

Meeting Observer Template (March 2, 2017 version)

Meeting attended: Board of Education District 58

Date and Location of meeting: September 11, 2017 at Downers Grove Village Hall

Meeting started: 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35pm

Observer (your name): Katie Frick

Board/Council members present: A majority (4) of the full board constitutes a quorum.

Doug Purcell President

Gregory Harris

Darren Hughes

Jill Ssamonte

Beth Taylor

John Miller (19)

Elizabeth Sigale (17)

Estimated number of people in the public: 20

Useful links Agenda: <http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/Public>

Video:

Other relevant documents:

Reports:

Superintendent Report:

- Start of school year is good; the nice weather has been pleasant for classroom temperatures
- Thanks for the Patriot Day presentations and recognition
- Transportation has been very smooth due to change in provider
- Curriculum nights are last week and this week, parents and teachers meet and give a snapshot of what to expect in the classroom and communications between parents and teachers
- New report cards this year will be out for the first quarter grades
- Thanks for the donations for school supplies

-This weekend there is an October Fest in parking lot outside the DG Public Library

Enrollment: [http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/AQWH9V4775DF/\\$file/Master Enrollment 8.31.2017 Final p1.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/AQWH9V4775DF/$file/Master%20Enrollment%208.31.2017%20Final%20p1.pdf)

-The average class size is 21-25 per class

-Enrollment steady and on target with the forecast

There was some council discussion at this point on how to address some large class sizes in a few schools:

Sigale: What are some redistricting options to help even out the class sizes?

Miller: There is no perfect solution. For the record he stated he is against transferring students to other schools. Adds that bussing kids to different schools does not always make sense financially.

Dr. Cremascoli: We need to do what is best for students. She is cautious to not adjust boundaries for just a bubble class and we need to look long term.

Hughes: Adds to always look at the impact on families.

Purcell: Concluded this by saying if anyone has comments to contact Dr. Cremascoli in the next month.

Business Report

-New school legislation from state guarantees no less money than was given in pervious years

-State of IL has made 3 of 4 payments from last year; \$922,357 still owed

-Market predicts 0% chance of changes this month in interest rate hikes

Presentations:

Indian Trail Student Council did the flag salute and a short presentation on Patriot's Day to remember the heroes that rescued the victims on 9/11.

The student council spoke about fundraisers they have for this upcoming school year including: Hats for Houston (to raise money for hurricane Harvey victims), boxtop contest, spirit

days, taffy apple sales, and school store. They also partnered with the Humanitarian Project to do a birthday in a bag: collect birthday cake mix and other items to put in a bag to provide to children in shelters in order for those kids to have a birthday. Lastly, they will do red ribbon weeks to remind everyone to be drug free.

Spotlight on the Schools: New Staff

-40 New staff members

-There was a week for introductions and workshops for all new staff to introduce them to the district, the administrators, resources, specialists, the district's core beliefs and how the district tries to meet the needs of all students. They also discussed assessment, curriculum, goal setting, instruction and community partners.

-They were introduced to the mentor program where a seasoned District 58 teacher is paired with a new staff member to provide peer observation and feedback and support.

Information Items:

The board adopted the budget for the 2017-2018 school year. However, John Miller made a comment that he does not support a known deficit budget. Hughes and Harris echoed this concern and want to work harder to make sure this does not happen again next year. Beth Taylor also stated she supports this budget but hopes to get it down next year. The final vote was all in favor with the exception of John Miller who voted no.

Phone System Update:

-Modern system with technology that can add extensions and lines can be customized

-Voicemail that can connect to email

-Improved mobility

-Lower annual operating costs

-2 servers and 580 phones

-Training will be in September and October

-October 10th will be day for cutover from old system

Consent Agenda:

A. Personnel Report ~ 1) Appointments 2) Resignations 3) Family Medical Leave of Absence 4) Retirements 5) Transfer of Assignment



B. Financial Reports ~ 1) List of Bills 2) Summary

Public comment:

Steve Smithano: 2 kids at Highland. He was there to talk about the enrollment issue at Highland. He does not think moving kids to Belle Aire is the solution because in a few years, Belle Aire will be over crowded. Redistricting should be the last solution. The district stands for social/emotional learning and this change would negatively effect students. If there is a problem with population, it should not fall one set of students to solve the problem. All other solutions should be considered before redistricting.

Tia Nash: Highland parent of 3. She does not believe in redistricting and would like the board to be proactive rather than reactive.

Laura Lagari: Highland parent wanted to express it would break her heart to change schools in the middle of her family's grade school experience. She asked the board to please look at all possibilities and not just redistricting.

Ellen: Highland parent not in favor of redistricting. She offered a suggestion: to look at making 6th grade part of middle school to relieve the elementary schools.

Julie Batkiewicz: Puffer Teacher- She wanted to share an upcoming community event with the board. Speaker Noah Rachlin will be speaking about how to have a positive growth mindset for lifelong learning. Monday September 26 at 6:30pm at Herrick Middle School. Everyone welcome.

Jessica: Highland Mom asked if the new phone system will have the ability to send out mass text messages in case of emergencies.

Dr. Cremascoli replied: yes, they already have this technology and will use in case of emergencies for imminent threat of danger for students.

General Features

	Yes	No	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	x		
Were members attentive and prepared?	x		
Were members courteous to each other?	x		
Were members attentive to the public's comments?	x		
Was the facility adequate?	x		
Could the audience see and hear?	x		
Were visual aids easily visible to the audience?	x		
Were the meeting facilities handicapped accessible?	x		

FOIA Compliance

	Yes	No	Comments
Was the agenda posted 48 hours before the meeting? Where?	x		
Did the agenda items clearly describe what was being discussed?	x		
Were background materials made available to the public?	x		
Was there adequate discussion of the issues?	x		
Was there a closed session before, during or after the meeting?		x	
If there was a closed meeting, was any action taken after the closed session? If so, what action?			