

AUGUST

League of Women Voters of Downers Grove-Woodridge-Lisle

Observer's Report

Governmental Body: \_Downers Grove Grade School District 58 Date: August 13, 2012

Please check answers:

Type of meeting:  Regular  Workshop  Public Hearing  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Facilities:  Clean  Proper Size (See Comment)  Could See  Could Hear  
 Handicap accessible

Media Coverage:  Yes  No If yes, who was present: Unsure as room was crowded

Public Present:  Yes  No Public Comment:  Yes  No

#### PROCEEDINGS

##### COMMENTS

Meeting start on time? YES

Executive Session from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

All members present? YES

Sufficient staff present? YES

Presiding officer control meeting? YES

Members prepared and attentive? YES

Members respectful and courteous to all present? YES

Adequate discussion of issues? YES

Information re issues available to public? YES

I was not aware of any, but the room was crowded.

Sufficient opportunity for public input? YES

Comment: A significant number of the audience appeared to be District 58 faculty members. I am not sure whether this was because it was the beginning of the school year or whether this happens frequently. As a result of their presence, the room was quite crowded.

Additional observations or concerns:

I arrived at the Longfellow Center at 6:30 p.m. Those of us present as audience members for the meeting scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. were informed that the

board was holding its executive session meeting at 6:30 p.m. prior to the meeting. The main topic being discussed at the session was the status of the future of Longfellow Center

The meeting began at 7 p.m. The District 58 superintendent Dr. Cremascoli gave her report. Present at her second board meeting as superintendent, she welcomed all citizens of the district to make an appointment to talk with her at any time. She then deferrd to several of her administrative staff for reports on finances, enrollment figures, etc. Enrollment figures provoked a lengthy discussion particularly regarding the disparity in both class enrollment and actual physical size per square foot among the various schools. Several attendees, both citizens and staff members spoke regarding the lack of programs, art and physical education, at Pierce Downer School because of the need for class rooms in that building.

A staff member who spoke from the audience said this disparity has been a problem for a number of years. The board decided that one solution to the disparity of class size at different schools was to ask new students(and their parents) at the overcrowded schools if they would be willing to attend another school.

The board approved 12 different walking routes as hazardous as designated by IDOT. The students who reside in these areas will be eligible for free busing even if they live within the one half mile limit.

Observer:Rich Matthies      Date submitted:\_September 4, 2012

District 58 website: [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org)