

**The Duquesne City School District
300 Kennedy Avenue
Duquesne, PA 15110**

**Recovery Plan
Quarterly Progress Report**

January 15, 2021

Purpose

This report updates progress on the Duquesne City School District Recovery Plan, which was issued on February 11, 2013 and implemented on April 2, 2013. Section 672-A(b)(2) of the Public School Code of Pennsylvania requires this report. The period covered is the second quarter of fiscal year 2020-21 – October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The previous quarterly progress report in the series is dated October 15, 2020.

Executive Summary

Several highlights from the second quarter of the 2020-2021 school year follow:

- Recovery Plan implementation continues as amended.
- The Duquesne City School District (DCSD) continues to operate pre-kindergarten through sixth grade at the Duquesne Elementary School (DES). However, the school year started with online instruction due to the pandemic. In-person instruction began on October 26, with approximately 70% of the students in attendance. Reports of positive COVID cases prompted the return to full online instruction on December 14, with in-person instruction commencing again on January 4.
- Operation of DES is planned for the foreseeable future.
- Student enrollment at DES at the end of December was 349, a reduction of 69 from the year-end figures in June, reflecting continued impact of the pandemic. Forty-four of the 69 are from pre-K (30) and K (14), in part a reflection of parents/guardians not enrolling their children in the virtual program with which we started the year. EL students were reported to number 57. See page 3.
- Efforts continue to improve curriculum and instruction at DES. Details of these efforts are outlined in the section of this report marked *Education*. See page 3.
- Current secondary enrollment of Duquesne resident students at West Mifflin and East Allegheny is 334, two less than reported in September 2020. See page 11.
- Annual tuition to be paid by Duquesne for students attending school elsewhere in 2020 - 2021 is projected to be \$10,035,904, an increase of 5.6% compared to the January 2020 estimate. See page 11.
- Current charter school enrollment in Kindergarten through grade 12 is 224, an increase of 25 from June 2020. The secondary increase accounts for 15 of the additional 25. See page 12.

- Continued efforts are being made to bring students back to Duquesne from charter schools. Much of this effort is currently via social media due to the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. It is anticipated that this effort will expand by the summer of 2021.
- There were no unpaid or contested invoices or debt service obligations during the quarter, and all payroll, benefit expenditures and tuition payments were made in a timely manner.
- The DCSD partnership with the University of Virginia, supported by the PA Department of Education and designed to promote school turnaround, was adjusted reflecting the temporary restrictions on travel and social distancing. July and November sessions were virtual. The next and final meeting as a group will be the Mid-Year Retreat in January, to be conducted virtually, and all of the Cabinet will be participating.
- The Fourth Amendment to the Recovery Plan was provisionally approved by PDE on November 12, followed by approval by Senior Judge Judith Friedman from the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas on Monday November 16. The Fourth Amendment is designed to move the District into the future.
- With the retirement of Senior Judge Judith Friedman on December 31, Judge Alan Hertzberg assumed the supervisory role for the District. Arrangements are underway to update Judge Hertzberg on the District situation.
- The ESCO/GESA proposal from the McClure Group, which was the option chosen from the feasibility study, is nearing final contract language. A bond issue to fund the project will be presented to the elected board for approval in a properly advertised special meeting on January 7, 2021. It is anticipated that work on the building will be completed during the summer of 2021.

Supplemental Information

Please see the DCSD website, dukecitysd.org, for an historical summary of the school district's severe financial recovery status, its receivership and criteria for exiting recovery status. Quarterly Recovery Plan Progress Reports and the Amendments are also available there.

Implementation Narrative

Information on Recovery Plan implementation is set forth in the following three sections of this report:

1. Education (page 3)
2. Finance (page 8)
3. Governance and Administration (page 14)

Notes:

The Receiver, CRO, and Superintendent have been and continue to be in regular communication through Zoom meetings, emails, and text messages during the pandemic restrictions. Concerted efforts for continuous assessment and improvement of the Duquesne educational delivery system are continuously being made.

Education

Recent historic and current DES enrollments are displayed on the following table. Enrollment decreases since the July Quarterly Report are primarily from the pre-K and K groups and are in part reflective of the consequences of opening school virtually. Parents/guardians reported a reluctance to enroll their children in a virtual setting.

