

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

**Recovery Plan  
Quarterly Progress Report**

July 15, 2020

***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 fourth quarter of fiscal year 2019 - 20 – April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. The previous quarterly progress report in the series is dated April 15, 2020.

*\*It is important to note that some of the data for this report was collected on March 13 due to the mandated school closing. This data is treated as end of quarter data where necessary for purposes of this report.*

***Executive Summary***

Several highlights from the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2019 - 2020 follow:

- Recovery Plan implementation continued, as amended.
- The Duquesne City School District (DCSD) continues to operate pre-kindergarten through sixth grade at the Duquesne Elementary School (DES).
- Operation of DES is planned for the foreseeable future pending approval of the proposed Fourth Amendment.
- Student enrollment at DES at the end of June is 418, an increase of 29 students from the June 30, 2019 enrollment. This continues to be seen as a favorable trend, perhaps indicative of increased confidence of parents and guardians in DES. EL students were reported to number 52. See page 3.
- Efforts continue to improve curriculum and instruction at DES. See details in the section of this report marked *Education*, which begins on page 3.
- Current secondary enrollment of Duquesne resident students at West Mifflin and East Allegheny remained at 342, 19 more than one year ago. See page 11.
- Annual tuition to be paid by Duquesne for students attending school elsewhere in 2019 - 2020 is projected to be \$9,197,130 an increase of 3.8% compared to the October 2019 estimate. See page 11.
- Current charter school enrollment in Kindergarten through grade 12 is 199, 14 less than reported in June 2019. See pages 12 and 13.
- Continued efforts are being made to bring students back to Duquesne from charter schools.

- 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, is currently being adjusted reflecting the temporary restrictions on travel and social distancing. July sessions are rescheduled to be virtual.
- A Fourth Amendment to the Recovery Plan is prepared and will be submitted for PDE review within the next few weeks. Although mitigated by the current environment, the Fourth Amendment is designed to move the District into the future.
- A Request for Proposals was distributed this quarter to conduct a feasibility study of the building and the stadium. It will be a limited study focused on building use, priority maintenance items, and stadium repairs.

### *Supplemental Information*

Please see the DCSD website, [dukecity.org](http://dukecity.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 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. Concerted efforts for continuous assessment and improvement of the Duquesne educational delivery system are consistently being made.

The Superintendent of Schools and the administration have been working on a road map with options for the reopening of school for 2020 - 2021. There are multiple scenarios and options to take into consideration. The Superintendent will make a final recommendation before the end of July using the **PA School Reopening Task Force Report** as an integral part of the processes.

**Education**

Historic and current DES enrollments are displayed on the following table. Only one minor change in grade enrollments has occurred since previously reported figures for March 2020.

**Duquesne Elementary School  
 Student Enrollment  
 June 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
Sep 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
Sep 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
Sep 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

Enrollment remained stable from March 2020 to June 2020. Enrollment is up 29 students from June 2019, an increase of over 7%. The stability of the 2019 - 20 enrollment is encouraging as we continue to make efforts to bring students back to Duquesne from charter and private schools and keep the students we have currently enrolled.

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  
 June 30, 2020**

Grade	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Sections	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	23
Average	14	16.3	19.3	17.7	17	19.3	21.5	24	18.2

**Attendance**

The following chart reflects modest changes from the March 2020 report. Please note that March data collection ends with the school closing on March 13 and the June numbers are a compilation of the online instruction from that date through the end of school.

