

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
March 9, 2009 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President Dave Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Nathaniel Banks, Kristine Chalifoux, Sue Grey, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, Dave Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Arlene Blank

Staff Members Present

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

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

Approval of Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. Academic Spotlight – removed from agenda.

CESP

Mary Logsdon thanked the Board and Administration for the implementation of the Point of Service system in the schools.

PTA Council

Nancy Hoetker thanked Dr. George Stanhope for providing information to the Council at the March meeting regarding the gifted/enrichment programs. She announced that the PTA Council will actively promote the sales tax referendum in April, and will also advocate for the removal of the Hold Harmless provisions in the General State Aid program.

Board

Board Member Greg Novak spoke briefly about his visits to Garden Hills, Westview and Bottenfield. He also reiterated concerns regarding the tardy policy. Board President Dave Tomlinson introduced the Board candidates that were in attendance (Jeff Kohmstedt, Thomas Lockman, Victor Mullins, and Stig Lanesskog).

Reports/Discussion

Consent Decree Update – AA/EEO Audit & Report

Director Doretha Simmons shared the results of the AA/EEO Audit. The Director of Human Resources is responsible for the establishment and implementation of the audit and reporting system for Affirmative Action. The Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources/Community

Relations reviews the system on an annual basis and provides a written report to the Superintendent.

The annual audit includes the following:

1. an audit and report of current records on applicants, national labor statistics, employees selection, work force composition compared to relevant labor market, hires and building level distribution of work force,
2. a listing of names of a standing committee (composed of members of both bargaining units, parents, administrators, and community members) which reviews the records and makes recommendations to the Superintendent.

Recommendations will be incorporated into the Human Resources recruiting plan as appropriate. Staffing/Staff Development Needs (existing staff will be utilized).

Assessment/Evaluation (results of minority hiring will be evaluated annually; procedures will be revised to reflect results of the evaluation).

Operation Click

Assistant Superintendent Mike McFarland shared that a representative from Centennial and Central would speak briefly about the program. Jay Huffman, Lou Sitch and SRO Brandon Thomas spoke about the process related to the program. Operation Click is a charitable organization that was started as a partnership between the Crystal Lake Police Department, Crystal Lake Park District, Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce, and High School District 155.

Since 1998, Operation Click has been urging high school age drivers to buckle their seat belts in order to save lives. Since the program's inception, seat belt usage by teen drivers in Crystal Lake has risen from 65% compliance to 95%.

This program has been successful because generous local business owners, service clubs, and individuals have donated prizes (and funds to purchase prizes) that are awarded to students "caught" wearing their seat belts.

Operation Click solicits tax-deductible donations from area businesses and organizations and uses donations as incentives for high school teens to use their seatbelts. Students voluntarily sign contracts and compliance checks conducted to determine the percentage of students using seatbelts. If a school makes 90-94.9% compliance, one student gets a chance to win a car. If a school makes 95-100% compliance, two students get the chance to win a car. The program is administered and run by students. Presentations will be made to government/school groups such as the City Council and School Board, as well as other local service organizations.

Staffing/Staff Development Needs (each school has staff advisor; School Resource Officers will assist in soliciting donations - monetary or in-kind).

Assessment/Evaluation (quarterly compliance checks conducted at the campus).

Great School Together Update

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided a brief update regarding the Vision Committee (VC), which was led by Kristine Chalifoux, Greg Novak, Stig Lanesskog, and Elizabeth Perrachione. The *Great Schools Together* Visioning Committee worked for approximately a year to develop a community-based, long-range plan for Champaign Unit 4. This plan was presented and approved by the Board of Education in September 2008.

Superintendent Culver thanked Board members Kristine Chalifoux and Greg Novak for leading the Vision Committee process. He also thanked Patrick and Maria Thompson and all who participated in the process. The Superintendent read the Mission Statement.

The District's Strategic Plan includes a vision statement and six strategic goals in the following focus areas:

- I. Student Achievement and Well-being
Goal: Foster high academic achievement, wellness and well-being among all learners in a safe, supportive environment.
- II. Stewardship and Accountability
Goal: Align the District's priorities and resources through a community-involved planning process implemented through focused action plans with regular progress reports.
- III. Faculty and Staff Excellence
Goal: Retain, hire and support highly qualified faculty and staff that reflect our student population.
- IV. Engagement of Parents and the Community
Goal: Effectively and efficiently engage parents and other community stakeholders resulting in strong partnerships.
- V. Diversity
Goal: Leverage the strength of our diverse population to create a rich academic and social environment in each of our schools.
- VI. Facilities
Goal: Revitalize, build and maintain facilities that are safe, sustainable and allow equitable access to programming across the District.

