

Meeting Observer Template (March 2, 2017 version)

Meeting attended: Board of Education District 58

Date and Location of meeting: June 12, 2017 at Downers Grove Village Hall

Meeting started: 7 p.m. **Executive Session?** _____

Meeting adjourned: _____ 10:15PM

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: 40

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

Reports: List, note comments, provide links if available

Student Data and Reporting: Spring Learning Data Update (Dr. Rich, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction)

In all three areas: Math, Reading and Language Skills the schools in District 58 performed above the national average. Reading scored in the top 10% of districts nationally.

Strategic Goals Action Plan End of Year Report (Dr. Cremascoli Superintendent)

Happy to report Math Blueprints (pilot), professional development for teachers, and the biliteracy program all did well this year. Goal for next year is communications review and to work on facility needs with a focus on Lester.

Superintendent Report:

Location for meetings- need direction from the Board. Darren Hughes suggested the meetings be held at Village Hall for consistency but hold the 4 workshops at different schools. Elizabeth Sigale agrees. Beth Taylor added that she had to sit in the hall many times to attend at the Longfellow center and Village Hall is a welcome change. The Board agreed it would be best to keep at Village Hall.

The District is continuing to monitor enrollment and to staff schools as needed.

Summer Projects include: cleaning, painting, and getting a new playground at Whittier. Summer school is under way at Puffer. Summer band and orchestra are also getting started along with summer reading and math programs as well as summer book club with help from the DG Public Library. Curriculum work is being done for the fall.

English-Language Arts Committee Update

This is last meeting with Dr. Rich as he will be moving on to be Superintendent of Windfield.

4 new curriculums were piloted, two stood out and one took the lead. It is called StudySync. This includes online resources, current events, modeling, lots of interaction with text, grammar, vocabulary, promotes quality classroom discussions while still allowing teachers to be creative.

Next year, this committee will implement phase 1 to ensure a slow and balanced transition into this new program. The hope is to have this go district wide in the 2018-2019 school year. They are still getting estimates from publishers and will work on pricing to keep it within budget.

Monthly Business

-The district is still owed 1.7 million from the state

-Still no state budget, the bond rates have been cut which will make borrowing more expensive

- Property tax payments have begun to arrive increasing District cash flow
- District audit will be complete in August

Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee

Elizabeth Sigale and Jill Samonte both spoke and stated they are working on a socio-emotional learning program. The committee discussed next steps of self-evaluation to take place in July.

Presentations:

Today was the last day of the Board Secretary Pam Osika. Kind words were shared by the superintendent as well as some teachers

Consent Agenda:

- A. Personnel Report ~ 1) Appointments 2) Retirements 3) Family Medical Leaves of Absence 4) Resignations 5) Non-Union Educational Support Staff Salaries [2017-2018] 6) Non-Union Technology Staff Salaries [2017-2018] 7) Technology Staff Handbook [2017-2018] 8) Administrators' Salaries [2017-2018] 9) Administrators' Handbook [2017-2018 & 2018-2019]
- B. Financial Reports ~ 1) List of Bills 2) Summary

Council Discussion: (paraphrase board member comments)

Beth Taylor said she went to Legislative meeting for DuPage County. Stated she was happy to have a representative that advocates for DuPage down in Springfield to keep money coming to DuPage County.

Lester Discussion:

This board discussion took up the bulk of the meeting. The superintendent asked the board to make a decision on which of the 4 addition options is best for the Lester addition. The next step is to pay the architecture firm \$20,000 to draw up the plans and then put it out for bid to constructions companies.

Davis Bein (Asst. Sup. For Business/CSBO) explained in order to fund the addition the money will be borrowed. He suggested to borrow just enough for the addition now and borrow more later for other facilities needs. This process needs to start soon so the timing works out for the addition to be done for the 2018-2019 school years. Also stated the \$20,000 to draw up the plans goes into the total cost of the addition.

Two faculty members, Katie and Karen, were there to represent the staff at Lester. They were on the committee that helped to determine that option 4 would best meet all the needs of Lester. They explained Lester does not have any ADA (American Disabilities Act) acceptable bathrooms. Currently, when a student in a wheel chair needs to use the bathroom, they have to close down an entire bathroom and rout other students to a different facility. Long lines form and children are sometimes out of the classroom for a long time just to use the bathroom. This was a major concern that the faculty at Lester would like addressed with the addition. Secondly, more classrooms are needed to accommodate three full day kindergarten classes. Option 4 would best serve all the needs at the school. The estimated cost is 2.4 million dollars. John Miller was very concerned about the budget and would not support any option that goes over 2 million. There was a lot of back and forth among the council members, albeit slow. John Miller was more in favor of going with option 1A which adds two kindergarten classrooms with bathrooms in each classroom. This option solves the space issue but does not address the ADA bathroom the school desperately needs. The final vote was four to three in favor of option 4. The next step is to pay the \$20,000 to have plans drawn up and then put it out to bid.

Public comment: (Agenda Items)

-Patty Esslinger from the Lester playground committee. She expressed to the board that the bathrooms are a big issue at Lester and more are needed. She added that her family had a child in half-day kindergarten and it was difficult for two working parents to juggle a half day of school. She offered an idea to bring down the cost of the Lester addition: ask the community for help. If there are any parents in the trades, they may be willing to donate their skills and time to cut costs. In addition, she wanted to make sure the board knows the new playground plans are being held up because there has not been a decision made about the Lester addition.

-Liz Campbell from the Highland district expressed concern about the trajectory that Lester's enrollment will bubble in 2018 while Highland is supposed to grow past 2024. She is concerned that while Lester is getting its addition it needs now, there won't be any money for a future addition for Highland.

-Theresa Bochel (not sure of last name spelling)- Highland parent expressed concerns about redistricting and voiced her opposition to open concept classrooms.

Second Reception of Visitors (non-agenda items)

- Craig Young wanted to assure everyone that employees also contribute to the medical insurance, not just the district.

- Jessica Warmbier (not sure of last name spelling) Highland parent with kindergarten twins. She wanted to clarify that Lester needs only an additional two kindergartens while Belle Aire needs one for each grade. She didn't understand why Lester gets an addition while Belle Aire needs some redistricting. Dr. Cremascoli addressed this and said there is no way to redistrict Lester because of the way the boundary lines exist. Belle Aire redistricting may happen for the 2018-2019 school year. The next time this will be discussed will be in September or October.

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		Much better space in Village Hall
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		Closed after the meeting
If there was a closed meeting, was any action taken after the closed session? If so, what action?		x	