**Duquesne Elementary School
 Student Enrollment
 December 31, 2020**

Grade >	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Sep 2015	24	56	48	50	59	39	36	40	352
Dec 2015	24	59	45	45	62	38	36	40	349
Mar 2016	27	60	46	45	58	39	36	37	348
Jun 2016	26	57	48	43	59	41	37	39	350
Sept 2016	23	50	45	42	35	52	39	34	320
Dec 2016	26	51	43	41	33	54	42	34	324
Mar 2017	29	54	44	40	33	58	42	35	335
Jun 2017	26	53	47	40	34	57	43	36	336
Sept 2017	29	39	47	46	42	35	52	41	331
Dec 2017	29	46	51	49	39	40	56	45	355
Mar 2018	30	48	54	52	42	41	60	46	373
Jun 2018	30	48	56	53	40	42	58	46	373
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

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

**Duquesne Elementary School
 Regular Education Sections and Class Size
 December 31, 2020**

Grade	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Sections	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	22
Average	6	17	18	15.3	14.3	17.7	17	19.5	15.9

Attendance

The following chart reflects two years of attendance, including attendance in the virtual instructional model from March 16, 2020 through October 23, 2020, then both virtual and in-person attendance for October 26 through December 11, and virtual again from December 14 until the holiday break.

**Duquesne City School District
 Average Student Attendance
 2019-20 and 2020-21**

Month	Day Count	Avg. Monthly % Present	Avg. % Absent	Avg. % Excused	Avg. % Unexcused	Avg. % Unlawful
Aug 2019-20	8	92.93	7.07	9.43	10.43	0
Sept	20	93.62	6.38	7.02	9.57	0
Oct	22	91.03	8.97	9.75	12.86	0
Nov	18	90.03	9.97	10.3	14.22	0
Dec	14	90.79	9.21	7.28	14.92	0
Jan	18	92.67	7.33	7.63	9.44	0
Feb	18	93.77	6.23	5.66	8.8	0
March	10	90.59	9.41	7.28	14.54	0
April	online					
May	online					
June	online	87.94	12.06	-	-	-
Totals	180	91.49	8.51	8.04	11.85	0
Aug 2020-21	Online 9	91.32	8.68	1	26.77	0
Sept	Online 21	88	12	1.61	34.76	0
Oct	Partial online 22	89.58	10.42	1.63	30.59	0
Nov	21	87.05	12.95	5.8	28.52	0
Dec	Partial online 20	87.77	12.23	2.07	26.55	0

The teaching staff at Duquesne city school district, with the support of the administrative team, continue 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.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology

Curricular Changes - 2020-2021 School Year, Q2

Kindergarten through 3rd grade students and teachers are continuing to use the ARC Core reading program that was implemented last school year. ARC offers digital components to assist in virtual and remote learning and support students' literacy instruction with online reading materials at each student's instructional level. The program offers our teachers cultivated classroom libraries, thematic inquiry units, and teacher-led student conferencing to accelerate student growth and academic performance that is able to be implemented continuously so that students do not experience a break in instruction due to the COVID pandemic.

All grades K-6 are using READY math for core math instruction as well as the iREADY math program for math enrichment and remediation. All students took the iREADY beginning of the year diagnostic assessment to determine a baseline for instruction this academic year and have been engaged in their "my path" learning opportunities as instruction is customized to each student. This platform can be accessed in school or remotely so that students have continual access to math instruction and learning. The next benchmark will be given in January 2021.

Students in grades K-6 are using Success Maker to enrich and remediate their skills in reading. This is our third and final year using this online platform and we will begin piloting iREADY reading in January with two separate grade levels. Success Maker has provided continued instruction for students throughout the changes in remote and in-person instruction.

Teachers in grades 3-6 have been utilizing new science and social studies materials that are aligned to PA academic standards for departmentalized grades. Lesson plans and activities are aligned weekly with academic standards

Curriculum sites are being utilized weekly to unpack standards, align pacing, and develop lesson plans. The sites include curriculum maps, pacing guides, common assessments, and data trackers for ELA, Math, and Science. Teachers utilize these for data PLC's weekly as well.

Professional Development 2020-2021 School Year, Q2

Professional development (PD) for the staff of Duquesne City School District has continued to occur in multiple content areas.