Within each focus area is a goal, short-term, mid-term and long term actions and outcome measures. The Administration provided an update on short-term actions.

The Board of Education requested an annual update during the month of March.

Action Agenda

Increased Cost of Climate Study (Exhibit "A")

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the change in the Climate Study contract in the amount of \$21,306 in order to complete the study by June 30th. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief explanation regarding the increased cost of the Climate Study. Dr. Mark Aber also spoke about the need to add more staff to complete the study by June 30.

As part of the Consent Decree, an RFQ was sent out to various interested parties. Mark Aber, Professor at the University of Illinois, was originally awarded the contract at a cost of \$58,248. Recently the District was informed by the Court Monitoring Team that the project needed to be completed by June 30 so that the Judge would have the results available when the Consent Decree is set to expire. As a result of having to complete the study by June 30, Dr. Aber requested an additional \$21,306. The additional \$21,306 will be expended in FY09 for the Climate Study.

Timing & Costs of Projects Financed Through 1% Sales Tax Referendum

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve the increased costs of projects and provide direction as to the order of projects that should be pursued with the projected amount that will be available from the proposed 1% increase in sales tax. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided an update related to the projects financed through the 1% sales tax referendum. Having spent a significant amount of time working with the architects on the B. T. Washington and Garden Hills Projects, it became apparent that the estimated costs of the projects that the District hoped to pursue in the November Referendum are now much more expensive. There are a number of reasons for the anticipation that the costs will be significantly higher than originally estimated. While \$70 million will still allow the District to pursue the majority of the projects, it appears that some prioritization of the total list should be undertaken by the Board of Education. Architects from both firms (BLDD and OWP/P) were in attendance to discuss the new estimates with the Board of Education.

Mr. Logas provided the following information:

Possible bond issuance dates:

	Issue date – July 2009	Issue date – January 2010
Bond proceeds	\$70,000,000	\$70,000,000
Cost of issuance	- \$700,000	- \$700,000
Capitalized interest	- \$1,464,758	\$0
Available for project	\$67,835,242	\$69,300,000

With decreased sales tax revenue, can \$70 million in bonds still be issued?

1. 1% increase = \$17 million total increase – 40% of students in Champaign County - \$6.8 million annually
2. Debt service schedule shows do not need more than \$5.8 million annually
3. Continue to monitor sales tax revenues through date of issuance (January 10, 2010)
4. If conditions decline dramatically, issue less than \$70 million & thus complete less projects
5. Not over promising either in amount of bonds that can be issued or cost of projects that can be completed

Projects to be paid from Sales Tax Referendum:

	Estimated Cost
Pay off existing construction debt from Barkstall & Stratton in 2009/2010. This will save tax payer with home valued at \$150,000 about \$32 in property taxes	\$14,500,000
Pay off existing Qualified Zone Academy Bonds due in 2014, totaling \$1,964,000 of which \$500,000 is now available in fund balance. Bonds issued for the Early Childhood Center.	\$1,464,000
Add strand to Garden Hills plus improvements; rebuild BTW as new three-strand school, including architectural & CM fees. Construction to begin in 2009/2010 and completed for the 2011/2012 school year. A strand is a K-5 group of classrooms.	\$30,000,000
Pay off Garden Hills & Centennial Energy Performance contracts in 2009/2010.	\$2,867,610
Acquire land for new Central High School as soon as possible	\$2,500,000
Build new three-strand school in Savoy with construction to begin in 2011/2012 and school to open in 2010/2013. Existing Carrie Busey will be relocated to Savoy school location in 2012/2013.	\$18,000,00
Improve other elementary schools as funds become available	
Total	\$69,331,610

Sam Johnson, BLDD, and Stewart Brodsky, OWP/P, also spoke about the construction costs, competitive bidding, and the budget.

Cost of Bleacher Repairs

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve seeking bids for the replacement of the bleachers at Centennial High School. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided the following information related to the replacement of the bleachers at Centennial High School. The District obtained bids twice over the last year to determine the cost of the repair. The second bid received in January was more expensive than the first one even though the scope of the project had been decreased. Recently, the District asked Ken Nelson, Architect with Bailey Edwards, to inspect the bleachers and provide his opinion on the scope of work that is required to repair the bleachers.

Ken Nelson, Bailey Edwards, spoke briefly about the need to replace the bleachers entirely, including the press box. He also spoke about the cost of replacement.

Fortunately, the most pressing needs in the Health Life Safety Fund have been completed over the last several years. While there may be some projects that come to light over the next several years, the majority of our Health Life Safety funds can be directed at the bleacher replacement project. Annually, The District has devoted approximately \$350,000 to Health Life Safety. If the Board determines that replacement is necessary, the District will plan on financing the project over the 2010, 2011 and 2012 school years. Obviously, if other projects become necessary, the District will have to address those needs as well.

