



**DUQUESNE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER**

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD Q2-2021-2022**

Dr. William H. Kerr, Receiver

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1. Authority and Purpose

Consistent with the Financial Recovery Act 141 of 2012, the Duquesne City School District Financial Recovery Plan was issued on February 11, 2013 and implemented on April 2, 2013. On November 12, 2020, a Fourth Amendment was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and final approval granted by the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas on November 16, 2020. The Fourth Amendment is designed with visionary, strategic, and operational goals and objectives for sustainability and continuous school improvement – academically and financially – now and in the future.

Section 672-A (b) (2) of the Public School Code of Pennsylvania requires a Quarterly Report to the Secretary of Education; therefore, the Second Quarterly Progress Report for FY 2021 – 2022 – October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – is provided herein.

2. Executive Summary

The Receiver, Superintendent, and Business Manager continue to be in regular communication through Zoom meetings, emails text messages, and weekly in-person meetings. Concerted efforts for continuous school improvement of curriculum, instruction, and assessment are an integral part of the Duquesne City delivery system for educational programs and services based on a collaborative and professional working relationship among the administration, faculty, and support staff. To that end, financial sustainability, transparency, and accountability, including updates of projections as part of the Annual Budget planning and approval process, are also an integral part of continuous efforts for school improvement.

Second Quarterly Progress Report FY 2021 – 2022 Highlights

- The Health and Safety Plan for 2021 – 2022 continues in full effect with no significant changes or amendments. Even though the Supreme Court ruled against the mask mandate issued by the acting Secretary of Health, the Superintendent and Health & Safety Reopening Committee recommended that the School District remain in mitigation phase 3, which is mandatory masking. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, noting that Allegheny County is still in a substantial phase of active cases and transmissions, the Receiver gave written approval to mandate masks for the School District through December, 2021.
- The Administration reports no COVID positive testing cases for December among students and staff. The School District continues to follow all CDC, Pennsylvania DOH, and Allegheny County Department of Health requirements, social distancing, and reporting of cases to Health Department officials.
- The Duquesne City School District (DCSD) operates pre-kindergarten through seventh grade at the Duquesne Education Center (DES), noting that the Pennsylvania Department of Education, School Services Division, officially approved the 7th Grade Reconfiguration Plan on July 21, 2021. The new school year for students began with a smooth transition for all Pre-K-7 grade students.

- The primary goal of the Duquesne Education Center is to be recognized as a “turnaround school” and a model for rebuilding educational programs, services, and activities in a financially distressed school district.
- Student enrollment at DES as of December 31 was 408, reflecting the continued impact of the pandemic. Elementary ELL student enrollment is 39.
- Efforts continue to improve curriculum and instruction at DES. Details of these efforts are outlined in respective sections of this report marked Regular Education and Special Education.
- Current secondary enrollment of Duquesne resident students at West Mifflin and East Allegheny is 288.
- Annual tuition to be paid by Duquesne for students attending schools elsewhere in 2021 – 2022 is now projected to be \$9,788,004.
- Current charter school enrollment K-12 is 223.
- Continued efforts are being made to bring students back to Duquesne from charter schools, based on the Marketing Recruitment and Strategy Plan for 2021 – 2022.
- There were no unpaid or contested invoices or debt service obligations during the Second Quarter. However, three invoices received were questioned, researched, and resolved for payment approval at the January 25, 2022 Receiver Business Meeting. All payroll, benefit expenditures, and tuition payments were made in a timely manner.
- The DCSD partnership continues with the University of Virginia, supported by the PA Department of Education and designed to promote school turnaround. The District is participating in the University of Virginia (UVA) Partners in Educational Leadership program, Accelerate. This component provides professional development to sustain progress and to continue incorporating the 90 day plans based on “turnaround school” principles.
- The GESA renovation project work, under the auspices of the McClure Group, began in May 2021 and was substantially completed by September 30, 2021. Using approximately \$59,750 from the building renovation contingency fund, two new condenser units were purchased to support food service cooler and freezer operations.

3. Supplemental Information

The DCSD website, dukecitysd.org, provides a historical summary of the School District's severe financial recovery status, its receivership, and criteria for exiting recovery status. Also, The Financial Recovery Plan, as amended, and Quarterly Progress Reports are posted for the general public.

4. Regular Education – Student Enrollment

Recent historic and current DES enrollments are displayed on the following table.

