

Meeting attended: Board of Education District 58

Date and Location of meeting: November 13, 2017 at Downers Grove Village Hall

Meeting started: 7 p.m. **Executive Session?** no

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 p.m.

Observer (your name): Katie Frick

Board/Council members present: **P (Present), NP (Not Present) T (Tardy)**

A majority (4) of the full board constitutes a quorum.

P Doug Purcell President

P Gregory Harris

P Darren Hughes

P Jill Samonte

P Beth Taylor

P John Miller

P Elizabeth Sigale

Estimated number of people in the public: 40

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

Superintendent Report (Dr. Cremascoli)

- November 15 is School Board members day. She thanked the members for their time and energy
- Parents/teacher conferences coming up to review 1st quarter this Wednesday and Thursday evening
- November 27 is teacher institute day
- School environment surveys for grades 4-8 will be sent out soon
- Preparing to launch Strategic Planning: parents will receive survey after Thanksgiving and one more after winter break

Monthly Business Report (David Bein)

- IL still owes District 58 \$94,000 for last year
- IL owes District 58 \$416,000 for this year
- New Federal tax proposal may affect District 58- he will keep us posted on progress

- Mr. Bein encouraged us to call our state reps to tell them how a two-year property tax freeze could negatively affect District 58's future funding
- New Federal guidelines surrounding the program Every Student Succeeds could complicate how District 58's central office personnel get paid

District 58's Auditor Betsy Allen from the Miller Cooper Firm did a short overview of this year's audit and opened up any discussion and questions for the board members. No adjustments were needed.

Meet and Confer Strategic Plan Committee (Elizabeth Sigale)

- Reviewed calendar
- Discussed how to hear from all community members
- Goal: HYA (firm hired to provide outside consult on the strategic plan) will come to March Board meeting with a plan and the Board will adopt it in April 2018
- Hoping to get 40-50 focus groups from the community to weigh in

Presentations:

Flag Salute: Hillcrest School

The student council detailed activities and fund-raising opportunities for this year. The PTA president also shared how they spend money to enhance student experiences in and out of the classroom. The principal and vice principals also detailed a bit about the Hillcrest Families program. This social program pairs students from different grades along with a faculty member to act as a family unit that meets once a month. It strengthens relationships between grade levels and gives students confidence by creating new friendships.

Spotlight on our Schools- Assessment for Learning (Justin Sisul)

Mr. Sisul discussed standard, summative and formative assessments. He also informed everyone the word assessment comes from the Latin "to sit beside" and reminded the audience that assessments are not given to students but rather, to do along with students. See link below for full presentation and information presented.

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/AT4HQC49945E/\\$file/BOE Spotlight - November 2017 - Assessment for Learning.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/AT4HQC49945E/$file/BOE%20Spotlight%20-%20November%202017%20-%20Assessment%20for%20Learning.pdf)

Consent Agenda:

A. Personnel Report ~ 1) Family Medical Leave of Absence 2) Retirements 3) Assignments 4) Resignations

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

Discussion:

Enrollment (Dr. Cremascoli)

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/ASYLD355EF99/\\$file/8. Enrollment Presentation 2017.10.10.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/ASYLD355EF99/$file/8. Enrollment Presentation 2017.10.10.pdf)

After the October board meeting, Dr. Cremascoli and her team dug deeper into option 2 (Boundary adjustment affecting only new/future students) and option 4 (Case by Case Adjustments). It was her recommendation that the board move to use option 4: enrolling up to 56 kindergarteners with early enrollment (for families with older siblings at this school) and provide frequent communication. In addition, close enrollment at Highland for 1st, 3rd and 4th grade. Any new students (move-in) would be enrolled at Bell Aire and transportation would be provided. The transportation cost would not be high because the current routes can accommodate any new students.

At first the board seemed to feel this was a good direction but after some discussion it was clear that without a boundary change, this problem would become an issue again in several years. In the end, the board said they would like to implement option #4 as recommended by Dr. Cremascoli but would also like to consider changed the boundaries for future move-in families. Dr. Cremascoli will come back to the December board meeting with more detailed information on how this would affect the enrollment at both Highland and Belle Aire and how they would implement this.

Curriculum Workshop Follow-Up: PARCC (Justin Sisul)

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/ASYRRP6F4293/\\$file/BOE - PARCC Preliminary Discussion Summary.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/files/ASYRRP6F4293/$file/BOE - PARCC Preliminary Discussion Summary.pdf)

PARCC (Partnership for Assessment for Readiness for College and Careers) is a standardized test given to District 58 students. It is used to rank student and school performance in Illinois. Mr. Sisul explained that PARCC has had some negative energy surrounding it for the past few years. District 58 has had some parents decline to let their children participate in the test and students often have a careless attitude about performing well on this test. Why?

1. The test is not valued
2. The format of the test is not familiar to students

Mr. Sisul wants to change the narrative around the test and inform parents, teacher and students that the test does have value. We want students to always try his/her best no matter what the test is. Puffer School created a short video (featuring students) that talked about the test and got students familiar with the idea of taking it seriously. The year this video was shown to the student body before the test was administered, Puffer performed higher than the previous year. This video is one idea to help inform students about the test and make it feel more approachable and important. In addition, the new curriculum has new formatting that is

similar to that of PARCC and should better prepare students for the questions. The board did have some short discussion and agreed to keep the negativity away and to make a video to help increase awareness of the test and its importance. The board is aware of the new statistics that came out recently about District 58 schools and their falling rankings. These ratings often rely on these types of test scores and the board wants them to reflect the true aptitude of our schools and our students.

Public comment:

Highland dad informed the board he is worried that in a few years both Belle Aire and Highland will be over crowded and said they should consider other ways to fix issue other than boundary change.

Future Highland mom said she moved into this district 6 years ago specifically for this school but now only has 3 year old. She wants to make sure the board does not forget about parents like her when they make the decision about what to do on the enrollment issue.

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 (complete once, unless information changes)

	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?	x		See agenda