**Average Student Attendance**

**2019-20**

Month	Day Count	Avg. Monthly % Present	Avg. % Absent	Avg. % Excused	Avg. % Unexcused	Avg. % Unlawful
Aug	8	92.93	7.07	9.43	10.43	0
Sep	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	-	-	-
Total	128	91.49	8.51	8.04	11.85	0

**Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology**

**Curricular Changes - 2nd Semester**

*Note: It is important to recognize the actions taken by the Superintendent, Sue Moyer, when the school closure occurred in March. Rather than wait out the original two-week closure mandated by the Governor and in anticipation of a longer closure, Ms. Moyer consolidated the remaining professional development days in the 2019 - 20 calendar and provided professional development to the teaching staff in the use of online instruction during that first two weeks, thus preparing the staff for what was to come. The results of this action are reflected in the high student participation rate (85% - 90%) of our students and the relative success of our virtual instruction for the remainder of the school year.*

Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and teachers continued using the ARC Core reading program, continuing through the COVID school closure. ARC offered digital components to assist in virtual learning and support student’s literacy instruction with online reading materials at each student’s instructional level. The program offered our teachers cultivated classroom libraries, thematic inquiry units, and teacher-led student conferencing to accelerate student growth and academic performance that was able to be implemented virtually so that students did not experience a break in instruction.

Grades K-6 transitioned to using READY's digital instruction piece, iREADY, after school was closed in March. iREADY offers digital and individualized lessons that support grade level content that is introduced by the classroom teacher. This program complements and supports the non-digital materials that students were using prior to the school closure. Students in grades K-6 took the iREADY end of the year math benchmark assessment to determine yearly growth.

Students in grades K-6 continued to use Success Maker to enrich and remediate their skills in reading and math. This is the second year using this online platform. Students were able to continue using this resource during the school closure.

### **Professional Development 2019-2020 School Year, Q4**

Professional development (PD) for the staff of Duquesne City School District continued during the closure in multiple content areas. These areas included digital learning, English Language Arts (ELA), and math.

#### **Digital Learning**

All teachers had the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions on digital learning. The topics of the sessions ranged from content instruction, to online learning platforms, to parent communication. All sessions were offered through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and teachers were encouraged to attend any and all sessions that were of interest to them. Duquesne Elementary had two teachers who applied and were accepted to present a digital PD session for teachers in surrounding districts.

#### **ELA/ARC**

Teachers in grades K-3 received program specific professional development sessions on how to access and use the ARC components in a digital platform to support reading instruction during the school closure.

#### **Math/Ready**

Math teachers in grades K-6 received training via webinars for our new digital instruction piece, iReady. Sessions were targeted on how to support math instruction digitally using iReady to ensure students are learning at their instructional level and making academic growth.

#### **Curricular Practices**

Instructional coaches provided professional development and support to teachers each week in a virtual format to support and offer assistance in whatever capacity teachers needed during the school closure. Sessions mostly focused on implementing technology and various programs and tools teachers could use to enhance digital instruction.

## **ESL**

The District's two ESL teachers were able to continue receiving their monthly professional development from the AIU virtually as well as having their final session from our ESL consultant, Deborah Hioutis. Professional development was focused around WIDA scores and individual learning plans for students for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Both teachers have finished their ESL certification programs and will be applying for certification at the end of the month.

## **Special Education**

There were no state visits in the last quarter.

IEP meetings continue as scheduled.

## **Student Services**

The current number of students referred to IST and DSAP to date are as follows:

### **IST**

- 97 total students referred during virtual learning. The referrals included at-risk, attendance and academic concerns.
- 48 total students were supported and closed out.
- 49 total students remained in the queue, being supported and monitored by the IST team.
- Work packets, home visits, phone calls, outside agency supports, technical supports and distribution are just a few examples of attempted interventions and different methods the team monitors implemented. Once appropriate course work and communication are deemed consistent by the teacher, parent and IST member assigned to the specific case then the case is closed out.

### **DSAP**

- No additional numbers for the final quarter of the school year.
- 8 students remained on our DSAP agenda at the beginning of our closure.
- 5 were closed out during the final quarter of the school year.
- 3 remain on the Agenda as students on the radar continue to receive extensive behavior / academic supports at the beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year.

