

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 8, 2010 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President David Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

Kristine Chalifoux, Stig Lanesskog, Thomas Lockman, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, David Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Sue Grey

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Arthur Culver, Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd, Assistant Superintendent Judy Wiegand, Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas

Board member Grey joined the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Member MacAdam moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. Crossing Guards moved from Consent to Report item; Elementary Strand Configuration moved from Consent to Action.

Executive Session

Member MacAdam moved, with a second by Member Novak, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel, employee appointments, employment, compensation, dismissals, complaints 120/2(c)(1) and Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 5:32 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 6:00 p.m.

Guests

Representatives from CFT, local media and other interested persons

Recognitions

Superintendent Culver announced that November 15, 2010 is School Board Member Day in Illinois. The Superintendent recognized the Board on behalf of the administration, students and community for their dedication and service to Unit 4 in honor of School Board Member Day. Books were donated to each school library in their honor.

Dr. Francis Ihejirika was recognized for his support of the after school programs.

Public Comment

Pat Brady shared concerns regarding the cluster gifted classes.

ReportsCrossing Guards

Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd provided a brief update regarding the City of Champaign's proposal for the District to assume the responsibility for employing crossing guards for Unit 4, and the City's contribution of their cost for the program, which is approximately \$103,000 to the District. The City of Champaign, represented by Deputy Police Chief Troy Daniels, approached the District about the opportunity for a budget reduction possibility for both entities. The City's assumption is that the District could assign the duties to current employees and keep the excess revenue or that the District might be able to employ crossing guards at a lower rate of pay.

The District investigated several issues regarding the employment of crossing guards including the current and future cost of insurance, the impact on administrative services, and the cost of utilizing current employees. The scheduling requirement for crossing guards and the additional cost for increased benefits make using current CESP employees impractical. The future insurance cost for additional part-time employees is an unknown due to graduated implementation of federal health care reform. Administrative services are already compacted due to last year's reduction of administrators at the director level, and a new program would require supervision and evaluation. Even if the District employed crossing guards at a lower rate than the City, any financial benefit would be offset by increased workman's compensation costs and increased administrative responsibility.

The administration evaluated the costs/benefits of assuming responsibility for employing crossing guards and found that the costs do not equal any possible financial benefit.

Kindergarten Lottery

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris shared the following information related to the kindergarten lottery. The Champaign Unit 4 School District has operated the Schools of Choice program as its student assignment method for the past 13 years. In May 2009 the Board of Education approved the revision of the Schools of Choice program from a race-neutral assignment plan to one that utilizes Socioeconomic Status (SES) as a factor for student assignment. Last year the Kindergarten Lottery was the largest in the District's history. A total of 691 Kindergarten students were assigned utilizing the new Student Assignment Plan. A discussion will be held to examine the implications of the SES plan in Champaign Unit 4.

Attorney Sally Scott and Dr. Michael Alves participated via telephone and answered specific questions related to the kindergarten choice assignment process.

The Kindergarten Lottery is conducted annually during the month of March as a part of the Schools of Choice program. This lottery gives parents/guardians of all students the opportunity to apply for admission to a variety of elementary schools, each with its own unique learning environment.

The Board of Education asked administration to consider making adjustments to the kindergarten lottery process.

Magnet Schools Update

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris shared that Principals Asia Fuller and Cheryl O'Leary would provide a brief update regarding the BTW and Garden Hills magnet programs. The newly constructed Booker T. Washington and the refurbished Garden Hills will open in 2011-12 as new magnet schools. BT Washington's magnet theme is Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Garden Hills' theme is the Primary Years Program (PYP) under the auspices of the International Baccalaureate Program (IB). The designation of these two schools as magnet schools was the result of 18 months of negotiations with Plaintiff class. These sites were selected to meet the Consent Decree requirements to provide two elementary strands north of University Avenue. These themes were selected by the Magnet School Planning Committee which was comprised of a variety of stakeholders, including District administrators and teachers, Plaintiff class members, District and Plaintiff attorneys, parents, community members, architects and Board members.

Historically, magnet schools were used for achieving desegregation in public schools. However, today they are also utilized to achieve systematic education reforms that give all students an opportunity to experience rigorous curriculum, with an underpinning focus on closing the achievement gap. The themes selected for BT Washington and Garden Hills were designed to clearly attract and energize stakeholders, yet provide a rigorous and relevant curriculum that promotes high performance.

Principal Asia Fuller-Hamilton provided a brief overview of the STEM theme. The STEM Academy will focus on a challenging combination of classroom and community experiences that promote high levels of innovation and creativity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. In addition, students will gain knowledge and skills that will prepare them to lead and succeed in a rapidly changing society. Students will learn through an inquiry-based, interdisciplinary approach allowing them to think as scientists. The STEM academy offers several unique amenities that will foster academic growth. Each grade level is divided into academies, which flow out into a piazza, creating an opportunity for increased shared learning opportunities within the grade levels.

Centrally located within the school is the STEM laboratory. This unique lab offers students a space to incorporate what they have learned into scientific simulations. It also functions as a community space, allowing for our community partners to share their experiences, as it relates to the STEM fields. The mission of the BT Washington STEM is to instill habits of mind that will promote lifelong learning, critical thinking, creativity and innovation.

