

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  
December 10, 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**

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. The Change to Administrative Retirement Benefits was pulled for discussion during Closed Session.

**PTA Council**

Brian Minsker thanked Assistant Superintendent Michael McFarland for speaking at the last PTA Council meeting.

**Reports/Discussion**

Academic Spotlight – AYP & Honor Roll Awards

Assistant Superintendent Dorland Norris congratulated the schools that achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 07 school year, the schools that received Spotlight School Awards, and the schools that earned Academic Achievement Awards.

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* requires all states to measure each public school's and district's achievement and establish annual achievement targets for the state. The overarching goal is for all students to meet or exceed standards in reading and mathematics by 2014.

Each year the State will calculate a school or district's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine if students are improving their performance, based on the established annual targets. The 2007 target for achieving AYP was 55%, which was up from the 2006 standard of 47.5%. The following schools achieved AYP for the 2007 school year: Barkstall Elementary, Bottenfield Elementary, Carrie Busey Elementary, Dr. Howard Elementary, Garden Hills Elementary, Kenwood Elementary, Robeson Elementary, South Side Elementary, Stratton Elementary, B.T. Washington Elementary, Westview Elementary, Edison Middle School, and Franklin Middle School.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Northern Illinois University (NIU) recently announced the Illinois Honor Roll Schools for the 2005-2006 school year. These outstanding schools are recognized for their accomplishments in making progress toward or maintaining academic excellence.

The Spotlight Schools are high-poverty schools where high academic performance is closing the “achievement gap.” These are high-poverty, high-performing schools that achieve despite the odds. Criteria for selecting these schools are rigorous. All schools must be making AYP. At least 50% of the students are from low-income families and at least 60% must be passing the state achievement tests.

The Spotlight Schools demonstrate that low-income students and schools can show impressive academic performances. These schools know how to help all students succeed. Spotlight Schools are Carrie Busey Elementary, Dr. Howard Elementary, Kenwood Elementary, Stratton Elementary and B.T. Washington Elementary.

In 2006, Academic Improvement Awards acknowledge substantial progress at any level. These schools make significant gains in performance over three years and are recognized for changing the direction from failure to success. Criteria include an upward trend in test results, 7.5 points gain in scores above last year or 15 % over two years. While AYP is not required to earn an Academic Improvement Award, all Champaign schools named to Honor Roll achieved AYP. Champaign Schools receiving Academic Improvement Awards are Garden Hills Elementary, Dr. Howard Elementary, Westview Elementary, B.T. Washington Elementary and Edison Middle School.

#### Consent Decree Update – Special Education

Director Dedrick Martin and Director Suzanne Gibbons presented the following information regarding Special Education. The purpose of the District’s Education Equity Implementation 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 assignment of minority students to Special Education programs and to operate such programs in an educationally sound and non-discriminatory manner.

The Special Education Department of Champaign Unit 4 School District strives to provide equitable access to quality educational programming for all students who qualify for Special Education services. Access to Special Education services are aligned with both federal and state requirements. The goal is to develop life-long learners that are proficient in their abilities to access and effectively use information and vocational opportunities throughout their lifetime. Although each student identified for Special Education services is provided an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), Unit 4 strives to provide collaborative assistance and education within the regular classroom environment whenever possible and appropriate.

Staffing for Special Education is continually changing based on the number of students identified and the severity of needs for these students. These changes are generally due to the number of students with special needs moving into Unit 4. All Special Education staff are provided ongoing staff development opportunities throughout the year.

For FY08, \$13,128,080.00 of local funds is allocated for special education services. In addition, \$2,154,524.00 of federal IDEA grant funds is allotted for the support of special education services. The

combined FY08 expenditures is \$15,282,604.00. For FY07, \$12,122,316.00 of local funds was allocated for special education services. In addition, \$2,461,236.00 of federal IDEA grant funds was allotted for the support of special education services. The combined FY07 expenditures was \$14,583,552.00. An increase of \$699,052, 4.6%, in expenditures was noted between FY07 and FY08.

The Special Education Department monitors progress towards District, department, and Consent Decree goals through the Special Education Task Force (SETF), program evaluation, and quarterly reports to the Court Monitor.

Board President David Tomlinson asked that a more detailed report on special education be provided at the second Board meeting in January.

#### 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. A list of names to serve on the Visioning Committee will be finalized and presented in the near future. The Vision Committee of the Long-Range Planning Group (Great Schools, Together) met for the first time on November 28, 2007. The group reviewed goals and general operating procedures. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2007.

#### Final Evaluation – CU One-to-One Mentor Program

Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd shared information regarding the final evaluation on the CU One-to-One Mentor Program. Champaign Unit 4 and Urbana District 116 received a three-year grant from the United States Department of Education in October 2004. The purpose of the grant was to grow and develop the CU One-to-One Mentoring Program in Champaign/Urbana.

