

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 11, 2006 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Reginald Alston, Scott Anderson, Nathaniel Banks, Arlene Blank, Margie Skirvin

Board Members Absent

Minosca Alcantara, David Tomlinson

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Arthur Culver, Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd, Interim Assistant Superintendent Patricia Lewis, Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas, Facilities/Transportation Supervisor Joe Davis

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

Approval of Agenda

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by Reginald, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. The Steering Team Evaluation of Programs and School Resource Officers were removed from the agenda for consideration at a later date. The 2007 Summer School Calendar/Programs was moved for discussion and then back to the Consent Agenda.

Recognitions

Shauna Carey was formally recognized for being selected as the Wal-Mart National Teacher of the Year. Ms. Carey of BT Washington Elementary School was selected from a pool of state winners from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. As part of the award, Shauna's school received a \$25,000 grant. She was presented with an extraordinary opportunity for staff development. The District, along with the help of community members, is supporting her in attending the International Art in Early Childhood Conference at the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia. The District presented her a plaque in recognition of her accomplishments and dedication to students. The District will also be presenting a bench to be placed near the new greenhouse that will be constructed and donated by Wal-Mart as part of the planned outdoor classroom. The District has begun the process of naming BTW's Art Room in honor of Shauna Carey.

Board member David Tomlinson arrived at 7:12 p.m.

PTA Council

Brian Minsker thanked the Superintendent for speaking at the December 7th PTA Council meeting at Westview. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak at the District's board meetings. He also recommended the involvement of elementary feeder schools from Franklin Middle School in the selection of a principal for that campus.

Board Members

Board President Margie Skirvin introduced Patricia Lewis as the Interim Superintendent for Student Services.

ReportsAcademic Spotlight – Champaign Kindergarten Program

Principal Deborah Coleman provided an update on the Early Childhood Program. The blended (early childhood special education and at-risk students in the same classroom) program annually serves more than 310 three-, four-, and five-year-old students. Several parents spoke about what the program has meant to them.

The Early Childhood Block Grant pays for the following:

\$743,612 – Salaries

\$164,285 – Benefits

\$21,711 – Purchased Services

\$29,761 – Supplies and Materials

\$5000 – Capital Outlay expenses

The last 3% cost-of-living adjustment from the state was granted for the 04-05 school year.

Since then funding has been flat at \$964,369.

Program effectiveness is assessed annually using multiple measures: parent survey, children's progress data in language, social/emotional development skills, cognitive skills, physical skills, reading and writing skills (entered into Creative Curriculum software), kindergarten transition data collected from district kindergarten staff, informal assessment of children's social skills, and Get Ready to Read Inventory scores for K-Bound students. In addition, the program participates in the state pre-kindergarten follow-up evaluation.

Public Hearing – Barack Obama Leadership Academy Charter School for Males

A public hearing was held at 7:40 p.m.

Andrea Carter spoke to the Board and the administration regarding the Charter School proposal she submitted for the District's consideration. Several parents and community members spoke in support of the Charter School. The Board was asked to consider the needs of the children instead of funds the District might lose. Questions and concerns from the Board and the administration regarding the proposal will be submitted to Andrea Carter so they can be addressed at a future Board meeting.

In the case of a proposal to establish a Charter School, members of the public, including parents, staff and students, must be given the opportunity for public input regarding the Charter School Proposal. Therefore, in order to meet the legal requirement, a Notice of Public Hearing must be publicized in the newspaper not more than 10 days nor less than 5 days before the scheduled meeting on December 11, 2006. The Notice of Public Hearing was publicized on December 4, 2006.