Executive Session

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, 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, staffing allocations 120/2(c)(1) and Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 9:26 p.m.

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 9:50 p.m.

Open Session

Student Discipline

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to expel student #640574 from Central High School for the remainder of the 08/09 school year and the first semester of the 09/10 school year and reassign to READY for violating Conduct Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) and Code #6 (Disobedience) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the regularly assigned school following the expulsion period provided the student has completed the requirements of the alternative school. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to expel student #610210 from Edison Middle School for the remainder of the 08/09 school year and the first semester of the 09/10 school year and reassign to READY for violating Conduct Code #31 (Acts that Endanger) and Code #34 (Weapon-Related Activities) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the regularly assigned school following the expulsion period provided the student has completed the requirements of the alternative school. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Student Assignment Plan (Exhibit "B")

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the proposed changes to the Student Assignment Plan. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided a brief presentation regarding the Student Assignment Plan. In light of the scheduled expiration of the Consent Decree in June 2009 and the Supreme Court's 2007 ruling in *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District*, the Unit 4 Administration explored the feasibility and efficacy of race neutral student assignment plans for student assignment after the expiration of the Consent Decree.

Accordingly, with the assistance of Dr. Michael Alves, Unit 4 explored alternatives for student assignment after the expiration of the Consent Decree, and has shared information with the Monitoring Team and Plaintiffs' counsel.

Dr. Alves analyzed the implications of using socioeconomic status based on free and reduced lunch eligibility in place of race, but otherwise maintaining Unit 4's current choice plan. He concluded that a socioeconomic controlled choice assignment lottery would continue to accommodate a high degree of rank-ordered school choices and that a SES lottery that was based on the actual percentage of low income and non-low income students in the lottery applicant pool would likely produce the results that are most similar to the District's race conscious kindergarten controlled choice assignment lottery. Dr. Alves also concluded that a socioeconomic controlled choice lottery will work to prevent the re-segregation of Black and non-Black students in the District's elementary schools. The key factors that appear to support this hypothesis are the distribution of Black and non-Black rank-ordered school choices and the fact that over three-quarters of the District's Black kindergarten applicants were low-income.

Dr. Alves also reviewed Unit 4's assignment process for its three middle schools. He reviewed the student composition at each school considering race, free and reduced lunch status, gender, special education status, ESL status and achievement levels. These data indicate that each Middle School Cluster has an equivalent K-5 enrollment-base by race and most other factors. Accordingly, the Unit 4 administrative team determined that it does not need to recommend modification of Unit 4's assignment process for middle schools at this time. However, the Unit 4 administrative team is considering whether to recommend allowing students at Booker T. Washington Elementary School to choose which middle school they attend, similar to Stratton students, to make BTW more attractive to Champaign parents.

The Unit 4 administrative team recommended the following approach to student assignment after the expiration of the Consent Decree:

1. Continue with a Controlled Choice assignment policy
2. Discontinue use of racial classifications in the Controlled Choice assignment policy and instead use SES as determined by free and reduced lunch status
3. Maintain the other elements of the current assignment policy, including sibling and geographic priorities
4. Current student assignments will not be impacted by the change in the lottery system – that is, current student assignments will be grandfathered
5. The middle school cluster model appears to be effective and does not need to be modified at this time

The Unit 4 administrative team held community forums to gather community feedback regarding the proposed changes. Community feedback was largely positive and supportive of both maintaining a choice based plan and using SES in place of race. Maintaining the District's current student assignment plan after the expiration of the Consent Decree will risk liability for violation of the United States Constitution.

Limited Hiring Freeze

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve a limited hiring freeze which includes no new positions unless required by law or for the safety of students and approved by the Board of Education. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief update regarding the proposed plan related to a limited hiring freeze. The District has built up its fund balances to nearly \$23 million, which represents approximately a 25% fund balance to revenue ratio. However, at the February 9, 2009 Board Meeting, the Administration provided a report which demonstrated that the District would receive an increase in property tax revenue in 2011 of less than \$1 million (while the average increase over the past several years has been over \$4 million). In order to react to this decrease in projected revenues, the Administration developed a multi-step plan highlighted by energy efficiencies to contain the 2009 budget deficit. In addition, at the February 9th Board Meeting, the Administration recommended personnel reductions of \$500,000 in the 2010 budget and \$3 million in the 2011 Budget. All vacancies will be reviewed to see if they can be eliminated or filled by existing personnel.

Consent Agenda

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, 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:

Donation (Edison Middle School Technology)

The Board of Education accepted a donation from Peter Fox in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Edison Middle School to be used for technology. Donations in the amount of \$5,000 or more in value require approval by the Board of Education.