Principal Cheryl O'Leary provided a brief overview of the PYP theme. The PYP uses the existing knowledge that the child brings to new experiences, and emphasizes the importance of children making connections between their experience and the incremental pieces of new information they encounter. Inquiry is the leading, but not the exclusive, pedagogical approach of PYP. The IB Primary Years Program for all students in grades K-5, focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside and prepares them to be active participants as lifelong learners. Mandarin Chinese is proposed as the required foreign language for PYP.

Action AgendaEast University TIF District

Member Lockman moved, with a second by Member MacAdam, to approve the 13-year extension of the East University TIF District based upon information from the City of Champaign which states both estimated carve out revenue to Unit 4 and excess surplus payments in years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

CFO Gene Logas shared that after further negotiations with the City over the extension of the East University TIF District, the Board informally expressed support at the Board of Education Meeting on November 1, 2010. Administration requested formal Board support in advance of the Joint Review Board Meeting on November 10, 2010.

Elementary Strands

Member Chalifoux moved, with a second by Member Lanesskog, to approve the Option 1 portion of moving the TBE program from BTW to Garden Hills. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided a brief overview regarding the elementary strands. As a result of the addition of two elementary strands (six classrooms at Garden Hills and six at the new BT Washington), as well as renovations to existing elementary schools, there is a need to adjust the current elementary strand configuration and assess building capacities across all elementary schools in the District. Schools impacted by this reconfiguration are Garden Hills, Robeson and BT Washington. Plans for staffing, professional development and marketing of the two magnet schools are dependent on the strand and program recommendations for these schools. During the October 25, 2010 Board of Education Study Session, two options were explored for elementary strands for the 2010-2011 school year.

Option 1 recommended the Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) Program be moved from BT Washington to Garden Hills to create the fourth strand at Garden Hills. Currently, Garden Hills has four kindergarten classrooms due to a lack of space across the District which dictated the placement of the fourth kindergarten class at Garden Hills. One kindergarten classroom from Garden Hills will be relocated to BT Washington as the second strand of kindergarten students at that building. Robeson will be reduced from four to three strands at kindergarten and this classroom will be relocated to become the third strand of kindergarten at BT Washington. A Cluster Model for the delivery of Gifted services will be implemented at second grade.

Option 2 recommended the Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) Program will remain at BT Washington to provide the necessary enrollment to ensure a second full strand of students. Robeson will be reduced from four to three strands at kindergarten and this classroom will be relocated to become the third kindergarten classroom at BT Washington. Additional classrooms in the third strand will be contingent upon student enrollment in grades 1 through 5. A Cluster Model for the delivery of Gifted services will be implemented at second grade.

A chart delineating the current Elementary Strand Capacity for 2010-11 was shared, along with Elementary Strand Configuration Option 1 and Option 2.

Consent Agenda

Member Grey moved, with a second by Member MacAdam, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda items:

Proposed Board of Education Policies/Procedures (500.17/500.17R General Personnel – Public Complaints about Personnel; 620 Curriculum Guide; 743.01 Fines, Fees & Charges – Waiver of Student Fees; 855 Public Complaints)

The proposed policy updates were approved as presented.

2010/2011 Tepper Electric Arts Endowment Grant

The Board of Education accepted monetary awards totaling \$11,745.14 provided through the Tepper Electric Arts Endowment.

FY11 State School Library Grant

The Board of Education approved the proposed school library grant in the amount of \$6,669.75 with permission to submit the same to the Illinois State Library via Lincoln Trail Libraries System. The funds will be used to purchase materials to support the District Library Media Centers (LMC).

ISBE Clean Energy Grant Application

The Board of Education approved the inclusion of window and building envelope improvements at Kenwood in the Clean Energy Grant proposal so as to maximize potential grant funds.

At the Board Meeting on October 25, 2010, the Board of Education supported including the windows at Kenwood in the Clean Energy Grant proposal. In order to approach \$500,000 (50% district match), it is necessary to include improvements to the building envelope. Administration requested that the Board of Education commit to both window and building envelope improvements at Kenwood. It is the District's hope that half of the estimated cost of \$498,000 will be funded by the Clean Energy Grant through ISBE.

Minutes – September 27, 2010 & October 18, 2010 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the minutes as presented.

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

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

Human Resource Changes (Exhibit "B")

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

Student Discipline

Member Lockman moved, with a second by Member MacAdam, to expel student #550334 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the first semester of the 2010/2011 school year and should be reassigned to an alternative site at the administration's discretion for violating Conduct Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The motion carried on roll call. The student may return to his/her regularly assigned school following the expulsion period. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Member Grey moved, with a second by Member Novak, to expel student #630288 from Centennial High School for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year and should be reassigned based on the IEP Team for violating Conduct Code #08 (Drugs Related – Delivery) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The motion carried on roll call. The student may return to his/her regularly assigned school following the expulsion period. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Member Novak moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux, to expel student #640293 from Centennial High School for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year and should be reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #03 (Arson) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student must attend a juvenile fire starters' program at the Champaign Fire Department. The motion carried on roll call. The student may return to his/her regularly assigned school following the expulsion period. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Executive Session

Member Lockman moved, with a second by Member Novak, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel, employee appointments, employment, compensation, dismissals, complaints 120/2(c)(1). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 8:15 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 9:45 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Lockman moved, with a second by Member Lanesskog, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: December 13, 2010