Consent Decree Update – Project ACCESS (Attaining College Credit and Educating Successful Scholars)

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided a brief report on Project ACCESS. The Project ACCESS summer program is a cooperative project between Eastern Illinois University (EIU),

Parkland College, and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) in our school district. The program will serve 20 – 25 sophomore AVID students. Selected students will attend a one-week, all-expense paid, on-campus experience at Eastern Illinois University July 22 – 27, 2007 where they will take a university-level sociology course. The course and its related field trips will focus on issues related to cultural diversity in Central Illinois. Participation in this program will allow each student an opportunity to earn two hours of college credit. This college credit will be put into escrow for each student and can be utilized upon future enrollment into EIU. EIU will use its own measure for assessing the success of the Project ACCESS program.

Prior to the summer experience, students and their parents/guardians will participate in a three-part series of workshops at Parkland College focusing on the college admissions process, the financial aid/scholarship application process, and transfer agreements between Parkland and EIU.

The District will utilize participants in the workshops to gauge the interest of sophomores, and select the participants. If there are not enough sophomores to fill the 25 slots, juniors will be invited to participate. EIU is producing informational brochures introducing the project. The meeting will be held at Parkland College on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The entire cost of the program will be funded by Eastern Illinois University. The District does not anticipate any additional cost for participation in Project ACCESS.

Three-Year Budget Forecast 2007-2009 (Exhibit “A”)

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief presentation regarding the three-year budget forecast of revenues and expenditures for all funds that was prepared earlier this year. The report contains many projections and assumptions and provides the District with valuable information on emerging trends that will affect its future financial condition. All financial implications identified in the three-year analysis and the District’s two major revenue sources, property taxes and general state aid was discussed thoroughly with the Board of Education.

2007 Budget Document Presentation

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented to the Board the professional budget document that will be submitted to the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) for consideration in the Meritorious Budget Award Program. The document will be reviewed by three ASBO International representatives to determine whether it meets all the criteria to be judged a Meritorious Budget. If so, there are a number of benefits that will accrue to the District which include the following: award plaque, certificate for the District’s upcoming budget, recognition in ASBO International Publications, press release sent to local newspapers/media, enhanced credibility with the community, professional recognition and lower interest rates on future debt. The cost to participate in the program is \$1,125 which was included in the 2007 Budget.

Grow Your Own Program (GYO)

Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd provided the following update regarding the Grow Your Own Program. In May 2005, the Champaign Schools Board of Education approved the Grow Your Own Program to encourage current Educational Support Personnel to obtain teaching certification to address shortage areas. Upon completion of the program, selected employees would fill one of the district’s identified shortage areas and, remain employed with the District

for a minimum of three years in exchange for payment of tuition and books by the district. The identified areas are bilingual, special education, higher level math or science, and African American (AA) teachers. A selection committee drafted the eligibility requirements, application process and participation guidelines for the program. A selection process was designed that included an application similar to the one completed by teacher candidates, and a selection committee comprised of representatives from the CFT, CESP and District administration. The District agreed to supply funding for tuition and books up to \$20,000 annually for the program. The District also agreed to work with Parkland College and area universities to utilize counseling services and financial aid for participants.

Initially, eighteen employees applied to the program. The ethnicity of the applicants was nine (9) Caucasian; six (6) African American; two (2) Asian; and one (1) Latino. All shortage areas were addressed by this group. The ethnicity of the candidates selected was four (4) Caucasian females; four (4) African American females; one (1) Asian female, and one (1) Latino male.

A maximum of \$20,000 annually was allocated. Actual costs were \$11,055 for 2003-2004; \$13,297 for 2004-2005; and \$11,541.75 for 2005-2006. Funding was minimized through the use of tuition waivers to the University of Illinois and Eastern Illinois University.

An annual evaluation of the GYO program was done in January 2006 by Doretha Simmons, Director of Human Resources. Results of the evaluation indicated that seven (7) of the ten (10) initial members were still actively participating in the program. All remaining applicants are in good academic standing. Tammie Windom was the first graduate of the GYO program in December 2005. Tammie began working as a long-term substitute for the District in January 2006. She began full-time employment in August 2006 as a cross-categorical teacher at Carrie Busey Elementary.