The goals of the grant included:

- Adding an additional 260 mentoring pairs in CU – **(370 new matches were added, 194 in Champaign)**
- Sustain 50% of the matches for at least 12 months – (In Champaign, **72% of matches sustained at least 12 months**)
- At least 30% of mentored youth would show improvement in an academic core subject over time – (In Champaign, **77% of youth demonstrated an improvement in at least one core subject area (science, English or math), with 17% of Champaign youth demonstrating an improvement in ALL core subject areas.** These gains were consistent across all subgroups of students.

Beth Welbes, the external evaluator for the US Department of Education grant, presented highlights from the final evaluation of the One to One Mentoring Program. Ms. Welbes has over 15 years of experience in coordinating evaluations of both community-based and school-based programs targeting prevention of adolescent health and social problems. In her role as Senior Coordinator of Research at the University of Illinois Center for Prevention Research and Development, she provides leadership in developing and executing contracts that improve data driven decision making within state and community prevention systems. Ms. Welbes is currently working on a project that uses a cost-efficiency measure of cost per person served in mentoring programs. The range for programs like C-U One-to-One Mentoring is \$158.00 - \$6400 per participant. One-to-One's cost per participant is \$162.00, which is viewed as very cost-efficient.

The cost of the yearly independent evaluation was \$10,000, which was paid for with funds from the USDE grant. This cost was for both Champaign and Urbana. The evaluation of mentoring in Unit 4 schools will be done internally, annually.

### **Action Agenda**

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the proposed policies as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

#### Proposed Board of Education Policies/Procedures

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

Policy 270.15 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS – Public Participation was revised to indicate that a member of the audience may speak to each agenda item one time unless recognized by the presiding officer.

Policy 405.06 BUDGET- Financial Support for Special Events/Opportunities was revised to indicate that the maximum amount that will be contributed to any one club, team or group will not exceed \$5,000 per year and will not exceed \$15,000 district wide.

Policy 720.14 STUDENT WELFARE – Administering Medications to Students was revised to indicate that certified and non-certified personnel are not required to administer medication to students.

Procedure 720.14R STUDENT WELFARE – Administering Medications to Student was revised to indicate that certified and non-certified personnel are not required to administer medication to students.

#### Public Hearing & Adoption of 2007 Tax Levy (Exhibit "A")

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the adoption of the proposed tax levy as stated in the "Resolution Concerning and Effecting Tax Levy for 2007" and direct the Chief Financial Officer to file the Certificate of Tax Levy with the County Clerk prior to the last Tuesday in December. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Board President Dave Tomlinson read the resolution into the minutes.

A public hearing was held at 7:58 p.m.

The Truth-in-Taxation Act requires that when a school district's proposed tax levy exceeds the previous year's levy by 5%, a public notice of such intent must be advertised. The proposed tax levy for 2007 was presented to the Board in November. The appropriate resolution of intent was approved and published in the News-Gazette as required, on Wednesday, November 28, 2007.

Comments from the general public should be heard at this time. The Certificate of Levy must be filed with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December.

The 2007 total projected tax levy is \$66,163,797. Total projected EAV is \$1,801,376,418. The levy divided by the EAV multiplied by 100 equals a projected tax rate next year of \$3.6730. This is nearly a 5.43 cent decrease over the current rate of \$3.7273.

The actual levy requested is substantially higher because EAV and the amount of new construction are only estimates today. If these amounts end up being greater than estimated, the larger levy will allow us to receive all the property taxes we are entitled.

**Public Comments:**

Scott Christianson commented that the transportation facility needs updating for safety reasons. Edward Vaughn urged the Board to get the message across to voters regarding the tax levy.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Public Hearing/Dr. Ed Fee Increase

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve a fee increase in the amount of \$100 for 2008/2009, \$150 for 2009/2010, and \$200 for 2010/2011. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6, Nays 1. Board member MacAdam voted Nay.

A public hearing was held at 8:21 p.m.

The driver's education program consists of two main components; safety (classroom instruction) and behind-the-wheel training. Classroom instruction (safety) is a required course for graduation and is offered at both high schools at no additional cost to the student. Behind-the-wheel instruction is offered before and after school hours for a fee. Currently the district charges \$50.00. This fee has been at this rate since 1996-97 when it was increased from the fee of \$33.00. An analysis of driver education costs and revenues for the previous two years (2005-06, 2006-07) was provided.

As required by Illinois School Code, the appropriate notice of public hearing was published in the News-Gazette on Saturday, December 1, 2007. Comments from the general public should be heard at this time.

