

Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of the Board of Education
Community Unit School District No. 4, Champaign County, Illinois
Mellon Administrative Center, 703 S. New Street, Champaign, Illinois
July 17, 2007 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President David Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:34 p.m.

Board Members Present

Arlene Blank, Kristine Chalifoux, Susan Grey, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, David Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Nathaniel Banks

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Arthur Culver, Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd, Assistant Superintendent Michael McFarland, Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas, Administrator Joe Davis

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

Approval of Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. Administrative appointments were moved from the Consent Agenda.

Reports

Long-Range Facilities & Infrastructure Plan

An overall discussion was held regarding implementing a facility planning group. The group will look at growth, needs, and educational and community value of the future of our schools. The plan includes developing a timeline; creating a base committee consisting of 20 people; creating two focus groups, each consisting of 10-15 people to look at facilities and the educational environment; conducting a demographic study; addressing Consent Decree issues; long-term planning; developing a long-range plan that will be good for 20 years; conducting community forums; publicizing; involving realtors, attorneys, community leaders, new and upcoming leaders, students, teachers, city, parents, and colleges.

Budget

Board member Greg Novak made the following comments:

- expressed concerns regarding a payment to Futterman & Howard in the amount of approximately \$319,658
- emphasized that the district needs to continue controlling expenditures
- expressed concerns regarding adding positions and then needing to cut back
- expressed his desire for the district to hire library clerks
- commended the administration on CESP negotiations

Board member Arlene Blank stated that she did not feel that CU4 should provide the monetary support in the amount of approximately \$60,000 requested by the CU Schools Foundation.

Stratton After-School Child Care Program

Director Dedrick Martin made the following comments:

- met with B.T. Washington and Stratton
- plans to conduct another meeting & will invite Child Care Resource Services staff
- sent letters regarding fee increase to students at both schools
- certified teachers develop and write the instructional plans

Board members emphasized the importance of notifying parents when significant changes to the program will be made.

Action Agenda

Search & Seizures – Drug Detection Dogs

Proposed Board of Education Policies (ATTENDANCE: Assignment to Schools; Residence; RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES – Search & Seizure)

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the following proposed policies and procedures. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Director Judy Wiegand shared the proposed policies and procedures that represent the continued effort to update the District's Policy and Procedures Manual.

Policy 705.06 (ATTENDANCE: Assignment to Schools) was revised to:

- 1) Indicate the correct title of the administrator overseeing the policy
- 2) Reflect changes in policy due to the implementation of the middle school cluster model
- 3) Allow revocation of a transfer for disciplinary or attendance reasons
- 4) Allow the Superintendent to consider program needs and racial balance in determining transfer approval

Policy 705.07 (ATTENDANCE: Residence) was revised to:

- 1) Indicate the correct title of the administrator overseeing the policy
- 2) Correct the title of the Homeless Assistance Act and state law

Procedure 705.07R (ATTENDANCE: Residence) was revised to:

- 1) Indicate the correct title of the administrator overseeing the procedure

Procedure 710.08R (RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Search and Seizure) was revised to:

- 1) Allow school administrators to conduct random searches by drug-detection dogs during school hours

Affidavit for Temporary Transfer of Custody/Control – Residency Questionnaire

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the Affidavit for Temporary Transfer of Custody/Control—Residency Questionnaire. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Assistant Superintendent Michael McFarland provided a brief presentation regarding the updated form which will streamline the registration process. Using the District's current Power of Attorney and Consent to Custody Form has led, on several occasions, to students being able to register in Champaign Unit #4 illegally. Advice on how to better screen families to ensure proper residency was provided by Attorney Brian Braun, and he drafted the Affidavit for Temporary Transfer of Custody/Control—Residency Questionnaire. His legal opinion follows, in part:

Pupil residency is governed in Illinois by a School Code provision that requires school districts to charge nonresident pupils per capita tuition "in an amount not exceeding 110% of the per capita cost of maintaining the schools of the district for the preceding school year" (105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a). The statute that follows (10-20.12b) sets forth the manner in which residency determinations are to be made. It provides in pertinent part:

- (1) The residence of a person who has legal custody of a pupil is deemed to be the residence of the pupil.
- (2) "Legal custody" means one of the following:
 - (i) Custody exercised by a natural or adoptive parent with whom the pupil resides.
 - (ii) Custody granted by order of a court of competent jurisdiction to a person with whom the pupil resides for reasons other than to have access to the educational programs of the district.
 - (iii) Custody exercised under a statutory short-term guardianship, provided that within 60 days of the pupil's enrollment a court order is entered that establishes a permanent guardianship and grants custody to a person with whom the pupil resides for reasons other than to have access to the educational programs of the district.
 - (iv) Custody exercised by an adult caretaker relative who is receiving aid under the Illinois Public Aid Code for the pupil who resides with that adult caretaker relative for purposes other than to have access to the educational programs of the district.
 - (v) Custody exercised by an adult who demonstrates that, in fact, he or she has assumed and exercises legal responsibility for the pupil and provides the pupil with a regular fixed night-time abode for purposes other than to have access to the educational programs of the district.

School officials should observe that in any instance where a non-biological or non-custodial "parent" or proposed guardian asserts custody of a child, the school district potentially suffers legal hardship when it makes decisions without careful inquiry as to the actual facts driving the custody matter. The registering official may have resolved the problem to his or her satisfaction, but may leave all kinds of legal issues in the wake of the registering decision. School officials should be concerned about consent to provide medical treatment in the event of a medical emergency, school disciplinary agreements (notice of hearing and ability to consent to a placement decision in the instance of an expulsion proceeding) and there are a myriad of other circumstances when the absence of a parent with legal standing will matter.

