

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  
October 15, 2007 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President David Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

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

**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**

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. The following items were pulled from the agenda: Board Request for Administrative Consideration of New/Expanded Programs/Initiatives in 2008/09; Employee Discipline Recommendation; Appointment of Grant Writer.

**Public Comment**

Suggestion was made to make meetings known to public (i.e. Foreign Language meeting, Athletic Task Force meeting).

**PTA Council**

Brian Minsker thanked Shauna Carey for speaking at the October PTA Council meeting. He also thanked the District for supporting the Chess Fest.

**Reports/Discussion**

Academic Spotlight – Content Area Literacy Instruction: Centennial & Central High Schools

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris stated that this program was initiated between Champaign Unit 4 and the University of Illinois. She introduced Dr. Julia Johnson-Connor, Director of the Center for Education in Small Urban Communities, who stated that the Center was established directly from partnership with local schools. The Center is a service, outreach, and research unit with the College of Education at the University of Illinois that focuses on enhancing teaching and learning, houses the College's professional development activities and serves as the liaison for school-university partnerships. This past summer, the Center sponsored the Chancellor's Academy 2007: Enhancing Learning Through Content Area Strategy Instruction. The five main goals of the Academy included:

- to support teachers' efforts to improve children's content area literacy learning.

- to assist district administrators in their efforts to further develop the content area literacy instructional capacity of teachers.
- to encourage increased family and community engagement that will support the efforts of teachers.
- to establish collaborative partnerships between the local public school districts and the University.
- to evaluate changes in teacher practice as a result of participation in the Chancellor's Academy.

For the first time, high school teams were invited to participate in the Academy. Through this participation, both Centennial and Central High School developed literacy plans that begin to address content area literacy. As a means to provide continued professional development, the Center provides support through teacher collaborators. The teacher collaborators, Phil Wilder and Haney Yoon (both former Unit 4 teachers), work directly with teachers in the classroom developing and modeling lessons, and providing feedback.

#### Consent Decree Update – Minority Enrollment (Honors Level)

Director Dedrick Martin shared the following information regarding minority enrollment in honors level courses. The purpose of the District's Education Equity Improvement Plan is to set forth a comprehensive framework for improving the District's educational programs and opportunities in order to "close the achievement gap" between African American and non-African American students. One of the stated objectives of this plan is to eliminate, to the greatest extent practicable, unwarranted disparities in the enrollment of minority students in Honors Level courses. In an effort to reduce these unwarranted disparities, the District has actively sought out strategies to increase the number of minorities in Honors Level courses and provide support to minority students who are in Honors Level courses.

Minority student enrollment in Honors Level courses is monitored during each year and documented in the quarterly reports. As indicated on the attached charts, the number and percentage of African American students enrolled in Honors Level courses has increased dramatically over the last six years.

#### District Report Card

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris shared the 2007 District Report Card as required by law. The following information was presented.

The State Educational Reform Act of 1985 mandates school districts to release individual school report cards to the Board of Education, taxpayers, local media, parents and the Regional Superintendent.

The District and individual school report cards now display a full presentation of data, by grade and by student subgroup. Results from the Illinois Student Achievement Test (ISAT), the Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE), and the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) are included on the District and school report cards.

Under the federal law, No Child Left behind Act (NCLB), districts and schools are required to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) by meeting certain performance benchmarks. AYP in Illinois is based on 1) the percentage of a school's or district's reading and mathematics scores that meet or exceed standards (55%); 2) 95% or above participation rate of students taking the state tests; and 3) the attendance rate of students in elementary and middle schools, and the graduation rates of students in high schools. The District's report card can be found on line [www.champaignschools.org](http://www.champaignschools.org)

Board of Education Proposed Policies/Procedures (INSTRUCTION – Education of English Language Learners/Limited English Proficient Students; DISCIPLINE – Substance Abuse - Secondary)

Dr. Judy Wiegand shared the proposed policies/procedures which represent the continued effort to update the District’s Policy and Procedures Manual.

Procedure 710.14R DISCIPLINE – Substance Abuse (Secondary)

Procedure needed to be updated to correspond with the Student Code of Conduct.

Policy 630.06 Bilingual Education

This policy was revised to more clearly define and articulate the District’s ongoing commitment to the education of English Language Learners/Limited English Proficient Students. The revision provides assurances to stakeholders about the integrity of the programs and the District’s efforts to continuously review and strengthen these programs.

