

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting  
September 8, 2025

President Parks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Forum with the following members present: Bradley, Hamel (via phone), Jacobitz-Kizzier, Jones, Parks, Sainci, and Wittman. Additional officers of the Board present: Mauss, Demmer, and Hawkins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Washington Middle School.

Moved (Jones) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved (Jones) and seconded (Sainci) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 11th and the special meeting of September 2nd as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Salutes:

- District's High School Robotics Team receiving a \$3,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation.
- Jeff and Janet Mozena for their work in recovering and redisplaying historical murals from Dubuque Senior High School's Lamb-Hedemann Auditorium.

Moved (Jones) and seconded (Sainci) to suspend the rules of order and go into open forum. Motion carried 7-0.

Chris Oberhoffer, Principal at Washington Middle School updated the board on what is going well at Washington Middle School.

- One community member spoke against the general obligation bond.

Moved (Jones) and seconded (Sainci) to reinstate the rules of order and return to regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing on Sale of Two Thomas 2017 School Buses

The Board President, Kate Parks opened the public hearing and CFO, Lisa Demmer provided an overview of the sale of the two buses on Gov Deals.

Moved (Jones) and seconded (Sainci) to receive and file proof of publication of Notice of Public Hearing on the sale of two 2017 Thomas 47-Passenger School Buses and authorize payment of the legal notice publication costs to the *Telegraph Herald*. Motion carried 7-0.

There were no public comments. Moved (Jones) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve the sale of one 2017 Thomas 47-Passenger School Bus for \$28,237.50 to Knox Williams of Knoxville, Tennessee and one 2017 Thomas 47-Passenger School Bus for \$31,950 to Lesia Ward of Essential Transportation located in Cary, North Carolina. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved (Bradley) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve those items listed in the consent agenda. Nancy Bradley was the auditor for the month. Motion carried 7-0.

Vice President Wittman gave the Facility and Support Services Committee report.

Moved (Wittman) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve Change Order #3 to Tricon Construction Group on the Eisenhower Elementary School Remodel & Addition Project to update retainage language. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved (Wittman) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve Change Order #4 to Tricon Construction Group on the Eisenhower Elementary School Remodel & Addition Project in the increased amount of \$42,166.63. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved (Wittman) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve Change Order #1 to Conlon Construction Company on the Irving Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades Project to update retainage language. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved (Wittman) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve the executed construction contract, bonds and certificate of insurance with Portzen Construction, Inc., for the Hempstead High School Football Field Storage Building Project in the amount of \$278,000.00. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved (Wittman) and seconded (Jacobitz-Kizzier) to approve the Fee Proposal from MODUS Engineering for construction document and administration services for the Sageville Elementary School Fueling System Study in the amount of \$4,800.00. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Amy Hawkins addressed the Board regarding the presentation that was given at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Facility and Support Services Committee by Tim Oswald of Piper Sandler. A plan was presented that would see the district selling general obligation bonds three different times during the life of the bond if it were to pass. The remainder of the balance of the project costs in 2028 would come from SAVE funds with the project completion in the fall of 2029. Hawkins also spoke about the closing of Jefferson Middle School and shared enrollment trends. Efficiencies are needed in the general fund as state supplemental aid (SSA) is not keeping up with increased costs and declining enrollment. There is no timeline set for the closing of Jefferson Middle School, but it will be closed whether the bond passes or not.

Board member Katie Jones gave the Educational Programs/Policy Committee report.

#### Resolution Ordering an Election on the Issuance of \$70,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds

President Parks presented the petition to the board requesting that an election be called on the issuance of bonds in the amount not to exceed \$70,000,000 for funds to be used together with sales tax revenue bonds to provide funds to build, furnish and equip a middle school facility to replace the existing George Washington Middle School facility including related demolition and site improvements. The number of eligible electors who have signed the petition is 3,417.

Moved (Wittman) and seconded (Bradley) to adopt the resolution ordering an election on the issuance of \$70,000,000 general obligation school bonds. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent, Hawkins stated that district officials heard from voters after the failure of the 2023 bond referendum that the bond was too much money and had too many projects. Following the feedback from the community, a task force was formed with representatives from each school. In addition, a survey was done in the community which resulted in the district asking for less money by focusing on the building of a new \$121.9 million middle school with the proposed \$70 million general obligation bond combined with \$51.9 million in SAVE dollars. If the general obligation bond is approved, it would add an additional \$1.00 per \$1000 of assessed value to the district's property tax levy. There is a tax calculator available on the Dubuque Community School's website by clicking on the link [Calculate the tax impact on your property](#) to find out what your monthly and yearly tax rate would be. Community members can also stay up to date on information by going to the bond website located at [www.dbqschools.org/bond](http://www.dbqschools.org/bond).

Next meeting was set for October 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

President Parks declared the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Carolyn Mauss, Secretary  
Board of Education