Duquesne Elementary School
 Student Enrollment
 December 31, 2021

| Grade > | Pre-K | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
|------------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Sept 2018 | 32 | 60 | 45 | 44 | 53 | 38 | 37 | 59 | - | 368 |
| Dec 2018 | 31 | 58 | 43 | 47 | 52 | 35 | 37 | 60 | - | 363 |
| Mar 2019 | 30 | 58 | 43 | 47 | 52 | 35 | 37 | 60 | - | 363 |
| Jun 2019 | 30 | 58 | 54 | 53 | 58 | 39 | 42 | 55 | - | 389 |
| Sept 2019 | 41 | 62 | 60 | 55 | 55 | 57 | 42 | 47 | - | 419 |
| Dec 2019 | 42 | 62 | 58 | 55 | 47 | 55 | 43 | 44 | - | 406 |
| March 2020 | 42 | 65 | 58 | 53 | 51 | 57 | 43 | 48 | - | 417 |
| June 2020 | 42 | 65 | 58 | 53 | 51 | 58 | 43 | 48 | - | 418 |
| Sept 2020 | 13 | 54 | 61 | 51 | 47 | 55 | 52 | 42 | - | 375 |
| Dec 2020 | 12 | 51 | 54 | 46 | 43 | 53 | 51 | 39 | - | 349 |
| March 2021 | 12 | 51 | 55 | 47 | 43 | 52 | 53 | 40 | - | 353 |
| June 2021 | 13 | 51 | 57 | 48 | 44 | 53 | 53 | 41 | - | 360 |
| Sept 2021 | 15 | 54 | 54 | 58 | 49 | 46 | 51 | 55 | 43 | 425 |
| Dec 2021 | 14 | 49 | 51 | 57 | 48 | 43 | 49 | 52 | 45 | 408 |

5. Regular Education – Sections, Class Size, and ESL Data

The following tabulation reflects current regular education sections and average class size at each grade level.

Duquesne Elementary School
 Regular Education Sections, Class Size, and ESL Enrollment
 December 31, 2021

| Grade | Pre-K | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
|----------------|-------|----|----|------|------|----|----|------|------|-------|
| Sections | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 22 |
| Per Class Avg. | 15 | 18 | 18 | 19.3 | 24.5 | 23 | 17 | 18.3 | 21.5 | 19.4 |
| Total by Grade | 14 | 49 | 51 | 57 | 48 | 43 | 49 | 52 | 45 | 408 |
| ESL by Grade | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 39 |

6. Average Student Attendance

The following chart reflects two years of attendance, including attendance in the virtual instructional model as indicated by * which indicates partial online instruction. The Duquesne City School District faculty, with the support of the Administration, continues to ensure that each and every student is accounted for during both in-person and virtual instruction. Students who report connectivity issues are assisted by members of the administrative team to resolve those issues.

Duquesne City School District
 Average Student Attendance
 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

| Month | Day Count | Avg. Monthly % Present | Avg. % Absent | Avg. % Excused | Avg. % Unexcused | Avg. % Unlawful |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Aug 2020 | Online 9 | 91.32 | 8.68 | 1 | 26.77 | 0 |
| Sept 2020 | Online 21 | 88 | 12 | 1.61 | 34.76 | 0 |
| Oct 2020 | *22 | 89.58 | 10.42 | 1.63 | 30.59 | 0 |
| Nov 2020 | *21 | 87.05 | 12.95 | 5.8 | 28.52 | 0 |
| Dec 2020 | *20 | 87.77 | 12.23 | 2.07 | 26.55 | 0 |
| Jan 2021 | *21 | 90.72 | 9.28 | 3.76 | 22.04 | 0 |
| Feb 2021 | *20 | 91.17 | 8.83 | 3.45 | 23.39 | 0 |
| Mar 2021 | 23 | 90.48 | 9.52 | 2.97 | 25.86 | 0 |
| April 2021 | 22 | 87.24 | 12.76 | 5.88 | 29.59 | 0 |
| May 2021 | 21 | 87.55 | 12.45 | 4.9 | 32.33 | 0 |
| June 2021 | 3 | 87.96 | 12.04 | 0 | 33 | 0 |
| 2020-21 TOTAL | 207 | 90.41 | 9.59 | 5.18 | 32.63 | 0 |
| Sept 2021 | 18 | 89.2 | 10.8 | 11.61 | 13.88 | 0 |
| Dec 2021 | 22 | 91.57 | 8.42 | 7 | 11.91 | 0 |

**partial online instruction*

7. Significant Changes

Due to a few larger families moving out of the School District, the DES student enrollment decreased from 425 to 408. Noting these student withdrawals, Kindergarten yielded the most significant change from 54 students in the First Quarter enrolled to 49 students enrolled in the Second Quarter.

