Church delivered a prayer prior to the meeting being called to order.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	<b>Call to Order</b> The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.		
II.	<b>Roll Call</b> Present: McPherson, Rodely, Harsy, West and Woodside; Absent: Riley and Waller.		
III.	<b>Executive Session:</b> The Board entered into executive session at 6:33 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees, and pending litigation in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).  The Board returned to open session at 7:26 PM.		
IV.	<b>Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Building principals – The principals shared their Reasons We Are Proud. The common theme was the hard work and dedication being demonstrated by faculty/staff under the circumstances of COVID-19 as well as the support being shown by many local entities including Marshall Browning Hospital and Nathan Shupe.</li> <li>b. Superintendent – Mr. Hickam thanked the District Leadership Team for their continued help during COVID-19. He shared the following data:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 faculty/staff who work in a District 300 building have missed work due to possible symptoms, close contact, possible close contact or positive for COVID-19.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 possible with symptoms</li> <li>• 6 due to close contact with a confirmed case</li> <li>• 1 confirmed positive</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 267 students have missed school due to possible symptoms, close contact, possible close contact or positive for COVID-19.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41 students are currently on our active list (out for one of the above reasons)</li> <li>• 37 students out of the 267 have had close contact with a positive, 36 occurred outside of school</li> <li>• 1 student was confirmed positive for COVID-19 to date</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<p>Mr. Hickam noted the high stress and frustration levels of parents, teachers, and administrators due to the challenges of trying to meet the demands of providing an education under the existing safety guidelines. He noted that the existing blended schedule, with safety as the number one priority, has worked well in keeping risk low. He noted that it is time to consider how/if the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter could be different. The District Leadership Team will meet on Friday, September 18, to collaborate on this. The Board had no questions or comments.</p>		
V.	<p><b>Consent Agenda:</b></p> <p>The Board approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the August 13, 2020 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes);</li> <li>Compensation reports for teachers/administrators/applicable non-certs in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.38;</li> <li>A resolution to transfer funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the Operations &amp; Maintenance Fund for approved budget purposes;</li> <li>The state library grant application to be submitted to the Secretary of State.</li> </ol>		
VI.	<p><b>Financial Items:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board approved the payment of bills for August 2020.</li> <li>The Board approved the August 2020 financial report.</li> </ol>		
VII.	<p><b>Public Hearing</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEA Representative – Co-President Pam Pursell expressed thanks to the parents and the Board of Education for their support during this challenging time. She noted that teachers want their students back in school as soon as it was safe to do so.</li> <li>Public – Several parents addressed the Board, with some posing questions to the Superintendent, regarding the current blended schedule. Parents expressed frustration and advocated for students to be in school for more in-person learning. Some expressed that their children were experiencing a great deal of stress due to the current schedule. Many expressed that they feel teachers are doing their best under the circumstances. Those who addressed the Board included (in order of speaking):  Christopher Boyd  Angela Darnell  Amanda White  Ellen McPherson  Cori Maynor  Alicia Kiechler  Crystal Rogers  Stephanie Rathert  Krysta Brown  Paul McPherson</li> </ol>		
VIII.	<p><b>Budget Hearing and Adoption</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of 2020-2021 school year budget and request for public comment. Mr. Hickam reviewed the proposed budget. He noted that a recent grant through the state for technology/internet connectivity was not reflected as it has only recently been allocated. There were no public comments on the budget.</li> <li>The Board approved the resolution to adopt 2020-2021 school year budget.</li> </ol>		
IX.	<p><b>New or Unfinished Business</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board appointed Denise Hirsch as Recording Secretary, per board policy 2:110, to assemble meeting materials, minutes, and maintain verbatim record of executive session.</li> </ol>		

	<p>B. Review and approval of board policy 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7. Mr. Hickam noted there were no changes in this policy and it is the recommended policy from the Illinois Association of School Boards. The Board approved board policy 7:180.</p> <p>C. Report from annual review of crisis/emergency plans. Mr. Hickam noted the recent meeting involving representatives from Du Quoin EMA, DQPD and DQFD. The need to work out or update a plan for reunification at an off-site location. Mr. Hickam and Mr. Robbins have met with Josh Gross, the manager of the state fairgrounds, regarding the use of their facilities. Mr. Hickam also noted that he is arranging for training to occur for faculty/staff on responding to an intruder. Lastly, Mr. Hickam noted that the District will soon be rolling out an anonymous alert application for students to have a way to report incidents anonymously.</p> <p>D. First reading/adoption of board policy updates/changes as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Board policy service. Mr. Hickam noted a new policy section contained in this collection of updates which is related to Title IX sexual harassment. He noted that the District is required to have Title IX Sexual Harassment Coordinator and that Mrs. Rea would have this responsibility. He noted that other administrators would also be part of a team for investigating any allegations of sexual harassment.</p> <p>E. ISBE performance report regarding providing special education and related services. Mr. Hickam noted that the state selected the District last year for a review of the delivery of special education and related services. He pointed out that eight indicators were examined by the state using data from 2018-2019. He expressed the good news that the District received the highest rating for each of the eight indicators and expressed thanks to the special education teachers and Tri-County Special Education for their efforts to make this possible.</p> <p>F. Operations and maintenance update. Mr. Robbins provided an update on a number of items related to operations and maintenance. Of note, Mr. Robbins is coordinating the project to begin replacing exterior entry doors at the K-8 building. He also noted he is working on plans for a storage building which would be located either at the property purchased from the Perry County Housing Authority or on the Theobald Gym property. In addition, he explained a recent opportunity through Ameren to update lighting to LED bulbs at no cost to the District.</p>		
X.	<p><b>Resignations/Retirement:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board accepted Scott Clark's letter of resignation as the high school in-school suspension supervisor with an effective date of August 26, 2020.</li> <li>The Board accepted Martha Neal's letter of resignation as a high school secretary/bookkeeper with an effective date of September 18, 2020.</li> <li>The Board accepted Susan Stratton's letter of intent to retire as a library aide at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.</li> <li>The Board accepted Laura Rea's letter of intent to retire as an aide at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.</li> </ol>		
XI.	<p><b>Employment of Personnel:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board employed Sarah Furlow as an aide at the elementary school for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.</li> <li>The Board employed Keith Ellis as an assistant football coach and assistant boys' basketball coach for the 2020-2021 school year.</li> </ol>		
XII.	<p><b>Adjournment</b> Prior to adjourning, the Board set a special meeting for Oct. 8, 2020 at 6 PM in order to hire two posted positions.</p> <p>The Board adjourned at 9:45 PM.</p>		