

League of Women Voters Observers Report

Board meeting attended: Elementary District 58

Date and Location of meeting: January 8, 2018, 801 Burlington Avenue (Downers Grove Village Hall)

Meeting started: 7 p.m.

Meeting moved to closed session: 8:40 p.m.

League Observer(s): Emily Teising

Board Members/Trustees present (P) not present (NP) tardy (T):

Doug Purcell, President (P)
Elizabeth Sigale, Vice President (P)
Gregory Harris (P)
Darren Hughes (P)
John Miller (P)
Jill Samonte (P)
Beth Taylor (P)

Estimated Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff): 40. Approx. 20 left at 8:10 p.m. after recognition of Education Foundation grants.

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at: <https://dg58.org/meeting-highlights/>

Agenda can be found at: <https://www.boarddocs.com/il/dg58/Board.nsf/Public>

1. **Public Hearing** Meeting began with Public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell \$2,810,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds. This would fund, in part, a proposed addition at Lester School.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Janice Slater, Scott O'Connell and Tom Slater spoke in opposition to the sale of the bonds.

Dan Baker spoke in support of the bond issuance.

Observer note: Mr. O'Connell addressed individual staff and board members directly although district policy indicates public comment is not an opportunity for dialogue. Board President Purcell allowed him to continue speaking for over 20 minutes.

Public Hearing adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

2. Regular meeting opened with flag salute by members of the Pierce Downer Student Council.

3. Non-Action REPORTS

- A. Students recognized by the Illinois Music Association
- B. Sixteen Education Foundation Grants totaling \$10,000 awarded 2017-2018. The grants were awarded across the curriculum, to teachers at different schools.
- C. The board received 16 communications

3. Reports to the Board

a. Superintendent's Report, Kari Cremascoli

- Click here for [Strategic Planning Goals Mid-Year Action Report Draft](#)
- Strategic planning survey available for the community to complete, available at www.dg58.org.
- Planning for next school year has begun, though some pieces are a little bit on hold pending results of the strategic plan.
- MAPP testing is underway.
- January 20, the annual science fair takes place at O'Neill Middle School.

b. Business Report, Asst. Superintendent for Business David Bein.

- The district may receive earlier property tax payments from DuPage County, because of early receipt of tax payments from property owners.
- There are \$785,000 in unpaid funds from the state. That is half of the amount of outstanding payments from the state at this time last year.
- Relevant documents available through BoardDocs at dg58.org.

4. Financial Advisory Committee met and gave a brief report.

5. **Discussion: Reception of Visitors.** The board will welcome public comment early in the meeting on both agenda and non-agenda items in the future. Previously, members of the public had an opportunity earlier in the meeting to comment on agenda items, but had to wait until late in the meeting to comment on non-agenda items, which board members thought was burdensome given the length of some meetings.

6. The Dec. 11, 2017 minutes were approved unanimously.

7. The Consent agenda was approved unanimously.

- a. Personnel Report
- b. Financial Reports

8. Recommendations for action:

Second Readings of Policies 2041 (Administration – Director of Buildings and Grounds), 2042 (Administration – Manager of Business Services), 5150 (Students – Wellness).

Approved unanimously

9. Reception of Visitors for Non-agenda items

Two members of the public who hadn’t previously spoken expressed concern about the district using The Bugle for public announcements.

One member of the public had a question about information she could not find on the district website. (Observer note: The Observer has heard concern from others who have difficulty finding information on the district website.)

Observer Comments/Concerns: Inconsistent application of guidelines governing communication with the board as outlined in Board Policies 8022 and 1150 and on the sheet available at the entrance to the meeting regarding dialogue with the board and sign-in.

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 publics’ 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		
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FOIA (Complete once, unless information changes.)

Illinois Open Meetings Act requirements

	Yes	No	Comments
Was the agenda posted 48 hours before the meeting? If yes, note where	x		
Did the agenda items clearly describe what was to be 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		

Date Submitted: January 16, 2018

By: Emily Teising