This analysis indicates that for the District to break even, a fee of \$442.00 would need to be charged. This is not a reasonable expectation for our families, but an increase to help off-set the costs of the program is warranted. It was recommended that the fee for behind-the wheel instruction be gradually increased over the next five years to an amount not to exceed \$200.00. This increase is in line with the fee charged by similar districts:

- Danville (\$200.00)
- Bloomington (200.00)
- Urbana (\$200.00)
- Normal (\$200.00)
- Mahomet (\$300.00)
- private companies (i.e. M&M Driving School charges \$300).

The additional revenue would be used to upgrade the driver education equipment and would also allow the district to reallocate funds to improve academic achievement. The fee will be waived for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

**Public Comments:**

Edward Vaughn expressed his concern that this would be a large increase for families with 3 or 4 students.

Jay Huffman stated that all proceeds need to go to Drivers Ed.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:26 p.m.

Board of Education Governance Processes Agreement

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to adopt the Board of Education Governance Processes Agreement. An addendum making revisions to page 1-6 and page 1-10 will be presented for approval at the January 14 Board meeting. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Champaign Unit #4 Board of Education and the Superintendent met on September 28 & 29, 2007 and reviewed/revised the Board of Education Governance Processes Agreement. The meetings were facilitated by Dr. Richard Hunter, Professor at the University of Illinois. The Governance Processes Agreement articulates the Board's Standard Operating Procedures, Code of Conduct, Board/Superintendent Relations & Expectations, and School Board Self-Evaluation.

To be the most effective advocates for children, the Board should function as a team and promote the best interests of the school district. Adherence to the Board's Governance Processes Agreement will help the Champaign Community School District Unit #4 establish and maintain an educational system that meets the needs of all of our children.

School Interoperability Framework (SIF) (Exhibit "B")

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam to approve the School Interoperability Framework (SIF) at a cost of \$298,000 to be spread over three-years. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Director Roger Grinnip provided the following information regarding the School Interoperability Framework (SIF) which is a Data Warehouse System, reporting and portal solution that integrates data from the District's student information system and numerous student-related applications into an entirely SIF environment. The SIF Implementation Specification enables diverse applications to interact and share data efficiently, reliably, and securely regardless of the platform hosting those applications. The main points of SIF are as follows:

- Consolidation of all operational data into a single data store via the SIF industry standard.
- Streamlined administrative processes and reduced overhead through automated reporting. (integrating previously unavailable data into this reporting process)
- Cost-effective investment that maximizes district accountability and student services provided.
- Secure real-time access to powerful information to inform and improve classroom instruction.
- Web-Portal for Parent/Student Access
- Web-Portal for Administrative Access
- Single point of data entry, eliminating duplication of effort.

The total financial impact will be \$298,000 which will be spread over a three-year timeframe billed on a monthly basis as the work progresses. This was bid through the RFP process with the following results. The companies listed below responded:

CPSI (Columbia, Illinois)	\$451,400
Mizuni (Texas)	\$347,750
Integrity (Bloomington, Illinois)	\$298,000

All implementation will be monitored and evaluated as each module is put in place by the Information Technology Team which includes Roger Grinnip, Sherman Bauer, Mike Harden, Michael Marassa, Robin Styan and Amanda Seymour.

### **Consent Agenda**

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. Board Member Novak voted Nay.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda items:

#### 2007 Summer School Calendar/Programs

The Board of Education approved the 2007 Summer School Calendar/Programs as presented. The summer school programs were recommended to the Board in order to provide extended year learning opportunities for students at each level. Title I Summer School will provide acceleration assistance to K-5 students. Middle school programs, one for grades 6-8, will offer courses for students who have failed a core course, or are in need of remedial help. High school courses will include driver education and academic credit courses along with Nova NET credit recovery. Special Education will be offered for children who qualify K-12. These programs are described in more detail below:

#### **TITLE I Summer School (Grades K-5, June 9 – July 11)**

This program will provide students with five weeks of instruction, four hours a day for five days each week. The focus will be on reading, writing, and mathematics. The program will be located at Stratton Elementary School and will operate from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The summer program curriculum will include the adopted curriculum, Good Habits-Great Reading, Lucy Calkins Writing, and everyday math. In keeping with Stratton's school-wide enrichment program, activities that promote critical thinking and interest-based skill development will also be included.

Funds provided by TITLE I are estimated at \$100,000 with an additional \$0 contributed by the District for a total of \$100,000.

#### **English as a Second Language**

English as a Second Language (ESL) support will be provided for English Language Learners, grades K-5 at Stratton Elementary School. Approximately 60 bilingual education and ESL students will be served. Three bilingual education and/or ESL teachers will provide English acquisition support using the push-in and pull-out models. Students will be grouped by grade levels: K/1, 2/3, and 4/5 for ESL instruction and support. ESL students will be integrated with the Title I Summer School program and will use the Options Language Arts materials for Limited English Proficient students.