The GYO application process was opened again in March 2006 to fill the three (3) slots made available through resignations and graduation. Three candidates were chosen through the screening process from a pool of six applicants. The ethnicity of the three new applicants is two (2) African-American females and one (1) African American male. The three new GYO participants each have more than 60 credit hours toward teacher certification. In September 2006, a partnership between Millikin University and Champaign Unit 4 Human Resources department was established to create a cohort at Parkland University for GYO participants. Through this Professional Adult Comprehensive Education Program (PACE), three (3) AA female GYO participants will obtain teacher certification in two (2) years. One AA male participant will become a high school teacher in December 2007. The remaining original GYO participants are on a three-year track in obtaining teacher certification. The remaining participants are three (3) Caucasian females and two (2) African American females.

Action Agenda

Public Hearing & Adoption of 2006 Tax Levy (Exhibit "B")

A public hearing was held at 9:45 p.m. There were no public comments.

David Tomlinson moved, with a second by Scott Anderson, to approve the proposed tax levy adoption as stated in the "Resolution Concerning and Effecting Tax Levy for 2006" and to direct the Chief Financial Officer to file the Certificate of Tax Levy with the County Clerk prior to the

last Tuesday in December. Board President Margie Skirvin read the resolution into the minutes. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief presentation regarding the proposed tax levy. 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 2006 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 29, 2006. The Certificate of Levy must be filed with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December. The 2006 total projected levy is \$62,363,310. Total projected EAV is \$1,689,738,147. The levy divided by the EAV multiplied by 100 equals a projected tax rate next year of \$3.69. This is nearly a 14 cent decrease over the current rate of \$3.8288.

High School Course Proposals/Handbook Changes

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to approve the course proposals and handbook changes. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris presented the high school course proposals and handbook changes to the Board. Consistent with the District's focus to provide educational opportunities that are relevant and stimulating to students, the faculties of Central and Centennial High Schools recommended revisions to course offerings for the 2007-2008 school year. These changes were presented after an extensive process of curriculum evaluation by the building principals, individual departments, and counselors of both schools. The revisions include course deletions, proposals for pilots, and clarification/explanation of both general information and specific course descriptions. Once again, the handbook was revised in-house saving the expense of having a contracted service complete the book. A copy of the 2006-2007 handbook, the revisions for 2007-2008, and the proposed 2007-2008 handbook was provided for the Board's review.

Each spring, Central Office administrators and the high school principals determine staffing allocations for the next school year. The allocations are dependent on student enrollment numbers in the courses outlined in this handbook. High school courses that require summer writing will be considered for approval following the guidelines outlined in the Curriculum Development and Evaluation Guide. Funds are budgeted for summer writing. Pilot courses will be evaluated using the procedures described in the District's Curriculum Development and Evaluation Guide.

Consent Agenda

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Reginald Alston, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda items:

Donations (Wal-Mart & Computers)

The Board of Education accepted the donation in the amount of \$25,000 from Wal-Mart to B.T. Washington Elementary School as Shawna Carey was named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, and an anonymous donation of 15 computers valued at \$5,000.

2007 Summer School Calendar/Programs

The Board of Education approved the 2007 Summer School Calendar/Programs as presented. The following 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 PreK-5 students. Middle school programs, one for grades 6-8 will offer courses for students who fail 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. The summer programs are described in more detail below:

TITLE I Summer School (Grades K-5, June 11 – July 13)

This program will provide students with five weeks of instruction, four hours a day for five days each week. The focus will be solely reading, writing, and standards-based mathematics. The program will be located at Stratton Elementary and will operate from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The summer program will be supported by Harcourt Brace Reading Intervention Series in conjunction with Options Reading Skill Program. The curriculum is researched based and aligns with the current literacy initiatives, including No Child Left Behind; provides all materials necessary to implement an exciting adventure that will fully engage students in the learning process and deliver marked improvements in reading; and is based on current teaching methods that include collaboration, scaffolding, and discovery. Funds provided by TITLE I are estimated at \$111,000 with an additional \$20,000 contributed by the District for a total of \$131,100.

