



**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, OCTOBER 22, 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: Denise Hirsch – Recording Secretary, Pam Pursell – DEA Co-President, Sarah Kary from Emling & Hoffman, Keith Jones – Elementary/Junior High School Principal for Sesser-Valier CUSD 196, and Pete Spitler – Du Quoin Weekly. A group of parents were in attendance.

	Item	Info	Action
I.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.		
II.	Roll Call Present: McPherson, Rodely, Harsy, Waller, West, and Woodside. Absent: Riley (entered at 6:34 PM). A motion was made to move executive session after the public hearing. The motion was made by Harsy, seconded by West. The motion carried unanimously.		
III.	Reports A. The building principals shared the Reasons We Are Proud and reviewed summaries of their school improvement plans/activities. Mr. Scott Loyd, Tri-County teacher in the CHOICES program, was recognized for receiving an ISBE Meritorious Service Award. Mr. Hickam made mention that this week was Principal Appreciation Week and extended thanks to the principals for their time and effort during this challenging time. B. Mr. Hickam welcomed Mrs. Hirsch to her first regular meeting acting as the Recording Secretary. He also welcomed Mr. Keith Jones as a guest who was attending the meeting for a class at SIU. In regards to COVID-19, Mr. Hickam noted that the additional mitigation measures imposed for the region did not directly impact schools. He noted that the elementary school had successfully brought Kindergarten and 1 st grade students back for four days this week and was proceeding with the plan to bring back the other elementary grades in the coming weeks. An overview of a plan to bring middle school grades back in the coming weeks was presented by Mr. Hill. The plan makes use of overflow classrooms to keep numbers at an appropriate level to maintain social distancing. The high school continues to examine what might be possible but faces significant challenges with many sections with large class sizes and the smallest classrooms.		
IV.	Consent Agenda A. The Board approved the minutes of the September 17, 2020 regular Board of Education meeting (including executive session minutes);		

	B. The Board approved the release of executive session minutes from April 2020 through September 2020 (with detached information).		
V.	Financial Items A. The Board approved the payment of bills for September 2020. B. The Board approved the September 2020 financial report.		
VI.	Public Hearing A. DEA Representative – Pam Pursell noted that the faculty has been working hard to find creative ways to bring more students back for more in-person learning. B. Public – No comments.		
VII.	Executive Session The Board entered into executive session at 7:20 PM to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees and purchase of real property in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). The Board returned to open session at 9:08 PM.		
VIII.	New or Unfinished Business A. Sarah Kary was present on behalf of Emling & Hoffman to review the FY20 district audit. Ms. Kary noted that the District’s preliminary financial profile score was in the “recognition” category. Following the review, the Board approved the FY 2020 district audit as presented. B. Mr. Robbins presented information regarding the initiation of the project to replace exterior entrance/exit doors at the K-8 building. It was noted that the School Maintenance Grant received in the amount of \$50,000 would be utilized for this project. The Board provided authorization to bid the exterior door replacement project at K-8 building. C. The Board adopted board policy updates/changes as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards policy service. D. There was no new information to discuss nor action required regarding the consideration of purchase of real property. E. Mr. Hickam noted that the state’s review of District performance regarding meeting requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) yielded a “meets requirement” rating. He further noted that a state administered survey of a random group of parents of students with disabilities resulted in a percentage which exceeded the state goal and state average. F. Mr. Hickam and Mr. Robbins shared information regarding potential savings on 2012 General Obligation Bonds through refinancing. It was noted that a refinance would yield a significantly lower interest rate while not extending the life of the bond. The refinance could yield savings of \$50,000. The Board authorized the administration to refinance the 2012 General Obligation Bonds.		
IX.	Employment of Personnel A. The Board approved the winter sports volunteers.		
X.	Adjournment The Board adjourned at 9:30 PM.		