Bids (Warehouse – Custodial Supplies) (Exhibit “C”)

The Board of Education approved awarding the custodial supply bids to the lowest qualified bidders, totaling \$22,981.39.

Board Policy states that bids will be solicited when items are expected to exceed a total of \$10,000. As part of the bidding process, bids were solicited from 72 vendors. Bids were received and opened on February 4, 2009. Initial costs will be charged to the District’s warehouse inventory account. As custodial supplies are ordered, the appropriate expenditure account will be charged.

Grant - Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Grant (DCEO)

The Board of Education accepted the DCEO grant in the amount of \$88,380. As part of the Garden Hills and Centennial Energy Performance Contracts, the contractor and Board Member Kristine Chalifoux alerted the District to the possibility of receiving a grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The District received funds from DCEO in the amount of \$88,380. Those funds will be used to assist in offsetting the costs of the Garden Hills and Centennial Projects.

2009 Illinois Textbook Loan Program

The Board of Education accepted the proposed Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Textbook Loan Program request totaling \$165,746.10 to support the District’s 2009 K-12 Fine Arts curriculum.

Each year, ISBE provides funds to targeted grades for participation in the Illinois Textbook Loan Program. This year, those funds are directed to grades 7-12. Funding is based on the 2007 Fall Housing Enrollment Report and Non-public Registration Report numbers. The total enrollment listed by ISBE is 4,076 students; the allotted per pupil is approximately \$40.00. The total allocation for the District is \$157,853.43. The state recommends requesting 5% over allotment, which increases the District textbook request to \$165,746.10. Champaign Unit 4 is applying for resource materials for Fine Arts and CTE curriculum that support the District's 2009 Fine Arts curriculum adoption.

The Champaign Unit 4 Curriculum Steering Committee will approve the recommendation of the K-12 Fine Arts curriculum at the March 11, 2009 meeting. The Illinois Textbook Loan Program will fund up to \$157,853.43 of the 7-12 Fine Arts adoption costs. Districts are strongly encouraged to request 5% over their allocation in case ISBE provides additional textbook loan funding through the reallocation of unspent funds from other districts. Additionally, some materials listed in the Illinois Textbook Loan Program may become unavailable and the additional books requested provide opportunities for substitute purchases ensuring the maximum use of available funds.

2009 Summer School Calendar/Programs

The Board of Education accepted the 2009 Summer School Calendar/Programs as presented. The following summer school programs were recommended 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 APEX (on-line) 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 15 – July 10)

This program will provide students with five weeks of instruction, four hours per day, five days each week. The focus will be on reading, writing, and mathematics. This program will be located at Kenwood 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. Activities that promote critical thinking and interest-based skill development will also be included.

Funds provided by TITLE I (estimated at \$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 Kenwood 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 the Immigrant Education Program Grant (estimated at \$5,000 for instructional supplies and materials for English Language Learners with an additional \$5,000 from TITLE I for a total of \$10,000)

Middle School Program (Grades 6-8, June 15 – July 17)

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.

Funds provided by the Immigrant Education Program Grant (estimated at \$5,000 for middle/high school)

High School Academic (Grades 9-12, June 15 – July 24)

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 2008 totaled \$16,180.

Funds provided by the District for High School and Middle School (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
- History of the Ancient World 458
- World History 551
- U.S. History 652
- U.S. History 655 (only for seniors that failed the course)
- Health 298
- P.E.
- Algebra Relearn (S2) 337 F/S
- APEX Credit Recovery*

*Credit Recovery courses will be held at the Academic Alternative Academy.

Special Education (PreK-12, June 15 – July 17)

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 (estimated at \$73,773)

Driver Education (June 15 – August 8)

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 \$20,632.90 and the District received a reimbursement from the state totaling \$64,135.32 for the entire year including summer school. Total enrollment in one or both of these classes totaled 256 students in 2008. Funds provided by the District are estimated at \$99,820.00

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 is outlined below.

Program	Estimated Costs	Tuition/Grant Funds	District Funds
Title I Summer School	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
ESL	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Middle/High School Program	\$135,798	\$14,000	\$133,241
Driver's Education	\$99,820	20,633	\$99,820
Special Education Program	\$73,773	\$0	\$99,648
Totals	\$419,391	\$144,633	\$332,709

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.

Board Minutes

The Board of Education approved the February 9, 18 & 23, 2009 Board meeting minutes as presented.

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

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

Human Resource Changes (Exhibit "E")

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

Compensation for Non-Certified Employee (Exhibit "F")

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve back-pay for non-certified employee #136574 for services during 2005/2006, 2006/2007 & 2007/2008 for a total amount of \$3,175. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: April 13, 2009