Professional Learning Communities

Teachers engaged in weekly professional learning communities where they examine classroom and student level data to drive instruction. Data includes benchmark assessments, daily exit tickets, and anecdotal notes, as well as proficiency data from online programming like Success Maker and iREADY.

ELA/ARC

Teachers in grades K-3 continue to receive professional development sessions on how to access and use the ARC instructional components in a digital platform to assess and support reading learning and achievement digitally.

Math/Ready

Math teachers in grades K-6 continue to receive training for READY and iREADY. Sessions are targeted on year 2 implementation for teachers who used the program last year and new implementation for the grade levels just beginning. All teachers receive training on iREADY and how to create digital lessons that are individualized based on student need and skills and how to drive instruction based on current math data.

Master Teacher

Teachers have been engaged in courses through the Master Teacher program. Courses are assigned by district level administrators and are individualized to fit the needs of each teacher. Courses range from classroom management to character education to special education support.

ESL

The district's two ESL teachers continue to receive their monthly PD from the AIU virtually as well as work with our ESL consultant, Deborah Hioutis.

Restorative Practices

All teachers in grade PK-6 participated in a Restorative Practices professional development session from the University of Pittsburgh. This is the first year of our partnership with the University with a focus on Restorative Practices.

Special Education

There were no state visits in the second quarter.
IEP meetings continue as scheduled.

Student Services

The current numbers of students referred to IST/DSAP 10-1-20 through 12-31-20 are as follows:

IST – 10/1/20 through 12/31/20

- Total student referred = 55
- Cases closed = 18
- Cases currently Active = 37

Yearly IST – cumulative 2020-21 school year

- Total number of students referred =169
- Total number of closed student cases =116
- Total current number of active student cases = 53

DSAP

- Total students referred = 10
- Cases closed = 1
- Cases currently active = 9

As of 11-20-20 the district has utilized Eat n Park's back-pack feeding program that intentionally supports the District's McKinney-Vento population, in-district foster care population and all families in need of additional support.

Please note that a portion of these numbers reflect referrals while virtual, which we believe are somewhat lower than what we would expect in brick-and-mortar operations.

Other Significant Activities

Negotiations with the Duquesne Education Association (DEA) began on January 9, 2020 with the initial meeting of negotiating teams and the state mediator. Negotiations, which were interrupted by the pandemic regulations, continued virtually on December 3, at which time the District responded to the DEA position. Further sessions are anticipated in the next few weeks. Negotiations with the Duquesne Education Support Professionals Association (DESPA) are scheduled to begin in January 2021.

The Duquesne City Education Foundation, which will support and strengthen the Duquesne City School District through sponsored programs, projects, and activities, continues to await approval by the IRS to begin operations.

The renovation project, based on the limited building/stadium feasibility study by the McClure Group, the scope of which was limited to educational use of the building with the addition of grades 7 and 8 and a priority list of major systems updates, should be under contract by late January. Work should begin in the spring and be substantially completed by September 1, 2021.

During this quarter, the Board Policies and Procedures and the Administrative Regulations amended or adopted are as follows:

1. Policy No. 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
2. Policy No. 113.2 Behavior Support
3. Policy No. 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
4. Administrative Regulation 800-AR-1 Records Retention Schedule

Approval of both the Building Level and District Level Comprehensive Plans also took place during the quarter. In addition, participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Program was approved.

The Superintendent's plan for the opening of school, including a District-operated cyber charter school, was implemented. While enrollment in the cyber option is low, it is still a savings to the District. It is anticipated that the program will be expanded in the near future in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Waterfront Learning program. The superintendent's Reopening Health and Safety Plan was fully discussed by the Reopening Task Force and modifications were implemented as necessary.

Due to recent concerns with our contracted transportation company, the District is more closely scrutinizing reports and invoices led by the CRO and Business Manager. While reconciliation of all reports and invoices has been normal procedure, more frequent attention is now in place.

Settlements and other personnel actions

There was one settlement entered into during the second quarter. The departure of a recently employed secretary was the subject of the settlement, and there was no additional cost to the

District beyond the legal fee to create the document intended to protect the District from future actions.

The Chief Recovery Officer (CRO) was instrumental in the investigation of a personnel matter which required administrative attention. The CRO also participated in the creation of accommodations for the Speech and Language teacher when the District returned to in-person instruction.