## **Other**

### ***Significant Activities***

Negotiations with the Duquesne Education Association (DEA) began on January 9 with the initial meeting of negotiating teams. After having to postpone the second planned session because of the pandemic, the District, having received the initial proposal from the DEA, proposed the negotiations be postponed indefinitely and status quo be maintained until the financial situation caused by the pandemic becomes more definitive. The DEA countered with a suggestion that we simply delay negotiations and maintain status quo. The District accepted that suggestion. Negotiations will continue as circumstances allow by whatever medium is agreed upon by the parties.

The Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors of the Duquesne City School District, approved the formation of the Duquesne City Education Foundation, which will support and strengthen the Duquesne City School District through sponsored programs, projects, and activities. The Superintendent, Administrators, and Solicitor were authorized to take all actions necessary to properly form the nonprofit and obtain 501(c) (3) tax exemption status under the Internal Revenue Code. Payment of all fees and expenses in formation of the nonprofit and obtaining 501(c) (3) tax exemption status was authorized. The way is now clear for the application to be submitted to the state. The initial Board of Directors of the Duquesne City Education Foundation was appointed by the Receiver and have accepted their appointments.

A request for Proposals for a limited building / stadium feasibility study was distributed in this quarter. A contract for the feasibility study for the building and the stadium is currently being negotiated. The vendor, McClure Group, was selected after virtual interviews with the three finalists. The scope of the study is limited to education use of the building with the addition of grades 7 and 8, a priority list of maintenance needs in the building, and needed repairs to the stadium.

The addition of the Chief Recovery Officer has provided the opportunity for the Receiver, Chief Recovery Officer and the Superintendent to plan more expansively for the future of the District. Among the areas of attention are the facilities, a Fourth Amendment to the Recovery Plan, updating of the District policies, and planning for the COVID – 19 issues based on the **PA School Reopening Task Force Report**.

During this quarter, the Receiver, acting as the Board of Education, adopted the following new or revised board policies:

- Policy 006.1 Use of Teleconferencing at Meetings via Electronic Communications
- Policy 202.1 Student Eligibility of Nonresident District Staff
- Policy 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Policy 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- Policy 805.2 School Security Personnel

***Settlements and other personnel actions***

There was one settlement entered into during the fourth quarter. Although there was no financial impact, the District entered into a settlement agreement with the retiring elementary secretary to prevent future actions on her behalf.

Several grievances from the Duquesne Education Association (DEA) and the Duquesne Education Support Personnel Association (DESPA) are moving through the contractual steps. The DEA and the District had reached agreement that grievances would be put in abeyance until normalcy is achieved, but the length of the closure prompted both parties to activate the grievances and continue to process them through the contractual steps. The DEA has moved three grievances to arbitration while the DESPA grievance is at the Receiver level.

The Superintendent initiated planning for the creation of a District operated cyber charter school. Several circumstances prompted her interest in the project. The mandated closure due to the pandemic, the resulting online instruction, and the possibility of parents / guardians keeping their children at home for instruction were foremost among the consideration. Another is finance, with the possibility of significant savings in tuition costs by operating the K-6 in-house and the 7-12 program in partnership with Waterfront Learning, a program offered by the AIU. It is fully expected that the District cyber charter opportunity will be available to our community for the 2020 - 21 school year.

***Finance***

The implementation of the 2019 – 2020 General Fund Budget has continued through the fourth 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.

Title I and Tile II realized a slight increase in funding that was applied to salaries. Pre-K Counts provided an additional \$75,000 in funding to accommodate nine more student slots for 2019 - 20 only. Both budgets required a budget revision.

Two other items of significance bear inclusion in this report. First, the School District has received a PCCD grant for \$151,690 for improvements to safety and security. And secondly the Superintendent and Administration are working on the federal CARES budget, in the amount of approximately \$530,000, and identifying expenditures based on allowable uses.

The following fund balance analysis is based on preliminarily projected year-end results for 2019 – 2020. The 2019 – 2020 deficit is anticipated to be \$1,925,000, resulting in an estimated June 30, 2020 fund balance of \$2,500,000. With the 2020 – 2021 budgeted deficit, fund balance is projected to be approximately \$40,000 as of June 30, 2021.



