

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
November 10, 2008 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, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, Dave Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Arlene Blank, Sue Grey

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

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the agenda. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Vice President Arlene Blank arrived at 7:01 p.m.

Recognitions

Superintendent Culver announced that November 15 is School Board Members Day in Illinois. He thanked the Board for their service to the school district and to the community. The administration will publicly recognize the Board at the December 8 Board meeting.

Public Comment

Board President Dave Tomlinson stated that the Board would be discussing the issue related to The Kite Runner at the December 8 Board meeting.

Greg Kneller, secondary ELA curriculum coordinator, read a letter from English teachers related to the challenge of the instructional resource reading material – The Kite Runner. He urged the Board to reconsider the issue and investigate and support a process that guarantees students will experience what the Illinois Academic Standards refer to as literature representative of various societies, eras and ideas.

CFT

CFT President Deb Foertsch applauded the Board's decision to revisit the issue related to the book, The Kite Runner. She shared her hope for the Board to vote in December to honor the novel approval process.

PTA Council

PTA Council President Nancy Hoetker thanked the Board and administration for attending the Presidents' dinner, and expressed appreciation for their outstanding efforts to educate the community about the sales tax referendum. She also commended the administration for looking into redrawing the high school boundaries.

Board

Board member Novak expressed concerns related to a number of LCD projectors/mounts that have not been installed at the schools, and also about the idea of restricting students from lunch as a discipline measure.

Reports/Discussion

Academic Spotlight – Stratton Elementary

Principal Orlando Thomas and his literacy team shared information regarding accelerating student achievement at Stratton through the implementation of CIM (Comprehensive Intervention Model). Stratton has developed a school-wide monitoring system to track student achievement for all students, utilized Title I funds to hire additional literacy support, decreased discipline referrals and suspensions resulting in more instructional time, launched the "Stratton Loves Reading School-Wide Program, participated in the Reading Writing Project, and provided coaching for teachers. The year, Stratton began with an enrollment of 434 students, reflecting an increase of 44 students from the 2007/2008 school year. School demographics are represented as: 43.3% African American, 27.6% White, 15.2% Hispanic, 13.3% Asian and 0.4% Native American. 72.3% of the students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, which qualifies Stratton as a Title I School.

Stratton achieved Adequate Yearly Progress during the 2007/2008 for the sixth consecutive year since being removed from the state's "watch list". Stratton was again recognized as a *Spotlight School*. Spotlight awards honor high poverty, high performing schools, where at least 50% of students are classified as low income and at least 60% met or exceeded standards on the ISAT tests. Stratton students scored exceptionally well on the ISAT tests during the 2007/2008 school year, achieving the building's highest test scores since the inception of No Child Left Behind. The overall percentage rates for subgroups and overall scores for all students that met or achieved standards are listed below.

	Reading 2007/2008	Math 2007/2008
All Students	65/70.5%	85/90.9%
African American	50.9/63.5%	75.5/82.5%
Low SES	51.5/63.4%	75/87.8%
Special Education	47.1/60.6%	64.7/84.8%

Despite great acceleration within all subgroups, Principal Thomas felt a more intensive model to monitor student achievement was necessary to continue the academic gain and, therefore, implemented the (CIM) Comprehensive Intervention Model which provides layers of targeted interventions and supports for students not finding academic success. A major component of this model is the assessment wall the building implemented this year to ensure academic growth for

all students. The assessment of the Comprehensive Intervention Model will be monitored through tracking DRA scores throughout the school year and achievement on the ISAT test. Fall 2008 initiatives include guided reading plus groups, ESL/literacy collaboration, special education/literacy collaboration, professional development for entire staff on guided reading, PP plans/targeted student monitoring, and continuous progress monitoring of student achievement.

Consent Decree Update – At Promise ...of Success

Director Dedrick Martin stated that Imani Bazzell would be providing an update on the At Promise...of Success program. Imani Bazzell shared a brief overview of the At Promise program. The program was created to empower parents by providing training, support, and collaboration opportunities to middle school parents who wish to participate more fully with the schools in helping children reach their academic potential. “At Promise” will help parents develop as new civic leaders by applying interpersonal skills, leadership skills and insights gained from their public school involvement to effectively address policy and practice concerns in other public institutions. This initiative will be provided at no cost to Unit 4.

The following objectives highlight the mission of the program:

1. To expand parents’ knowledge of their children’s schools, people, programs and systems impacting their education;
2. To expand parents’ capacity to support their children’s academic success;
3. To identify and assess parents’ interest in and commitment to increased engagement in educational reform on behalf of their child and other students;
4. To develop programs and activities, in cooperation with parents, designed to increase communication, personal and public education, and engagement that leads to collaborative goal setting for schools and students.

A complete overview of the At Promise...of Success Program from the Urban League/University of Illinois was provided.

Board of Education Proposed Policies - BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MANAGEMENT; HEALTH EXAMINATIONS, DENTAL EXAMINATIONS, IMMUNIZATIONS & EXCLUSIONS OF STUDENTS; SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Director Judy Wiegand shared the proposed policies/procedures which represent the District’s continued effort to update the Policy and Procedures Manual. The proposed policies will be presented on December 8 for Board approval.

Policy 450.02 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MANAGEMENT – CLEANING PROGRAM

Indicates that for each District school with 50 or more students, the Superintendent shall establish and supervise a green cleaning program.

Policy 720.16 HEALTH EXAMINATIONS, DENTAL EXAMINATIONS, IMMUNIZATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS OF STUDENTS

Policy updated to include eye examination and diabetes screening.