Two MOU's were approved in the quarter, one related to using a Duquesne Education Support Personnel Association member as a substitute teacher for pre-K (she is eligible) and another to settle a grievance related to paid benefits during unpaid leave. Neither of these MOU's add additional financial consequences for the District, and the settlement regarding the benefits will result in future savings.

It is noteworthy that our elected board president, Mr. DeWayne Tucker, was presented a certificate form PSBA for serving on the board for 36 consecutive years. The CRO initiated contact with our state representative and senator, resulting in commendation letters for Mr. Tucker – Representative Austin Davis made the presentation at our virtual December 1 reorganization meeting and Senator James Brewster, who was unavailable for the meeting, had the certificate mailed to Mr. Tucker.

Finance

The implementation of the 2020–2021 General Fund Budget continued through the second quarter. There have been no unpaid or contested invoices or debt service obligations during the quarter. Furthermore, all payroll, benefit expenditures and tuition payments have been made on time.

The district's planned capital improvements to extend the life of the Duquesne Education Center will require debt issuance to fund the project. The district has engaged PFM Financial Services to serve as Municipal Advisor in the transaction and Boenning & Scattergood to serve as underwriter. The anticipated project cost will result in new debt of approximately \$10.1 million, and consideration is being given to restructuring existing debt in order to provide debt service relief in the 2021–2022 fiscal year and improve projected cash flow. The district is seeking an Intercept Agreement with the Commonwealth to secure an enhanced credit rating and favorable interest rate. Without an Intercept Agreement, the district will be unlikely to successfully access the capital markets and planned capital improvements will not be feasible.

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 additional funds through "ESSER II" as a result of the recently passed COVID relief stimulus bill. Additional details regarding the district's allocation and allowable uses of funds are expected in early 2021.

The furlough of paraprofessionals, personal care assistants, and some custodians during the first nine-week period of virtual instruction resulted in a net savings of approximately \$154,000 to the district, after considering unemployment compensation cost and the reduction in Commonwealth subsidies for FICA and PSERS expenses. All employees were recalled when school reopened on October 26. There were no furloughs during the short second closure in

December; the custodians deep-cleaned the building while students and staff were engaged in virtual instruction.

The following fund balance analysis is based on audited year-end results for 2019–2020. The 2019 –2020 deficit was \$1,898,394, a 1.4% improvement from the estimated deficit of \$1,925,000 provided in the previous quarterly report. Due to cost saving measures and grant revenues from federal stimulus packages, the 2020–2021 budgeted deficit of nearly \$2.5 million is expected to shrink but not be eliminated. The budgeted deficit would result in a June 30, 2021 fund balance of approximately \$66,000.

**Duquesne City School District
 General Fund Balance
 Fund Balance Analysis
 December 31, 2020**

Non-spendable (projected)		
Prepays	\$242,778	
Other	0	
Total non-spendable		\$242,778
Restricted		0
Committed		0
Assigned for extraordinary educational needs	\$1,000,000	
Assigned for increases in PSERS contributions	305,000	
Assigned for increases in health benefit expense	700,000	
Assigned for capital improvements	250,000	
Total Assigned		2,255,000
Unassigned		39,966
Total fund balance as of June 30, 2020 (projected)		2,537,744
Surplus (deficit) budgeted for the 2020-2021 budget		(2,471,568)
Projected fund balance as of June 30, 2021		\$66,176

Bonds and Notes Payable

A summary of bonds and notes payable is shown on the following table. There is no change from the October 15, 2020 projection in the Bonds and Notes Payable chart illustrated below. It is included for convenience of having all of the financial information readily available in this report. This section will be updated in the subsequent quarter’s report to reflect the new debt issuance and/or existing debt restructuring, if secured.

**Duquesne City School District
 Bonds and Notes Payable
 December 31, 2020**

Fiscal Year Ending	Bonds Payable	Notes Payable	Total Bonds and Notes Payable
June 30			
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	7,610,833
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**	1,706,667	730,000	2,436,667
2022**	250,833	665,000	915,833
2023**	\$215,000	\$ -	\$215,000

* Audited financial statements

** Projected

Personnel

The following chart presents a summary of staffing at the DCSD as of December 31, 2020. Parentheses indicate changes from the October report. The net change from the January 2020 report is five fewer employees.