**Duquesne City School District  
 General Fund Balance  
 Fund Balance Analysis**

**June 30, 2019**

Non-spendable (projected)		
Prepays	\$110,000	
Other	0	
Total non-spendable		\$110,000
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	816,717	
Assigned for capital improvements	250,000	
Total Assigned		2,371,717
Unassigned		30,097
Total fund balance as of June 30, 2020 (projected)		2,511,814
Surplus (deficit) budgeted for the 2020-2021 budget		(2,471,568)
Projected fund balance as of June 30, 2021		\$40,246

**Bonds and Notes Payable**

A summary of bonds and notes payable is shown on the following table. There is no change from the July 2019 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.

**Duquesne City School District  
 Bonds and Notes Payable**

**June 30, 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	7,610,883
2017*	5,590,000	1,000,000	6,590,000
2018*	5,054,167	1,000,000	6,054,167

Duquesne City School District  
 Quarterly Progress Report  
 July 15, 2020

Fiscal Year Ending	Bonds Payable	Notes Payable	Total Bonds and Notes Payable
June 30			
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 June 30, 2020.

**Duquesne City School District  
 2019 - 2020 Staffing Summary**

**June 30, 2020**

Professional Staff	41.5	Administrators*	3
Instructional support staff	27	Coordinators and supervisors*	4
Other support staff	11.5	Confidential exempt staff	2

Act 93 personnel, Superintendent of Schools, and contract employees received an increase of 3% in compensation effective July 1, 2020 for the 2020 - 2021 school term. The teachers' contract will proceed as status quo as noted earlier in this report and the support staff enters the last year of their current contract.

In other personnel matters, the music teacher retired effective June 30, 2020. The position will be filled. Several other teachers will see their instructional roles change for the 2020 - 2021. All contracted employees will be retained for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

An Early Retirement Incentive proposal for DEA members with certain eligibility terms and conditions was explored and ultimately implemented with a deadline for an irrevocable letter of resignation for retirement purposes due July 15, 2020.

In June a new elementary secretary began employment as a replacement for a retiree. Additional support staff positions, which will be filled, include a custodian, a central office clerk, and a maintenance person.

Service agreements for the business consultant and PIMS coordinator were renewed for 2020 - 2021. Other 2020 - 2021 service contract agreements were approved for continuation of

educational programs, services, and activities with “not to exceed budgeted expenditures” for budget and financial safeguards.

\* 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 plan 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 additionally requested business office services.

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  
 June 30, 2020**

Receiving Schools	Grades	Students	Students	Projected 2019-2020 Tuition
		March 31	June 30	
West Mifflin Area School District	7 – 12	319	319	\$4,371,311
East Allegheny School District	7 – 12	24	23	243,873
Charter schools, regular education	K – 6	104	103	1,593,052
Charter schools, special education	K – 6	24	24	784,924
Charter schools, regular education	7 – 12	51	50	773,326
Charter schools, special education	7 – 12	22	22	719,513
Special education schools	K – 12	18	18	653,984
Other schools	K – 12	4	4	57,147
<b>Totals</b>		<b>566</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>\$9,197,130</b>

Changes in individual tuition enrollments in the categories of receiving school during the fourth quarter can be seen by comparing enrollments from March 30 to June 30 on the above table. There were few changes in enrollments, essentially due to the closure. However, the District did receive notice of two withdrawals.

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 was \$13,703.17 for the 2019 - 2020 school year. Tuition was calculated by PDE and communicated to the District, with the District given an opportunity for comment. An updated enrollment count was not provided by West Mifflin Area School District in advance of this report. Updated enrollment data for East Allegheny School District was available and reflected a slight net change.

One of the most significant financial challenges facing the district is 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 2019 – 20 was \$13,774.19 based on actual, calculated rates in 2018 – 19 school year. For each special education student who attends a charter school, the original budgeted annual tuition was \$32,857.06. The realized regular education rate has been set at \$15,466.53, an increase of 12.3%. This tuition increase will cause incremental charter school expenditures of approximately \$277,500 attributed to rate alone as compared to the 2018 – 19 school year. The realized special education rate has been set at \$32,705.15, a decrease of 0.5%. This tuition decrease will result in savings of approximately \$7,000 attributable to rate as compared to the prior school year.