There may be very limited circumstances under which a school district might have use for a transfer of custody affidavit, but these circumstances would most likely arise in extreme hardship

situations (no parental caregiver is available or the recognized parental caregiver is temporarily incapacitated) and only after a thorough investigation of the circumstances. Sometimes there are better alternatives than alleged change of custody (such as the involvement of State agencies.) It is not recommended that the custody affidavit be a “regular school form” to be used at the discretion of FIC officials. It should be available at the Mellon Building for use only if there is no alternative. The form should be used rarely and only after careful consideration of safer alternatives.

Making a tuition determination BEFORE a child is enrolled is critical because once the school district decides the child is properly resident and admits the child, there is no efficient means to correct an enrollment error. The statute provides a complicated scheme under which the school district might try to “expel” the child because he or she is not a resident, but this little used option is politically explosive and too complicated and time consuming to be considered a viable alternative. As a practical matter, once school officials admit a child, the child is “theirs” until the next registration opportunity (probably the beginning of the next school term.)

Being better equipped to ascertain legal residency should improve the likelihood that the tax monies being collected by Unit #4 taxpayers are going to educate legal Unit #4 residents.

Centennial High School E-Plan (Exhibit “A”)

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the Centennial High School e-plan as required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for schools in Academic Early Warning Status (AEWS). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Director Judy Wiegand provided the following information regarding the Centennial High School e-plan. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* requires all states to measure each public school's achievement and establish annual achievement targets for the state toward the goal of all students meeting or exceeding standards by SY2014. Beginning in SY2003 at 40% meets and exceeds, schools must make increasing Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets toward the goal of 100% meets and exceeds; the target for SY2005 and SY2006 was 47.5% meets and exceeds. The AYP target for SY2007 is 55% meets and exceeds. Schools not making AYP for two consecutive years are placed on the state's Watch List. Centennial High School did not make AYP for SY2005 and SY2006. A school must make AYP for two years to be removed from the Watch List. A school making AYP for one year while on the Watch List freezes the school at their current status level.

Centennial High School did not make AYP for SY2005-2006, placing the school on AEWS. In AEWS, a school must develop a School Improvement Plan (SIP) using the ISBE e-plan template, have the SIP go through a peer review, have the SIP approved by the local school board, and submit an e-plan to ISBE. In the SIP, the school is only required to address the area(s) in which the school did not make AYP on the most recent state test (PSAE for high schools, ISAT for elementary and middle schools). Centennial High School did not make AYP in SY2006 for African American students with 32.7% of students meeting or exceeding state standards in reading and 20.0% of students meeting or exceeding state standards in math. At the state level in SY2006, 33.6% of African American students met or exceeded state standards in reading and 20.8% met or exceeded state standards in math. The AYP target for SY2006 was 47.5% meets or exceeds.

Centennial High School went through an extensive District school improvement process in SY2005, as did all Champaign Unit 4 schools, which lead to the development of a two-year SIP. All schools took their SIP through a District peer review defense. Schools in AYP status at the time (i.e. Central, Edison, Dr. Howard, BTW, and Westview) had their SIPs approved by the Board on March 5, 2005. Schools are in the process of summarizing their SIP for quick reference on the District's plan-on-a-page (POAP) template, which was included in the Collaboration Plan with plaintiffs. A copy of Centennial's POAP was provided. Centennial High School completed an e-plan based on SY2006 PSAE data; the e-plan only requires schools to address areas where they did not make AYP. The Centennial e-plan went through a peer review on June 4. .

Request for Proposal – Demographic Study

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve the demographic study for Unit #4 to be completed as soon as possible in the 2008 Fiscal Year. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas shared that the District is interested in hiring a demographer to project the District's enrollment by geographic areas and by schools for the next 10 years. The information will be utilized in conjunction with past facility assessments to assist the Board of Education in implementing a Long-Range Facilities and Infrastructure Plan for Unit #4. A critical component of the plan will be the inclusion of the north side seats as stipulated by the Consent Decree. The demographic study is estimated to cost \$25,000 and has been included in the 2008 Fiscal Year Budget.

Administrative Appointments

Board member Nathaniel Banks arrived at 8:22 p.m.

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the appointments/administrative appointments as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 4. Nays 2. Abstained 1. Arlene Blank and Greg Novak voted Nay. Nathaniel Banks Abstained.

Consent Agenda

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda items:

Signature Authorizations (Exhibit "B")

The Board of Education approved the list of staff and the individual yet to be hired as authorized co-signatures on respective banking accounts for the district for fiscal year 2007-08. (The one yet to be hired secretary will be brought back to the Board for retroactive approval.) By direction of the Board, two signatures are required on all checks written against checking accounts for the District.

Bills & Treasurer's Report (Exhibit "C")

The Board of Education approved the Bills and Treasurer's Report as presented.

Human Resource Changes (Exhibit “D”)

The Board of Education approved the leaves of absence, resignations and reassignments as presented.

Executive Session

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel – Employee appointments 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/2(c)(2), and Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 8:24 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 9:02 p.m.

Administrative Appointment – Dean, Centennial HS (Exhibit “E”)

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to approve Paul Ranstead as Dean of Students at Centennial High School. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Abstained 1. Greg Novak abstained.

Administrative Appointment – Dean, Columbia Center (Exhibit “F”)

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve Cynthia Keller-Higgins as Dean of Students at Columbia Center. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Student Discipline

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to expel student #694507 from Central HS for the 07/08 school year and reassigned to Columbia for violating Code #08 (Drug-Related Activities-Delivery) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the home school following the expulsion period, provided the student has completed the requirements of the alternative school. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Approved: September 17, 2007