**Duquesne City School District
 2020 - 2021 Staffing Summary
 December 31, 2020**

Professional staff (+1)	40	Administrators* (+1)	4
Instructional support staff (-3)	23	Coordinators and supervisors* (-1)	3
Other support staff (+1.5)	13	Confidential exempt staff	2

Some of the changes indicated above are the result of internal transfers. A budgeted confidential clerical position remains vacant.

On January 1, 2021, the District will officially join the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in the implementation of Oracle, a new business office software, which will ultimately be less costly than the current software used by the District.

Other significant staffing situations include:

- Anticipating four DEA maternity leaves and one DESPA maternity leave during the year
- A grievance filed in regard to the time of day of scheduled preparation time was denied and is at the Receiver level. Parties agreed to an extension until January 8 for the Receiver response.

* In addition to DCSD staff, part-time consultants have been utilized to assist in the following areas: special education administration (Keystone Consulting), business administration (James Graham), and communications coordination (Sarah McCluan). The federal programs consultant has been eliminated with the responsibilities now with in-house administration. Also, the full time Receiver, Paul J. Rach, Ed. D. and the full time Chief Recovery Officer, William H. Kerr, Ed. D., who are compensated by PDE, participated in administration and governance of the DCSD. The District maintained the contractual agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide business management services to the District for 2020 - 21 (Aaron Hassett). This contract was implemented July 1, 2018 and includes an annual opt-out provision should either entity find the situation untenable. The agreement was amended in January 2020 by both parties to address reconciliation language for year-end costs incurred by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for any additional DCSD requested business office services.

Tuition

A major aspect of financial management at DCSD is tuition for students attending school elsewhere. Current tuition enrollments are tabulated below. The chart also compares the list of enrollments to the prior quarter's totals to give some perspective on the trend data.

**Duquesne City School District
 Tuition Enrollment
 December 31, 2020**

Receiving Schools	Grades	Students Sept 30	Students Dec 31	Projected 2020-2021 Tuition
West Mifflin Area School District	7 – 12	315	313	\$4,469,233
East Allegheny School District	7 – 12	21	21	299,853
Charter schools, regular education	K – 6	106	114	1,763,184
Charter schools, special education	K – 6	31	27	883,039
Charter schools, regular education	7 – 12	62	55	850,659
Charter schools, special education	7 – 12	25	28	915,744
Special education schools	K – 12	22	24	823,952

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Other schools	K – 12	4	2	30,240
Totals		586	584	\$10,035,904

Changes in individual tuition enrollments in the categories of receiving school during the second quarter of the new year can be seen by comparing enrollments from September 30 to December 31 on the above table. Tuition enrollments remained stable in the second quarter, and while subcategories of charter school enrollments fluctuated, total charter enrollments remained the same at 224. The district will continue to monitor these figures

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 \$14,278.70 for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Tuition was calculated by PDE and communicated to the District, with the District given an opportunity for comment. If enrollments from 2020 – 2021 remain the same, this change in tuition will account for an increase of \$191,000 in tuition expense. Even though Duquesne reduced budgeted expenditures slightly for 2020-21, the tuition increased by 4.2% by formula.

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 resolution on school funding reform for charter schools.

The annual tuition rate originally budgeted for each regular education charter school student for 2020–21 was \$15,466.53 based on actual, calculated rates from the 2019–20 school year. For each special education student who attends a charter school, the original budgeted annual tuition was \$32,705.15. Charter school invoices have been paid at these rates to date, but the district expects to have updated rates based on final ADM figures for 2019-20 in advance of the subsequent quarterly report.

Enrollments of DCSD students in charter schools at key months over the last several years are depicted below. Total charter school enrollment has increased by 12.5%, which is the largest quarter over quarter increase since the beginning of the 2016–17 school year.