8. Student Enrichment Programs

The Boys and Girls Club partnership continues for our Duquesne City students; however, currently there is a participation wait-list. The partnership leaders are in the process of hiring more staff so that students on the wait-list can be enrolled in the program.

Boys & Girls Club – 34 students enrolled (Grades 1- 7)

Uplift Center – 20 students identified (Grades 4, 5, 6)

Oasis Tutoring: Inactive. (Will re-visit for 2022-2023) (Grades PK-3)

Collaboration continues with Eat n’ Park and the United Way to provide food to the families and community members of Duquesne, including back packs of food for students who qualify on the weekends.

9. State Monitoring

Please refer to #11.

10. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology

A. Curricular Changes

Grades K-7 have continued using the iREADY benchmark assessment and personalized instruction for reading in addition to mathematics. Students engage in remediation and enrichment practices for at least 60 minutes weekly. Teachers have the opportunity to provide direct, individualized instruction to students on specific skills and standards that students have scored below proficiency. These instructional materials allow teachers to deliver on-level instruction while providing intervention and enrichment to meet the needs of students.

Kindergarten through 7th grade students took their fall Common Assessments in November. Teachers analyzed data and retaught grade level standards that were not mastered by students. The common Assessments are aligned to School District Curriculum and the Pennsylvania Instructional Framework.

In the fall semester, 7th grade students participated in three elective courses. Computer Concepts, Project STEM, and a foreign language were daily classes that all 7th grade students experienced. The spring semester will include Band, 2D Studio Art, and Game Design for 7th grade students.

B. Professional Development

Professional development for the staff of Duquesne City School District is occurring in multiple content areas with a large emphasis on math instruction in all grade levels. Teachers continued sessions through Carnegie Learning (grades PK-2 and 6-7 math) as well as the National Math and Science Initiative (grades 3-5 ELA, math and Science, and grades 6-7 ELA and Science). These sessions focused on laying the foundation for effective instruction in core content areas and the unpacking of standards. Additionally, K-2 teachers received professional development for creating math activities that allow students to facilitate their own learning.

PLC opportunities are provided twice weekly for teachers to plan, unpack standards, and align classroom tasks to eligible content and the PA Core Standards. Additionally, teachers have the opportunity to meet weekly about student performance and individual student needs. School level SAP and IST teams are available on these days to track and share appropriate interventions.

The School District continues its partnership with Communities in Schools to provide more intense SEL strategies and tactics for students and staff on a regular basis throughout the new school year. A Career Exploration Specialist has been provided office space in the Duquesne Education Center. ESSER funds will support this initiative.

The School District is participating in the next chapter of the University of Virginia (UVA) Partners in Educational Leadership. The new component – Accelerate – provides professional development throughout the school year to sustain academic progress and to continue

incorporating the 90 day plans based on “turnaround school” principles. The Superintendent, Director of Curriculum, and Building Principal participated in a virtual professional development session in November for intensive sessions related to sustainability. The next professional development session will be scheduled between January and March, noting the School District is waiting to hear from UVA on the final dates.

The Superintendent of Schools is participating in the Western PA Learning 2025 Alliance sponsored by the AASA in cooperation with the Grable Foundation, Pittsburgh, via monthly Zoom meetings. As well, the Superintendent is participating in Leadership Pittsburgh during the 2021-2022 school year. Leadership Pittsburgh has monthly sessions, with the next session in January.

The Superintendent of Schools has been working collaboratively with Clairton and Penn Hills superintendents for professional development with Carnegie Learning. Use of ESSER funding will focus on standards alignment, learning how to scaffold for enrichment as well as remediation and best practices of pedagogy to address learning loss due to the pandemic. Duquesne, Clairton and Penn Hills will be focusing on grade 6-8 Math to address the Algebra concepts for the Algebra I Keystone exam. Duquesne and Clairton will partner together for grades K-2 for a Math segment in understanding numbers and number sense to gain a better foundation in math for later years.

11. Special Education Services

A. Special Education

The Special Education consultant engaged in a conference call with Mrs. Tyann Neal, BSE compliance officer, in November regarding two students in out-of-district placements. These conference calls occur periodically to ensure federal IDEA compliances.