2007/2008 High School Graduation Dates

Dr. Judy Wiegand provided the following information. In consultation and collaboration with the high school principals and wanting to provide students and parents with information in a timely manner, the following dates, times and locations were set for their respective high school graduations:

- Central High School (Tuesday, May 27, 2008, 6:00 pm, Krannert Center)
- Centennial High School (Tuesday, May 27, 2008, 8:00 pm, Assembly Hall)

These are the corresponding dates from the previous year. In past years, Central and Centennial switched graduation times. The principals of Central and Centennial determined that the 6:00 p.m. time best meets Central High School’s needs and the 8:00 p.m. time best meets the needs of Centennial High School. The times of graduation will not be changed next year. It is not anticipated that the dates will need to be changed, should there be additional school days needed at the end of the year due to weather emergency days. The District has paid for the rental of both facilities for this event.

Student Enrollment – First Benchmark/Fall Housing Report

Director Roger Grinnip provided data on the first benchmark/fall housing report. On September 28, 2008 the Official Benchmark Report for 2007-2008 shows that the PreK-12 enrollment in the district is 9,329. The preschool total is 316.

The following is a grade by grade comparison of the September 30, 2003, September 30, 2004, September 30, 2005, September 29, 2006, and September 28, 2007 enrollments:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>		<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
PreK	298	304	292	288	316	Sixth	713	704	696	636	623
Kindergarten	683	673	696	730	723	Seventh	647	677	690	693	619
First	687	710	667	701	722	Eighth	<u>711</u>	<u>632</u>	<u>662</u>	<u>688</u>	<u>691</u>
Second	675	693	722	690	718	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2048</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>1933</b>
Third	682	654	670	714	669	Ninth	800	866	839	796	848
Fourth	716	669	657	671	698	Tenth	731	716	774	741	694
Fifth	<u>734</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>671</u>	<u>649</u>	<u>668</u>	Eleventh	685	676	670	717	667
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>4475</b>	<b>4413</b>	<b>4375</b>	<b>4443</b>	<b>4515</b>	Twelfth	<u>674</u>	<u>698</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>628</u>	<u>672</u>
						<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2890</b>	<b>2956</b>	<b>2923</b>	<b>2882</b>	<b>2881</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>							<b>9436</b>	<b>9382</b>	<b>9346</b>	<b>9342</b>	<b>9329</b>

### Planning Discussion - Long-Range Facilities & Infrastructure Plan

Board member Kristine Chalifoux provided a brief overview on the planning process for the long-range facilities and infrastructure plan. Contacts have been made for the Visioning Committee, meetings have been held with the facilitators and various groups.

### **Consent Agenda**

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Sue Grey, 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:

### Central High School Trip to Costa Rica

The Board of Education approved Central High School's request for approval of a trip to Costa Rica. Central High School Spanish teacher Veronica Thompson will take a group of Central High School students, as well as four area students, to Costa Rica during spring break 2008. The rationale for the trip is to allow students the opportunity to experience the "tico" culture, to communicate in Spanish, and to explore the incredible sights that Costa Rica has to offer. Costa Rica stands apart from its Central American neighbors, in part, because of its long tradition of political democracy and its dedication to promoting harmony among nature, community, development, and economic growth. Central students will leave Costa Rica with a deeper understanding of the importance of nature conservation, differing eco-systems, as well as the history, language, and culture of the Costa Rican people.

Twelve adult chaperones will be accompanying approximately 32 students. All costs associated with the trip are the responsibility of the traveler. A substitute teacher, at a cost of \$75/day for two days, will be needed for Ms. Thompson.

### Signature Authorizations (Exhibit "A")

The Board of Education approved the revised listing of authorized co-signatures on respective banking accounts for the district for fiscal year 2007-08. By direction of the Board, two signatures are required on all checks written against checking accounts for the District. Approval of the revised signature authorization list is needed as the attendance center manager at Central is leaving the District.

### Board Minutes

The Board of Education approved the August 13, 2007 & September 24 & 26, 2007 Board meeting minutes as presented.

### Bills & Treasurer's Report (Exhibit "B")

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

### Human Resource Changes (Exhibit "C")

The Board of Education approved the Human Resource Changes as presented.

### **Executive Session**

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel related to staffing allocations and

the Superintendent's evaluation 120/2(c)(1), and Actual/Pending Litigation 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 9:18 p.m.

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 10:35 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

*Approved: December 10, 2007*

