

**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 5, 2012 within the Boundaries of Said District**

Regular Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Jamar Brown, Kristine Chalifoux, Sue Grey, Stig Lanesskog, Ileana Saveley (arrived at 5:37 p.m.), David Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Tom Lockman

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Judy Wiegand, Assistant Superintendent Laura Taylor, Assistant Superintendent Susan Zola, Assistant Superintendent Angela Smith, Executive Director of Human Resources Ken Kleber, Interim Business Manager Joe Davis

Approval of Agenda

Member Tomlinson moved, with a second by Member Brown, to approve the agenda. The motion carried on voice vote.

Executive Session

Member Lockman moved, with a second by Member Brown, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/(c)(2), Property Acquisitions/Lease Purchase 120/(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/(c)(9), and Actual/Potential Litigation 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

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

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 6:05 p.m.

Guests

Representatives from CFT, local media and other interested persons

Action Agenda: New Business

Additional Staff for Champaign Early Childhood Center: Elizabeth deGruy

Member Tomlinson moved, with a second by Member Lanesskog, to approve Additional Staff for Champaign Early Childhood Center. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Champaign Early Childhood Center (CECC) currently has the capacity to serve 306 children in 9 classrooms (17 per class). This is down from 340 students in FY11/FY12 and 380 students in FY10 (15 per class). The District is required to serve 240

Preschool for All (at-risk) students according to grant specifications. Regardless of state (Preschool for All) funding, the District is mandated to serve children who require special education services when they turn three years of age. CECC is responsible for Child Find, which requires actively seeking out and identifying all children who may be eligible for special education and related services. Students are identified for services at CECC in three primary ways. These are transitioning students from Early Intervention (birth to 3 program for children with disabilities), screening and evaluating students, and enrolling transfer students with disabilities who have received early childhood special education services in other school districts. Generally transfers make up a very small number of CECC students.

This year, there has been a sharp increase in the number of children qualifying for early childhood special education and the intensity of the services required by those students. Eight students who are eligible for special education services have transferred from other programs since the beginning of the school year. By the end of November, there will be 57 students who qualify for the special education program (not including students with speech language impairments). This is more students than CECC typically serves by the end of the school year (48, 52, and 62 at the end of the past three school years), and these students are enrolled in fewer classrooms. The District has knowledge of 14 children who will transition from Early Intervention during the spring 2013 semester, and evaluations are being conducted currently on an additional 8 students. CECC will not have the capacity to enroll all of the children the district is mandated to serve without adding a classroom for the second half of the 2012-2013 school year.

Administration recommended adding the following positions:

- 1.0 FTE early childhood special education teacher at CECC (for second semester 2012-2013 school year)
- 2.0 FTE teaching assistants at CECC (one to be added to staff immediately; one to be added for second semester 2012-2013 school year)

These positions will be funded through the IDEA Flow Through grant for a total cost of approximately \$48,000 (teacher - \$27,000; two assistants - \$21,000) for the 2012-2013 school year.

Administration recommended that the Board of Education approve additional staff at Early Childhood.

Reports: New Business

Attendance – Schools of Controlled Choice Seat Assignment: Dr. Susan Zola

The proposed policy represents the continued effort to update the District's Policy and Procedures Manual.

Policy 705.09 Attendance- Schools of Choice Seat Assignment- In an attempt to update the Schools of Choice policy the following modifications are proposed.

- Magnet Registration will be concurrent with March Kindergarten registration.
- Wait list for both elementary and middle school will expire at the end of the first semester.

The Board tabled the following change:

- Eliminate Proximity A and B. With the addition of a new school in Savoy, there is no longer a need to have both a Proximity A and B. All households have a Proximity school.

Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the proposed policy changes with action on December 10, 2012.

2012 District Report Card: Dr. Judy Wiegand

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), the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) 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 (85%)
2. 95% or above participation rate of students taking the state tests
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

Superintendent Wiegand gave a brief presentation and highlighted how subgroups performed. She also shared with the Board different strategies and programs in place to improve test scores.

This was an informational item and no action was required by the Board.