The IEP process and re-evaluation process for all special education students continue throughout the school year. IEP's are reviewed at least annually and all IEP's are current. Re-evaluations occur every three years as triennial evaluations, unless the student (s) has an intellectual disability then the evaluation occurs every two years.

B. Student Enrichment Programs

Extended School Year program processes for identifying students who are eligible are currently underway through IEP reviews. The ESY program will take place during July, 2022 at Duquesne Elementary School.

C. State Monitoring

There were no state monitoring sessions scheduled.

D. Gifted

DES has one identified gifted student and there are quarterly meetings with the parents, teachers and special education consultant to review gifted goals and specially designed instruction.

E. PASA Testing

DES has 5 students who are eligible to take the Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment test. The testing window goes well into the spring; two DES test administrators will administer the tests to eligible students.

F. Professional Development

The Special Education consultant conducted department meetings with special education teachers during the second quarter. Topics included compliance and timelines, PASA eligibility, and ESY eligibility. The school psychologist addressed testing and required documentation.

12. Student Services

A. IST/DSAP Data

IST

Total Student referred = 47

Cases Closed = 29

Cases Currently Active = 21

Yearly IST = 58

Yearly Closed = 33

DSAP

Total students referred = 5

Cases closed = 1

Cases currently active = 15

B. McKinney-Vento Summary

School District personnel are transporting all accounted for McKinney-Vento families daily to and from school. All primary parents of families experiencing homeless have been given the opportunity to utilize the Duquesne Family Center, Duquesne City School District, and AIU resources depending on their specific needs.

13. Other Significant Activities

There was no Education Advisory Council meeting scheduled during the Second Quarter.

The Receiver participated in the Quarterly Receiver and Chief Recovery Officer (CRO) Meeting with PDE officials and financial recovery partners. Topics included, but were not limited to, an

Overview of Statewide Support of Support and Office for Safe Schools; Federal Programs and ESSER Funds; and Updates from Receivers, CRO's, and Financial Partners.

The Receiver and Samantha Snyder, Esq, Legal Services, Department of Education, had a discussion regarding Act 141 of 2012 and the requirement for a Receiver Advisory Committee. Clarification was provided to the statute, requirements, and structure of the Committee which has the purpose of providing recommendations and feedback to the Chief Recovery Officer or Receiver on the development and implementation of the Financial Recovery Plan.

The Receiver participated in a December Microsoft Team meeting with Dr. David Volkman, Ms. Lori Graham, and Samantha Snyder, Esq. Discussion items included 8th Grade Duquesne Planning and Curriculum; 9th Grade West Mifflin Academy; AIU Business Services Contract; the Receiver Advisory Committee; and Superintendent Consultant Services. The Receiver provided an administrative summary related to planning and curriculum in the areas of Transition; Materials; Course Catalog Adjustments; Staffing; Special Education; Classroom Arrangements; Athletics; eSports; and Arts Guild. At the request of the Department of Education, the School District provided additional follow-up information.

14. Financial Recovery Plan

The Financial Recovery Act 141 of 2012, Fourth Amendment, was approved for the Duquesne City School District by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and final approval granted by the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas on November 16, 2020. The Fourth Amendment is designed with visionary, strategic, and operational goals and objectives for sustainability and for continuous school improvement – academically and financially – now and in the future.

The 2020-2021 Board Resolution by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, titled **Advocating a Change in the Established State Tuition, Act 141, 24 P.S. Education § 16-1607 (b) (4) Formula**, remains at the forefront of internal discussions. The Resolution which brings attention to the increasing costs and seriousness of the negative financial effect of student tuition expenditures paid on behalf of Duquesne students. The Resolution was distributed to state legislators representing Duquesne City School District, including a follow-up discussion with State Representatives Austin Davis and Nick Pisciotto. A strategy is being developed as to the best way to address the increasing student tuition costs with East Allegheny and West Mifflin Area School Districts.

The 2021-2022 Board Resolution by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, titled **A Resolution for Sound Fiscal Management and Accountability** was approved. The purpose of the Resolution is to reinforce the School District's plan for a new 5-year financial projection of revenues, expenditures, and debt service; and further, to study the impactful nature of ESSER funding to ensure valuable financial projections, analysis, and discussions among Duquesne City School District stakeholders. The intent is to provide a clear message for financial sustainability, transparency, shared responsibility, and accountability, including updates of projections as part of the Annual Budget planning and approval process.