Funds provided by IEP Grant are estimated at \$0 with an additional \$5,000 from TITLE I for a total of \$5,000.

#### **Middle School Program (Grades 6-8, June 9 – July 18)**

English as a Second Language (ESL) support will be provided for English Language Learners, grades 6-8. Students will receive reading comprehension, vocabulary development, grammar, and written composition instruction along with English acquisition support using the push-in and pull-out models. ESL students will be integrated with the middle school summer school program and will use the options Language Arts materials for Limited English Proficient students.

#### **High School Academic (Grades 9-12, June 9 – July 18)**

The following courses will be offered at a rate of \$45 per semester or at no charge if the student has previously failed the course. All out-of-district students will pay \$90 per semester. Failure to reach a minimum enrollment of 18 will result in class(es) being cancelled. Additional courses may be offered to afford students the opportunity to graduate. Tuition for summer 2007 totaled \$11,660.

Funds provided by the District for high school and middle school are estimated at \$133,241.

The following classes will be held at Centennial High School again this year:

English 103, 203, 303, 304, 403, 404

Algebra I 334 (Full 6 weeks)

Geometry 434

Algebra II 531

Algebra II 534

Geography 458

World Cultures 605

U.S. History 652

Health 298

P.E.

Unified Science 441

Biology 442

Nova NET Credit Recovery

Relearn Algebra 336

**Special Education (PreK-12, June 9 – July 11)**

Individualized Education Plans (IEP’s) mandate summer programming for some students. Special Education salaries will be partially paid through a state reimbursement formula. K-5 classes will be located at Carrie Busey; 6-12 will be housed at Centennial.

Funds provided by the District are estimated at \$99,648.

**Driver Education (June 9 – August 8)**

Safety (classroom instruction) and Behind-the-Wheel classes will be offered on a tuition basis at Centennial High School. Student can enroll in both Safety and/or Behind-the-Wheel classes. The Driver Education program generated \$15,833.90 and the District received a reimbursement from the state totaling \$16,826.65 for the entire years including summer school. Total enrollment in one or both of these classes totaled 318 students in 2007. Funds provided by the District are estimated at \$53,100.

Teachers participating in the TITLE I Summer School Program are required to attend 30 hours of professional development provided by the District. Training will be offered by ISBE-approved providers and will be included in the grant budget.

Extended learning support during the summer is provided by both District and grant dollars. A summary of these expenditures are outlined below.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Tuition/Grant Funds</b>	<b>District Funds</b>
Title I Summer School	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0

ESL	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Middle/High School Program	\$133,241	\$12,000	\$133,241
Driver's Education	\$53,100	\$15,834	\$53,100
Special Education Program	\$99,648	\$0	\$99,648
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$390,989</b>	<b>\$132,834</b>	<b>\$285,989</b>

All programs have an assessment component. State-supported programs require both pre- and post-testing using a valid and reliable assessment. District-level programs require an end-of-the-program update with progress data and recommendations outlined by the site director.

CUSF Financial Support

The Board of Education approved a \$5,500 contribution to the CUSF to help offset administrative operating expenses of the Foundation for the 2007/2008 school year.

The Boards of Education of both Champaign Unit #4 and Urbana Unit #116 have traditionally supported the CUSF with an annual financial contribution of \$5,500 to help underwrite the administrative operating expenses of the Foundation. The District has received \$62,222 in grant funds from the C-U School Foundation in the last five years.

Board Minutes

The Board of Education approved the October 15 & 29, 2007 Board meeting minutes as presented.

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 Human Resource Changes as presented.

**Executive Session**

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel related to employee appointments, employments, compensation, dismissals, complaints 120/2(c)(1), Property Acquisition/Lease/Purchase 120/2(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Pending Litigation 120/2(c)(11) related to Johnson, et. al. v. Board of Education of Champaign Community Unit School District #4, Case No. 00-1349 (U.S.D.C. Central District of Illinois. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 9:10 p.m.

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 10:47 p.m.

**Open Session**

Student Discipline

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to expel student #650273 from Central High School for the remainder of the 07/08 school year and reassigned to an alternative site at the administration's discretion for violating Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) 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.

Change to Administrative Retirement Benefits (Exhibit “E”)

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve the change to administrative retirement benefits as presented. Administrators will be required to serve 7 years in the Champaign Unit 4 School District in order to be eligible to receive the 6 percent retirement incentive that was approved on June 26, 2006. The length of service requirement applies to any administrator hired after January 1, 2008. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. Board Member Novak voted Nay.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

*Board Approved: February 11, 2008*