Resolution – Abating Property Taxes for Year 2012 (Pay Debt Service on Outstanding Bonds – Series 1997 & Series 2006B): Dr. Joseph Davis

The District committed to the residents that it would abate all of the principal and interest owed on the outstanding Bonds of the District previously issued for construction and renovation of building purposes. This includes the Series 1997 and Series 2006B Bonds. This item was presented as a Discussion Item. It is anticipated the Board will approve it at the December 10, 2012 meeting.

This Resolution confirms that the District will abate the property taxes levied as promised to District residents. The total amount of the abatement is \$2,840,037 (\$167,537 + \$2,672,500). This is required to secure Board signatures on the Abatement document so that it may be filed with the County Clerk prior to March 1, 2013.

No action was required by the Board as this was an informational item.

Resolution – Abating Property Taxes for Year 2001 (Pay Debt Service on Outstanding Bonds – Series 2010A & Series 2010B): Dr. Joseph Davis

The District committed to the residents that it would abate all of the principal and interest owed on the outstanding Bonds of the District. This includes the Alternate Revenue Source Series 2010A and Series 2010B Bonds. This item was presented as a Discussion Item. It is anticipated the Board will approve it at the December 10, 2012 meeting. In order to legally abate this property tax, the bond covenants require that the District illustrate that it has at least 125% coverage.

The Resolution confirms that the District will abate the property taxes levied. The total amount of the abatement is \$3,092,893 - \$1,090,923 (BAB reimbursement) = \$2,001,970. This is required to secure Board signatures on the Abatement document so that it may be filed with the County Clerk prior to March 1, 2013.

This was an informational item and no action was required by the Board.

Resolution – Abating Property Taxes for Year 2011 (Pay Debt Service on Outstanding Bonds – Series 2010C & Series 2010D): Dr. Joseph Davis

The District committed to the residents that it would abate all of the principal and interest owed on the outstanding Bonds of the District. This includes the Alternate Revenue Source Series 2010C and Series 2010D Bonds. This item was presented as a Discussion Item. It is anticipated the Board will approve this at the December 10, 2012 meeting. In order to legally abate this property tax, the bond covenants require that the District illustrate that it has at least 125% coverage.

The Resolution confirms that the District will abate the property taxes levied. The total amount of the abatement is \$1,614,485 - \$454,820 (BAB reimbursement) = \$1,159,665. This is required to secure Board signatures on the Abatement document so that it may be filed with the County Clerk prior to March 1, 2013.

No action was required by the Board as this is an informational item.

Action Agenda: New Business

Resolution – Proposed 2012 Tax Levy: Dr. Joseph Davis

Member Brown moved, with a second by Member Tomlinson, to approve the Resolution – Proposed 2012 Tax Levy. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

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 proposed 2012 Levy does not exceed the 2011 Levy by 105% and, therefore, neither a separate public hearing nor advertisement of a public hearing was necessary.

The Champaign School District continues to have the second lowest tax rate of any unit school district in Champaign County. The average taxpayer with a \$150,000 home residing elsewhere in Champaign County pays \$351 more annually in property taxes than Unit 4.

Last year the 2011 Levy showed an anticipated tax rate increase of about seven cents up to \$3.79. This is a result of the District's levy increasing at a higher percentage than the anticipated assessed valuation of the District's total property value. The District assessed valuation did not increase, it actually declined by over \$21,000,000. As a result of this decline, the tax rate for the District increased .1567 cents to \$3.8805 – still the second lowest in the county. According to information from the county assessor's office, our assessed valuation will decline again this year by \$2,595,630. This decline will again increase our tax rate. This year's levy shows an increase of \$3,616,147 (4.8%) over last year's extension of \$75,262,241. The anticipated tax rate for next year should be 4.0724. Even with this increase the district will still have the second lowest tax rate in the county.

This year the District will again abate six outstanding bonds. The District is abating the General Obligation School Bonds Series 1997 for \$167,537 and the General Obligation School Bonds Series 2006B for \$2,672,500. The District is also abating \$2,001,970 from the Alternate Revenue Source Bonds Series 2010 A and B. The final outstanding debt service bond to be abated is the Alternate Revenue Source Bonds Series C and D for \$1,159,665. The District is abating a total of \$6,001,672.

The first payment for the 2012 Working Cash Bonds issued in August 2012 will be due in July 2013 and a second payment due in January 2014. Both of these payments will be included in the 2012 Levy for an amount of \$691,841.11.