In addition to previously awarded CARES Act grants of \$496,700 (ESSER, net of nonpublic share) and \$151,690 (PCCD), the District expects to receive approximately \$2,381,000 in additional funds through “ESSER II” as a result of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act) passed in December of 2020 and approximately \$4,822,000 via “ESSER III” authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act) of 2021. These funds will be implemented over a multi-year period through 2024 to maintain existing educational service levels, provide resources to ensure the health and safety of staff, and to address learning loss as a result of the pandemic. The budgeting and planning process for the use of these funds is basically complete and the ESSER II grant application has been submitted.

Now that the Annual Financial Report and the local Audit are finalized, the Receiver, Superintendent, and Business Manager will be participating in meetings with Public Financial Management (PFM) to review and develop a new 5-year financial plan. A meeting is to be scheduled in the near future.

15. Budget and Finance

The implementation of the 2021–2022 General Fund Budget commenced on July 1st and continued through the Second Quarter. There have been no unpaid or contested invoices or debt service obligations during the quarter. However, three outstanding invoices for real estate tax collection services by the City of Duquesne were questioned by the School District, researched by the Business Manager, and resolved by the District Solicitor for payment at the January 25, 2022 Receiver Business Meeting. In effect, the issues have been resolved. All payroll, benefit expenditures and tuition payments have been made on time.

The return of 7th grade students was originally expected to result in a modest net savings of approximately \$20,000 in the first year, given the need for up-front investment in curriculum materials, furniture, electronic devices, and professional development. However, a reduction in marginal costs due to the hiring of fewer new teachers than originally anticipated has modified the projected first-year savings to approximately \$250,000.

Five (5) professional staff, two (2) 50% positions, one (1) administrator, and seven (7) paraprofessional staff furloughs were avoided thanks to ESSER funding. Monitoring and evaluating of positions will be continuous throughout the school year to meet the changing needs of the School District.

The following General Fund Balance Analysis is based on audited year-end results for 2020- 2021. Due to cost saving measures and additional revenues, primarily from federal stimulus packages, the 2020 – 2021 budgeted deficit of nearly \$2.5M was reduced to approximately \$1.5M. The General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2021 was \$1,017,081.

16. General Fund Balance Analysis

**Duquesne City School District
 General Fund
 Balance Analysis
 June 30, 2021**

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Non-spendable | | |
| Pre-paid | \$142,377 | |
| Other | - | |
| Total non-spendable | | \$142,377 |
| Restricted | | - |
| Committed | | - |
| | | |
| Assigned for extraordinary educational needs | \$500,000 | |
| Total Assigned | | \$500,000 |
| Unassigned | | \$374,704 |
| Total fund balance as of June 30, 2020 (audited) | | \$2,537,744 |
| Surplus (deficit) for FY 2020-2021 | | (\$1,520,663) |
| Total fund balance as of June 30, 2021 (audited) | | \$1,017,081 |

17. Bonds and Notes Payable

A summary of bonds and notes payable is shown on the following table. Due to the restructuring of existing debt and the issuance of new debt, this table has been updated. While outstanding debt has increased, net debt service expense for the 2021-22 school year was reduced by \$288,049 (25.3%) which will assist the District's cash flow in the near-term future.

**Bonds and Notes
 Payable
 December 31, 2021**

| Fiscal Year Ending <i>June 30</i> | Bonds Payable | Notes Payable | Total Bonds and Notes Payable |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2012* | \$14,124,167 | 0 | \$14,124,167 |
| 2013* | 13,173,333 | 0 | 13,173,333 |
| 2014* | 9,272,501 | \$1,000,000 | 10,272,501 |
| 2015* | 6,616,667 | 2,335,000 | 8,951,667 |
| 2016* | 6,110,883 | 1,500,000 | 7,610,883 |
| 2017* | 5,590,000 | 1,000,000 | 6,590,000 |
| 2018* | 5,054,167 | 1,000,000 | 6,054,167 |
| 2019* | 4,503,333 | 850,000 | 5,353,333 |
| 2020* | 3,122,500 | 790,000 | 3,912,500 |
| 2021** | 11,661,667 | 730,000 | 12,391,667 |

Duquesne City School District
 Quarterly Progress Report
 January 19, 2022

| Fiscal Year Ending <i>June 30</i> | Bonds Payable | Notes Payable | Total Bonds and Notes Payable |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2022** | 10,980,834 | 665,000 | 11,645,834 |
| 2023** | 10,935,000 | 0 | 10,935,000 |
| 2024** | 10,319,167 | 0 | 10,319,167 |
| 2025** | \$9,803,334 | 0 | \$9,803,334 |

* Audited financial statements

** Projected

18. Receiving Schools, Tuition Enrollments, and Projected Costs

Tuition for students attending school elsewhere continues to be a major financial management challenge for DCSD. Current student tuition enrollments are tabulated below. The chart also compares the list of enrollments to the prior Quarter's totals to give some perspective on student enrollment trends.