English as a Second Language

ESL services will serve students K-5 at Stratton Elementary School. Approximately sixty ESL/Bilingual students will be served. Three ESL teachers will teach Grades K-1, Grades 2-3, and Grades 4-5. The Options Language Arts materials for Limited English Proficient students will be used at the elementary level. The ESL students will be integrated with the TITLE I Summer School program. Funds provided by Title I are estimated at \$5,000.

Middle School Program (Grades 6-8, June 11 – July 20)

This program will provide students with six weeks of instruction, four hours a day for five days each week. The middle school program will serve approximately 90-150 students who fail a core course, are working below grade level, or need acceleration services. Reading, writing, math, and study skills will be the primary focus of the middle school program. ESL services for ESL middle school students will be provided for reading comprehension, vocabulary development, grammar and written composition. The Options Language Arts Summer School materials will be used for Grades 6-8. The program will be located at Centennial High School. Funds provided by the District are estimated at \$64,000.

Driver Education (June 11 – August 10)

Safety (classroom instruction) and Behind the Wheel classes will be offered on a tuition basis at Centennial High School. Students can enroll in both Safety and/or Behind-the-Wheel classes. The Driver Education program generated \$9,495 and the District received a reimbursement from the state totaling \$16,826.65 last summer. Total enrollment in one or both of these classes totaled 279 students in 2006. Funds provided by the District are estimated at \$31,571.57.

High School Academic (Grades 9-12, June 11 – July 27)

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 a class or classes being cancelled. Additional courses may be offered to afford students the opportunity to graduate. Tuition for summer 2006 totaled \$9,135. Funds provided by the District are estimated at \$225,000.

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 430

Plane Geometry 434

Geography 458

World Cultures 605

U.S. History 652

Health 298

Nova NET Credit Recovery

Summer Migrant Education Program

Champaign has served as a test site for high school students who needed to take portions of the Texas State Exam for the past several years. All of the students in this program are students who live outside the Champaign School District boundaries. The majority of these students resided in the Rantoul area and rode the bus in excess of one hour each way to attend the program. Since the children attending the program are not Champaign students and the program is not in a central location for the students, it was recommended that the District discontinue this program and work with other local school districts in the area to continue services in a more centralized location. This change would significantly reduce the bus travel time of students attending the program and could facilitate in an increase in the overall number of students who attend the MEP program.

Special Education (PreK-12, June 11 – July 13)

Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) mandate summer programming for some students. Special education salaries will be partially paid through a state reimbursement formula. Pre-K classes will be located at the Early Childhood Center, K-5 classes will be located at Carrie Busey; 6-12 will be housed at Centennial. Funds provided by the District are estimated at \$100,000

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 the District and grant dollars. A summary of these expenditures are outlined below.

Program	Estimated Costs	Tuition/Grant Funds	District Funds
Title I Summer School	\$131,000	\$111,000	\$20,000
ESL	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Middle School Program	\$64,000	\$0	\$64,000

Driver's Education	\$31,571	\$0	\$16,826
High School Program	\$225,000	\$0	\$225,000
Special Education Program	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Summer Migrant	\$70,266	\$70,266	\$0
Totals	\$546,571	\$116,000	\$415,826

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.

The administration will revisit providing the Summer Migrant Education Program.

Minutes – October 23, 2006 & November 13, 2006 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the 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

David Tomlinson 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 Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9). Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 10:04 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 10:25 p.m.

Student Discipline

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by Reginald Alston, to expel student #640468 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year and reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) of the Champaign Unit 4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the home school if the administration at READY and the principal at the home campus determine that the student has fulfilled the requirements of the alternative school. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to expel student #650354 from Jefferson Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year and reassignment to Columbia Middle School for violating Conduct 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 student will need to show proof of drug counseling before the student returns to the home campus. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, David Tomlinson moved, with a second by Scott Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Board Approved: January 8, 2007