**Duquesne City School District
 Charter School Enrollments
 December 31, 2020**

Month	Year	Elementary	Secondary	Total Enrollment
September	2015	132	54	186
March	2016	129	60	189
June	2016	131	61	192

Month	Year	Elementary	Secondary	Total Enrollment
September	2016	172	58	230
March	2017	145	62	207
June	2017	145	58	203
September	2017	160	52	212
December	2017	162	62	224
March	2018	158	54	212
June	2018	147	51	198
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

Facilities

Building Maintenance

As was highlighted in other sections of this report, the planned renovations which are part of the GESA project are primarily related to the major building systems – notably the roof and HVAC. It has been over 20 years since these systems were installed and all have exceeded their useful lives. The HVAC system will include state-of-the-art air filtering capabilities to combat the spread of airborne viruses and other contaminants. Also included in the project are outdated lighting systems and electrical equipment, the replacement of which will improve safety, reduce maintenance and realize energy savings for the District. Finally, repairs to the physical structure - masonry repairs, preventing water infiltration, sealing air infiltration – contribute to making the building dry, safe and healthy. The bond issue repayment will meet the limits of the Fourth Amendment.

Equipment

During the second quarter the Duquesne City School District completed emergency replacement of the 23-year old domestic hot water heater as it was beyond its useful life and in need of costly repairs. The domestic hot water heater was replaced via COSTARS by 2 Patterson Kelly Hidra Natural gas Condensing 97% efficient hot water heaters with storage tanks. The tanks came with a 10-year heat exchanger warranty and a 20-year warranty on the shell of the tanks. To meet the scope of this project we also had to bring all of our sink and shower fixtures up to code by installing mixing valves on each. Also, to improve safety in the building, during this quarter Duquesne City School District had to replace its Fire Panel, 2 Enunciators, several pull stations,

and replace old smoke detectors with new ones. These replacements needed to occur as the Fire panel was also 23 years old and beyond its useful life.

Safety

The Health and Safety Plan implemented to begin the school year remains in place.

In further attention to preventing the spread of COVID and/or similar issues, the district has a bi-monthly contract with Enviromasters to keep the hand sanitizing stations full and functioning properly. The district has also had one water fountain from each floor removed and replaced with a bottle refill station; the district now has a total of 6 bottle refill stations. In addition, after an initial disinfecting spraying of the building, the entire building was resprayed prior to the return of our teaching staff on October 5.

Governance and Administration

The DCSD Superintendent of Schools is Sue A. Moyer. She is supervised by Receiver Paul J. Rach, Ed. D. Both Ms. Moyer and Dr. Rach took their respective offices on March 1, 2018. Chief Recovery Officer William H. Kerr, Ed. D. was appointed October 1, 2019 and reports to the Receiver. Dr. Rach reports to the Duquesne City Board of School Directors, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas (ACCCP). At PDE, Dr. Rach reports to Secretary of Education Noe Ortega via Special Advisor to the Secretary David W. Volkman, D. Ed. and Deputy Secretary of Education for Administration Danielle Mariano. At the ACCCP, Dr. Rach now reports to 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 Sonya Gooden
4. School Director Burton Comensky
5. School Director Laura Elmore
6. School Director Rosia Reid
7. School Director Cedric Robertson
8. School Director Maxine Thomas
9. School Director Candice Butler

Elected members of the Duquesne City Board of School Directors participated in two virtual Receiver Business Meetings in the second quarter (October 27 and December 1) and one special RBM on November 24. Participation of elected members for both the October and December regular virtual meetings was six and for the special meeting was five.

Next Report

The next quarterly Recovery Plan Progress Report will cover the third quarter of fiscal year 2020 – 2021, January 1 through March 31, 2021. That report is expected to be filed in April 2021.

Acknowledgements

The following individuals contributed to this report.

- Paul J. Rach, Ed.D., Receiver, DCSD
- William H. Kerr, Ed.D., Chief Recovery Officer, DCSD
- Sue A. Moyer, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools, DCSD
- Jamie Schmidt, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, DES
- Celeste Rudge, M. Ed., Director of Literacy and Innovation, DES
- Eric Harper, Principal, DES
- James E. Miller III, Technology Coordinator, DCSD
- Joseph Merhaut, Ed.D., Special Education Consultant (Keystone Consulting)
- James B. Graham, Business Consultant
- Aaron Hassett, Business Manager, contract with AIU
- George Little, Assistant Principal, DES
- Brian Stowell, Attendance Improvement Coordinator, Act 44 Safety and Security Officer, DES
- Crystal Irdi, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary, DCSD