**Duquesne City School District
 Tuition Enrollment
 December 31, 2021**

| Receiving Schools | Grades | Students September 30 | Students December 31 | Projected 2021-2022 Tuition |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| West Mifflin Area School District | 8- 12 | 271 | 273 | \$4,089,902 |
| East Allegheny School District | 8 - 12 | 15 | 15 | 224,675 |
| Charter schools, regular education | K - 6 | 115 | 118 | 1,860,148 |
| Charter schools, special education | K - 6 | 26 | 29 | 1,120,696 |
| Charter schools, regular education | 7 - 12 | 50 | 51 | 803,962 |
| Charter schools, special education | 7 - 12 | 25 | 25 | 966,117 |
| Special Education schools | K - 12 | 17 | 17 | 723,314 |
| Other schools | K - 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | | 519 | 528 | \$9,788,004 |

Changes in individual tuition enrollments in the categories of receiving schools during the First Quarter can be seen by comparing enrollments from September 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021 in

the table above. Enrollment figures for West Mifflin were provided as of October 1, 2021. West Mifflin will not monitor enrollment changes throughout the year, but instead will invoice the School District based upon enrollment of 273 students for the first three quarters and complete a reconciliation at the end of FY 2021-2022. To date, East Allegheny has not invoiced the School District, and the enrollment figure is an estimate based upon year-end enrollment, less graduating seniors.

It should also be noted that the table above includes Allegheny Intermediate Unit special education classroom tuition, whereas the tuition schedule on the Annual Financial Report does not include these costs.

The annual tuition rate for DCSD students who attend school at West Mifflin Area and East Allegheny is \$14,978.36 for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Tuition was calculated by PDE and communicated to the District, with the District given an opportunity for comment. The tuition rate formula continues to be an ever-growing financial burden for the District due to the fact that it will never remain flat or decrease, but will grow by at least the District's Act I Index (4.9% in 2021-22, growing to 5.6% in 2022-23.) In the current year, Duquesne City School District will pay \$190,000 more than it did in 2020-21 for 270 students. Raising taxes to the Act I Index still fails to cover one-third of that annual increase.

A significant financial challenge facing the District continues to be the rising cost of charter school tuition. Legislative remedies are needed that address accountability to control the quality and cost of these programs. It should be noted that the Receiver, acting as the Board of Education, adopted a Board Resolution on school funding reform for charter schools.

The annual tuition rate originally budgeted for each non-special education charter school student for 2021-22 was \$14,647.98 based on actual, calculated rates from the 2020-21 school year. For each special education student who attends a charter school, the original budgeted annual tuition was \$34,601.28. Actual charter school rates, as calculated on the PDE-363, are significantly higher in FY 2021-2022. The nonspecial education charter school tuition rate is \$15,763.97 (8% higher than budget). The special education charter school tuition rate is \$38,644.69 (12% higher than budgeted). These rates were calculated at higher levels than expected due to a lower 2020-2021 ADM total relative to 2019-2020. The District continues to face an unrepresentative special education calculation due to the nature of the formula assuming a 16% special education population. Because the District's special education population is appreciably higher, the formula incorrectly divides total special education expenditures by a smaller number of students than are actually enrolled at Duquesne.

Enrollments of DCSD students in charter schools at key months over the last several years are depicted below. Total charter school enrollment is down by (1) one student, compared to December 2020.

19. Charter School Enrollments

**Duquesne City School District
 Charter School Enrollments
 December 31, 2021**

| Month | Year | Elementary | Secondary | Total Enrollment |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| September | 2018 | 152 | 51 | 203 |
| December | 2018 | 156 | 52 | 208 |
| March | 2019 | 154 | 56 | 210 |
| June | 2019 | 135 | 78 | 213 |
| September | 2019 | 109 | 95 | 204 |
| December | 2019 | 112 | 98 | 210 |
| March | 2020 | 128 | 73 | 201 |
| June | 2020 | 127 | 72 | 199 |
| September | 2020 | 137 | 87 | 224 |
| December | 2020 | 141 | 83 | 224 |
| March | 2021 | 141 | 84 | 225 |
| June | 2021 | 135 | 79 | 214 |
| September | 2021 | 141 | 75 | 216 |
| December | 2021 | 147 | 76 | 223 |

20. Duquesne City Education Foundation and Other Foundation Grants

The Duquesne City Education Foundation elected officers for 2021-2022. The Foundation has been notified that the Internal Revenue Service has received its submission of documents for final approval of 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit status. To date, as the IRS review is underway, the Foundation has not received any other requests for information.