Approval of the 2012 Levy in December will provide the District with the potential to receive the allowable amount of property taxes after tax caps of \$79,570,229.11 (which includes debt service).

Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the "Resolution Regarding the Estimated Taxes Necessary to be Levied for 2012".

Additional Staff for English as a Second Language (ESL): Maria Alanis

Member Lanesskog moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux, to approve Additional Staff for English as a Second Language (ESL). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The District is committed to providing English acquisition and core instructional support to ensure the academic achievement and well-being of English Language Learners (ELLs). The District's programs for ELLs, Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) and English as a Second Language (ESL), have experienced an average district-wide growth of 41% between SY07 and SY12. During the 2011-12 school year, 514 ELLs, grades PK – 12, received ESL/TBE services. Presently, 607 students are receiving ESL/TBE instruction; an 18% increase in enrollment from SY12:

- 32 Early Childhood TBE
- 35 Early Childhood ESL
- 115 Elementary TBE (full-time Spanish)
- 64 Elementary TBE (part-time Spanish and part-time Vietnamese)
- 208 Elementary ESL
- 28 Middle School TBE
- 62 Middle School ESL
- 16 High School TBE
- 47 High School ESL

Total staffing request is 4.5 FTEs: 3.0 FTE ESL teachers and 1.5 FTE ESL teacher assistants:

Centennial	+0.5 FTE	ESL Teacher
Franklin	+0.5 FTE	ESL Teacher Assistant
Jefferson	+1.0 FTE	ESL Teacher Assistant
Garden Hills	+1.0 FTE	ESL Teacher
Stratton	+1.0 FTE	ESL Teacher (French-speaker)
Washington	+0.5 FTE	ESL Teacher

As required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), professional development in various areas of ESL/Bilingual Education will be provided. Grant funds will be used to pay for professional development.

These positions will be funded with District funds. The cost for salary and benefits for 3.0 FTE ESL teachers is \$150,000 and \$38,000 for 1.5 FTE ESL teacher assistants. Total cost is \$188,000.

All instructional activities are monitored and evaluated by the Division of English Language Learning at ISBE and the District Director of ESL/Bilingual Education.

Administration recommended that the Board of Education approve the additional ESL staff request.

Consent Agenda – New Business

Member Tomlinson moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux to approve the Consent Agenda – New Business. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda items:

Minutes of October 8, 2012, October 15, 2012, and October 22, 2012

The Board of Education approved the minutes as presented.

Bills and Treasurer's Report – October

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

Human Resource Changes

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

Board Reorganization

President Sue Grey resigned her position as Board Chair. Member Tomlinson nominated Stig Lanesskog to be the new president, seconded by Member Grey. Member Chalifoux nominated Dave Tomlinson for Vice President, seconded by Member Brown.

Executive Session

Member Tomlinson moved, with a second by Member Brown, to adjourn into Closed Session in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/(c)(2), Property Acquisitions/Lease Purchase 120/(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/(c)(9), and Actual/Potential Litigation 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board convened into Closed Session at 7:36 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into Open Session at 9:12 p.m.

Student Discipline

Member Grey moved, with a second by Member Tomlinson, to expel student #520740 from Jefferson Middle School for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year and first semester of the 2013-14 school year. He/she should be reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #34 (Weapon-Related Activities) of the Champaign Unit 4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to his/her regularly assigned school following the expulsion period. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Member Chalifoux moved, with a second by Member Tomlinson, to expel student #600543 from Edison Middle School for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year. He/she should be reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Codes #6 (Disobedience) and #34 (Weapon-Related Activities) of the Champaign Unit 4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to his/her regularly assigned school following the expulsion period. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Member Tomlinson moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux, to expel student #610116 from Central High School for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year. He/she should be reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Codes #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) and #36 (Mob Action) of the Champaign Unit 4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to his/her regularly assigned school following the expulsion period. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Personnel

Member Grey moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux to approve a three day unpaid suspension for employee #170240. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Member Brown moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux to approve the Board's recommendation to suspend employee #171050 without pay for a period of 5 days. Additionally, a written letter of reprimand will be placed in the employee's personnel file and the employee is required to attend cultural sensitivity training as directed by the Superintendent. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 1. Member Tomlinson voted no.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Grey moved, with a second by Member Tomlinson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: December 10, 2012