Policy 840 SCHOOL – COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Indicates that all visitors must report to the principal’s office to sign in, show identification, and wear a visitor’s badge to remain on school property.

The Board took a five-minute recess at 8:40 p.m.

District Report Card

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided an update on the District Report Card which provides data regarding percent of students who exceed, meet, or do not meet standards established by the Illinois State Board of Education, AYP information, composite and subtest means on nationally normed achievement test for college bound students, student attendance rates, and chronic truancy rates.

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) 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 (62.5%); 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

Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd shared information on staffing related to: 1) percentage of White, Black, Hispanic, Asian/PI, and Native American professional staff; 2) teacher information related to teaching experience, percentage of teachers with Bachelor's Degrees, Master's Degrees, emergency or provisional credentials, percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers; and 3) teacher/administrator salaries.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas shared financial information related to: 1) instructional expenditure per pupil; 2) operating expenditure per pupil; 3) equalized assessed valuation, 4) total school tax rate per \$100; and 5) expenditures by function, fund and source.

Action Agenda

Resolution for Proposed 2008 Tax Levy (2009/2010 School Year) (Exhibit "A")

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to adopt the "Resolution Regarding the Estimated Taxes Necessary to be Levied for 2008" and publication of the "Notice of Intent" to adopt the same. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief report on adopting a resolution regarding the estimated taxes necessary to be levied for 2008 and the requirement to publish the notice of intent to adopt the same. The Truth-in-Taxation Act requires that when a school district's proposed tax levy, as extended and less debt service, reflects an increase of more than 105% of the prior year's extension, the school district must publish a notice of such intent and hold a public hearing on the matter. The notice of proposed aggregate tax levy and the public hearing must be provided to the public not more than 14 days or less than 7 days prior to approval by the

Board of Education and must be published, in a format prescribed by law, in a newspaper of general local circulation. The notice of such intent will be published in the *News-Gazette* on November 26, 2008.

The public hearing on the proposed tax levy will be held on Monday, December 8, 2008. The Certificate of Levy must be filed with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December.

Related cost of publishing the notice of increase in Tax Levy in the local newspaper is approximately \$800.00 and is within the amount budgeted for legal notices in the Education Fund. Approval of the levy in December will provide the allowable amount of property taxes after tax caps in 2009/2010 of \$72,724,059.

Consent Agenda

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, 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:

2008/2009 Tepper Electric Arts Endowment Grant

The Board of Education approved the monetary awards totaling \$10,702 provided through the Tepper Electric Arts Endowment.

This school year, 28 grant requests totaling \$20,611 were submitted. Of those grant requests, 24 monetary awards totaling \$10,702 will be provided through the Tepper Electric Arts Endowment. This endowment, funded by the Tepper Electric Supply Company, provides Unit #4 with an annual donation of \$10,000 for student activities and/or educational experiences that promote student exposure to and involvement in the fine arts. The carry-over from 2007/2008 school year is \$702. Including this year's grant total, the Tepper Electric Endowment has awarded grants totaling approximately \$200,000 over the past twenty years.

On October 16, 2008, the selection committee met and reviewed applications for funding which teachers and administrators submitted. Members of the Tepper Review committee consisted of George Stanhope, Director of Elementary Education, Trevor Nadrozny, Westview Elementary principal, and fine arts teachers Shauna Carey, Marian Wyatt and Bob Smith. Due to their traveling schedule, Edward and Nancy Tepper asked that the committee make the selection without their attendance this year. A list of the grants submitted was shared, along with the amounts funded. All grants are available for review upon request.

FY08 State School Library Grant

The Board of Education approved the proposed school library grant in the amount of \$6,636.75 with permission to submit the same to the Illinois State Library via Lincoln Trail Libraries System.

A grant, intended for qualifying school libraries, has been included in the legislation for the Illinois Library System Act. The grant funds are being made available at seventy-five cents (\$.75) per capita based on the September 30, 2008 enrollment.

School districts must be members of a regional library system or meet the requirements and have applied for membership in a system. A qualified school library is one that has a centrally accessible and bibliographically organized library and has one employee whose primary duty is to serve as a librarian. Based on the District's September 30, 2008 enrollment benchmark for buildings with a librarian on staff and a total enrollment of 8849, the District is applying for \$6,636.75. The actual funding will depend on the number of school districts which apply for the funds. The funds will be used to purchase materials to support the District Library Media Centers (LMC).

Bid – 30-Passenger School Bus with Wheelchair Lift (Exhibit “B”)

The Board of Education approved the bid for one 30-passenger school bus to Midwest Transit Equipment for \$78,797.00.

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 six vendors for the above item and one bid was received.

Costs will be charged to the Transportation fund for budget year 2008/09. The purchase was not included in the original budget, as the need arose late and it was hoped that alternate means of transportation could be utilized. This expense will result in spending more than what was budgeted in 2009 in the Transportation Fund. As such, it will be amended by year end. Sufficient money exists in the Transportation Fund (Fund Balance is approximately \$1.5 million) to pay for this additional bus.

Board Minutes

The Board of Education approved the September 8 & 25, 2008 and October 8 & 13, 2008 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

Kristine Chalifoux 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 120/2(c)(1) and Pending Litigation in 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) 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

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

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 11:14 p.m.

Open Session

Administrative Compensation (Exhibit "E")

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to approve a 4.5% raise for administrators for 08/09, along with benefits, as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Administrative Appointment – Director of Finance (Exhibit "F")

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to approve Barbara Ramsay as Director of Finance, effective January 5, 2009. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: December 8, 2008