A Grable Foundation grant for \$60,000 has been approved for Rebuilding 7th and 8th Grades. This grant will support the efforts with Community in Schools to address Social and Emotional Learning through PBIS and to connect the school and the greater community through the Parent Cafés initiative.

A Grable Foundation grant for \$50,000 has been approved for a Duquesne Craftsman and Arts Guild. This grant will provide extended learning opportunities in Digital Art, Ceramics, Photography and Design. The purpose is to connect students with job aspirations and ideas for higher education and careers.

Dick’s Sporting Goods Foundation grant for \$5,000 has been approved to purchase new athletic uniforms and equipment for the 2022-2023 school year.

21. Human Resources – Personnel /Staffing Assignments

Settlements and other Personnel Actions

There were no settlements entered into during the Second Quarter.

Personnel / Staffing Assignments

The following chart presents a summary of staffing at the DCSD as of December 31, 2021.

Parentheses indicate changes from the September 30, 2021 data.

**Duquesne City School District
 2021 - 2022 Staffing Summary
 December 31, 2021**

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------------------|---|
| Professional staff (+1.5) | 41.5 | Administrators | 4 |
| Instructional support staff (+1) | 24 | Coordinators and supervisors | 3 |
| Other support staff | 13.5 | Confidential exempt staff | 3 |

1. Staffing changes reflect resignations, replacements, and new hires to meet the changing needs of the School District:
 - Following two teacher resignations, two new special education teachers were hired.
 - Following one paraprofessional resigning, one new paraprofessional was hired.
 - Following two PCA resignations, three new PCA’s were hired to meet student needs.

2. Negotiations with the Duquesne Education Support Professionals Association is an on-going process. No other negotiation sessions are scheduled at this time; however, it was mutually agreed on July 1, 2021 to extend the terms and conditions of the current contract, anticipating that negotiation sessions will be scheduled in the near future.

3. Negotiations with the Duquesne Education Association will begin in January, 2022. It was mutually agreed to have an initial “handshake” meeting via Zoom on January 7, 2022 with representatives of the School District, PSEA/DEA, and State Mediation Services.

4. Part-time consultants are utilized to assist in the following areas: special education administration (Keystone Consulting) and communications coordination (Sarah McCluan, AIU 3). The District maintains a three-year contractual agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide business management services (Aaron Hassett). The business office consultant will retire, effective January 30, with no plans for a replacement.

22. Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

The following Board Policies and Administrative Regulations were approved at the December Receiver Business Meeting:

New and Revised Policies

1. R02 Meetings of the Receiver with the School Board and the Public
2. 101.2 Educational Equity (new)
3. 146.1 Trauma Informed Approach (new)
4. 203 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
5. 203.1 HIV
6. 203.2 Pediculosis - Head Lice (new)
7. 218.1 Weapons
8. 218.3 Terroristic Threats (new)
9. 224 Care of School Property
10. 236.1 Threat Assessment (new)
11. 351 Drug Free Workplace
12. 704 Property Maintenance
13. 706 Property Records
14. 711 Naming Rights (new)
15. 808 Food Services
16. 822 Automated External Defibrillator / Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
17. 832 District-Wide Educational Equity (new)
18. 833 Approved Commercial Advertising (new)

Administrative Regulations

1. 236-AR-0 Student Assistance Program
2. 236.1-AR-0 Threat Assessment Intake Form
3. 236.1-AR-1 Threat Assessment Checklist
4. 236.1-AR-2 Individualized Management Plan and Re-Entry Process
5. 246-AR-0 Nutritional Education and Promotion
6. 246-AR-1 Physical Activity
7. 246-AR-2 Physical Education
8. 246-AR-3 Fundraisers
9. 246-AR-4 Letter to Parents/Guardians / In-School Birthday Celebrations
10. 246-AR-5 School-based Activities
11. 246-AR-6 Safe Routes to School
12. 246-AR-7 Wellness / Healthy School Environment
13. 246-AR-8 Marketing Plans for School
14. 246-AR-9 Vending Machines
15. 825-AR-0 State Mandate Waivers

23. Facilities and Property Services – Stadium, Maintenance, and School Security & Safety

A. Field and Stadium Project

The Superintendent of Schools has been engaged in regular conference calls with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation about a potential Stadium renovation project. The Superintendent has met periodically with ELA Sports, a design firm, to provide visionary drawings of a stadium complex. The “mark-up” drawings have been completed and the Superintendent has a three-year phase-in plan with estimated costs. A Case for Support document has been completed and the process of an ambitious community-wide/regional fundraising campaign will begin in the near future.