Enrollments of DCSD students in charter schools at key months over the last several years are depicted below. Total charter school enrollment is at its lowest June level since June of 2018, while total in-district enrollment is more than 12.1% higher over that same timeframe. This continues to reflect the District’s efforts in the “Bring Your Kids Home” campaign.

### Duquesne City School District Charter School Enrollments

**June 30, 2020**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Total Enrollment</b>
September	2015	132	54	186
March	2016	129	60	189
June	2016	131	61	192
September	2016	172	58	230
March	2017	145	62	207

Duquesne City School District  
 Quarterly Progress Report  
 July 15, 2020

<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Total Enrollment</b>
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

***Facilities***

For the fourth quarter of the 2019 - 2020 school year, the school was closed by state mandate due to the COVID19 pandemic. During the closure, the custodial staff deep cleaned and sanitized the entire facility. Prior to the thorough cleaning, the custodial staff was provided training from Steratore (our custodial supplies vendor) on how to properly clean and sanitize. The custodial staff also received training during the quarter on how to properly use the new Kubota tractor, as well as all related safety procedures and guidelines. The building chiller was transitioned from winter to summer: this process must be done manually twice a year. The domestic hot water heater and boilers are in need of service very soon. The school truck needed a replacement motor and harness for the salt spreader. This quarter, three walkthroughs occurred for the Feasibility Study. The three companies that went on the walkthroughs were HHS DR, Thompson & Associates, and McClure Group. McClure was selected as the vendor for the feasibility study and negotiations on a final contract are in progress.

A lease agreement is being finalized with the Duquesne / West Mifflin Boys Girls Club of Southwestern Pennsylvania for use of the Duquesne Education Center, including specific guidelines for facility use, for before and after school programs for students for a rental price of \$1.00 for 2020 - 2021. The contract may be renewed for additional years based on further review and considerations. It is anticipated that this agreement will save the District approximately \$125,000 - \$175,000 per year in expenditures by replacing the District operated after school programs.

***Equipment***

No major expenditures were required in the fourth quarter. Regular, day-to-day maintenance activities continued. The District is currently utilizing outside contractors for this work.

### ***Safety***

Superintendent Moyer presented the annual 2019 - 2020 Act 44 Safety and Security Report prepared by Brian Stowell, Safety and Security Coordinator, to the Board and Administration in Executive Session, June 30, 2020.

### ***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 Pedro A. Rivera via Executive Deputy Secretary of Education David W. Volkman, D. Ed. and Deputy Secretary of Education for Administration Debbie Reeves (Note – Ms. Reeves retired June 30 and has been replaced by Danielle Mariano). At the ACCCP, Dr. Rach reports to Senior Judge Judith A. Friedman. 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

Members of the Duquesne City Board of School Directors participated in two virtual Receiver Business Meetings in the fourth quarter (May 12 and June 30). Attendance of elected members for the May virtual meeting was seven and for the June session was seven initially until one board member dropped off due to illness. In a special meeting convened during a recess of the RBM on June 30, the elected board approved the recommended millage rate, which maintained the current rate without an increase in the tax levy. Also, on June 30 the Receiver approved the 2020 - 2021 Duquesne City School District Education Budget and the 2020 - 2021 Steel Center Career and Technical Education Combined School Budgets, including the Southeast Special School Budget.

***Next Report***

The next quarterly Recovery Plan Progress Report will cover the first quarter of fiscal year 2020 – 2021, July 1 through September 30, 2020. That report is expected to be filed in October.

***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, M.Ed., 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, Social Services Coordinator, DES
- Brian Stowell, Attendance Improvement Coordinator, Act 44 Safety and Security Officer, DES
- Crystal Irdi, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary, DCSD