B. Maintenance

The GESA renovation project work, under the auspices of the McClure Group, was substantially completed by September 30, 2021. Using approximately \$59,750 from the contingency fund, two new condenser units were purchased for replacement of old condensers which support kitchen coolers and freezers.

The Director of Facilities and Maintenance Technician received service and maintenance training from the McClure Group for all new HVAC systems.

The Stadium locker rooms and equipment have been winterized and secured for winter season.

The annual gymnasium bleacher inspection was conducted and passed without any safety concerns. It was recommended that the gymnasium bleachers be replaced eventually in the future.

The annual auditorium curtain inspection was conducted and passed without any safety concerns or immediate needs of attention.

C. School Security & Safety

The Health and Safety Plan for 2021 – 2022 is in full effect with no significant changes or amendments. The Administration reports that there were twelve (12) COVID positive testing cases among students and staff for the Second Quarter. The School District continues to follow all health and safety protocols regarding the COVID pandemic. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, noting that Allegheny County remains in a substantial phase of active cases and transmissions, the Receiver gave written approval to mandate masks through the end of December, 2021.

In cooperation with UPMC, the School District sponsored a November Vaccination Clinic and another clinic is planned for January 2022.

3M Solar Control Window Tinting will apply security film to 24 ground level windows and 18 door windows.

Dobil Laboratories conducted a review of security cameras for maintenance/software updates, upgrades from analog to digital, and installation of new, additional cameras. Maintenance upgrades were made for certain intercoms between the office and classrooms.

Advent Communications is addressing cellular receiving issues throughout the school building with a proposal to install a cellular booster to ensure improved communications for urgent alerts and messages for administration, faculty, and staff.

Campus Life has been contacted to schedule additional in-depth Active shooter training for teacher in-service training at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

The School District is seeking additional information for the Pennsylvania State Police, Security Office Division, to conduct a building threat assessment by the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Team (RVAT).

24. Governance and Administration

Dr. Sue A. Mariani, Chief School Administrator, is supervised by Dr. William H. Kerr, who was appointed Receiver, effective April 1, 2021. Dr. Kerr reports to the Duquesne City Board of School Directors, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas (ACCCP). Dr. Kerr reports to Secretary of Education Noe Ortega via Dr. David Volkman, Special Advisor to the Secretary, and Judge Alan Hertzberg.

The Duquesne City Board of School Directors, with whom the administration meets in executive session at every Receiver Business Meeting, consists of the following members:

1. Board President DeWayne Tucker
2. Board Vice President Calvin Harris
3. School Director Denise Brownfield
4. School Director Candice Butler
5. School Director Burton Comensky
6. School Director Laura Elmore
7. School director Sonya Gooden
8. School Director Rosia Reid
9. School Director Cedric Robertson

Elected members of the Duquesne City Board of School Directors participated in two Receiver Business Meetings during the Second Quarter (October 26 and December 7). A Special Meeting for Board Reorganization was held on December 7 and officers were elected for 2021-2022. All three meetings included 7 elected Board members participating.

25. Next Report

The next Quarterly Recovery Plan Progress Report will cover the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022, January 1 through March 31, 2022. That report is expected to be filed in April 2022.

26. Acknowledgements

The following individuals contributed to this report:

- William H. Kerr, Ed.D., Receiver
- Sue A. Mariani, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
- Aaron Hassett, Business Manager, BSBA (AIU Service Agreement)
- Jamie Schmidt, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Celeste Rudge, M. Ed., Director of Literacy and Innovation
- Joseph Merhaut, Ed.D., Special Education Consultant (Keystone Consulting)
- Eric Harper, M.Ed., Principal
- George Little, MSW, Assistant Principal
- Brian Stowell, MBA, Attendance Improvement Coordinator, Act 44 Safety and Security Officer, and Facilities Director
- Crystal Irdi, AAS, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent / Board Secretary / RTK