

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  
January 8, 2007 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**

Scott Anderson, Minosca Alcantara, Reginald Alston, Nathaniel Banks, Arlene Blank, Margie Skirvin, 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**

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Reginald Alston, to approve the agenda. The motion carried on voice vote.

**PTA Council**

Brian Minsker thanked Polly Hill and Leslie Knicl for attending the January PTA Council meeting to discuss the District's math curriculum.

**Board**

Board member Scott Anderson shared his concerns regarding the impact on students when taking their exams after the holiday break. Some districts have finals before the break and suggested that CU4 check on the Mahomet model. He asked the administration to revisit the research that Centennial teacher Jason Franklin provided last year regarding this issue.

**Reports**

Academic Spotlight – Centennial High School

Principal Judy Wiegand introduced Centennial High School math teacher Jason Franklin. Mr. Franklin presented an Algebra II unit entitled, *Business Model Applications*, as an example of how "real world" reading can be incorporated into the math class while giving students the opportunity to incorporate Algebra concepts into a small business. He also presented material illustrating how the unit prepared students through steps up to the selling of shirts. Throughout the units, students worked almost exclusively with story problems. The students learned to read math and also learned how to read a bid. His Algebra II classes took traditional Algebra concepts and applied them to small business applications. The following are some examples:

- Developing cost, income, and profit functions
- Deriving break-even points
- Adjusting functions given various scenarios that altered selling price and various costs

- Learning to read bids that were received from an actual company
- Converting bids into functions and graphs
- Incorporating constraints into functions

The unit ended with the students working with Mr. Franklin to develop a plan to sell Centennial shirts. This included determining an appropriate selling price, reviewing costs, developing a marketing plan, advertising, positive peer pressure, and setting a goal. The students also discussed an appropriate design. Surveys were administered to determine color combinations. The students also used an incentive to help sell the shirts. Throughout the unit, questions and examples continued to lead students to consider how corporations like Wal-Mart and McDonald's make decisions. Students also learned about minimum wage and how businesses need to adjust their cost functions which would eventually lead to changes in selling price.

### **Action Agenda**

#### Barack Obama Leadership Academy Charter School for Males (Exhibit "A")

Andrea Carter provided a response to the questions/concerns previously sent to her by the Board of Education and the CU4 Administration. She provided an Amendment to the BOLA Charter Proposal, along with an amended BOLA Budget. Several community members spoke in support of the Charter School proposal.

The Board of Education took a break at 9:34 p.m.

Andrea Carter urged the Board to collaborate and form an alliance in order to implement the BOLA Charter School. She asked the Board for the opportunity to implement the school for one year.

Board members Margie Skirvin, Scott Anderson, Arlene Blank, Minosca Alcantara, Reginald Alston and David Tomlinson shared their concerns regarding the charter school proposal.

Attorney Brian Crowley stated that the Board has 30 days from the public hearing to act on the proposal. The public hearing was held on December 11, 2006. Since there were significant changes to the original proposal, the amended version is considered a new proposal. The Board can deny the original proposal and submit it to ISBE. This would give Ms. Carter the opportunity to submit an amended proposal which means that the Board would have to begin the process again with 45 days to conduct a public hearing and 30 days to vote on the new proposal. He recommended that the Board act immediately on the proposal.

Andrea Carter stated the charter school has nothing to do with the Consent Decree. She advised the Board that they could listen to the attorney's advice or listen to her. She stated that the State Board informed her that they are not bound by the Consent Decree. She asked the Board to allow her to pilot the school for one year with just 40 children. She reminded the Board of their authority to revoke the Charter School.

Attorney Brian Crowley informed the Board of the following options:

- view as new proposal and vote
- vote on the original proposal
- vote on the whole package

Superintendent Culver stated that the District has enough legal fees. He recommended that the Board act on the whole package.

Nathaniel Banks stated the administration recommended denying the proposal and provided a template with reasons for denying the proposal. He responded to recommendations from staff related to life safety, transportation, budget, enrollment, funding, desegregation, location, and the Consent Decree

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, directing the attorneys to prepare a Resolution for action later this evening to deny the Charter School Proposal and the Amendment for the reasons provided by the School District's Attorney and School Board. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 2. Reginald Alston and Nathaniel Banks voted Nay.

### **Reports**

#### **Consent Decree Update – AVID College Tour**

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris stated that Centennial AVID teacher D'Andre Weaver who provided the following information regarding the college tour. In an effort to increase student awareness and provide more exposure to the collegiate environment, the Centennial AVID team began planning for the first annual AVID College Tour. The tour will expose approximately 50 AVID students from Centennial and Central High School to a variety of colleges and universities in Illinois, Missouri, and Tennessee. The students will visit Tennessee State University, Washington University, Fisk University, St. Louis University, Vanderbilt University, Southern Illinois University (Carbondale), Belmont University and Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville) during the week of March 19-23. In order to participate on this trip, students must meet the rigorous academic requirements of all A's and B's by the end of the first semester for the 2006-2007 academic year. The students, with the assistance of the AVID site team and Linda Page, have begun raising funds to support the expense for the college tour.

#### **School Resource Officers (SRO)**

Interim Assistant Superintendent Patricia Lewis provided a report on the first quarterly progress (August 21 – December 21, 2006) of the SRO program. School Resource Officers were instituted in the Unit #4 School District beginning August 21, 2006. Five officers were assigned to the five secondary campuses and Columbia Alternative Center. One of the five officers splits his time between Columbia and Edison Middle School. A report of the first quarterly review of this program was presented. The report included incident data disaggregated by school, incident type, month, day of the week, time of day, race, and sex. Board members had questions and concerns regarding the presentation of the data. Therefore, Board member Reginald Alston recommended tabling the report and revisiting it at the next Board meeting.

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to table the School Resource Officers Report and the Request for Additional Resource Officer for action at a later date. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

### **Consent Agenda**

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, 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:

Grant – FY-7 Reading Recovery Grant

The Board of Education approved the submission of the FY2007 Reading Improvement grant which was submitted in December 2006 in the amount of \$18,500. Funding for Reading Recovery is provided through the K-6 Reading Improvement Block Grant, which was awarded for the FY07 in the amount of \$325,253. The purpose of the Reading Recovery Grant is to provide professional development and continuing contact/support sessions to Reading Recovery teachers. Reading scores are at the core of necessary cognitive tools for student success in school. The Reading Recovery program has been a successful, proven program that enables over 85% of the students served to achieve grade level performance in reading. Student progress will be evaluated through the discontinuation rate in Reading Recovery, ISAT, and norm-referenced test results and an assessment summary in each participating building's School Improvement Plan. Reading Recovery teachers will participate in continuing professional development. No new staffing was requested.

Bid – Commercial Cutaway Van with Body (Exhibit “B”)

The Board of Education approved the award of the bid to Ford of Champaign in the amount of \$23,399.38 for one 2007 Commercial Cutaway Van with 10-foot body. The cost of the van will be charged to the Maintenance replacement equipment account as budgeted for 2006-07.

Board policy states that bids are to be solicited when items are expected to exceed a total of \$10,000. As part of the bidding process, bids were solicited and received for the above item.

Resolution – Preparation of Tentative FY07/08 Budget (Exhibit “C”)

Minutes – November 15, 2006 & December 4, 11 & 19, 2006 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the 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.

**Executive Session**

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Reginald Alston, 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). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 11:24 p.m.

**Open Session**

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 11:36 p.m.

Student Discipline

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to expel student #640741 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year, and reassignment to

Columbia Center 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 school officials and foster parents should develop a 504 plan for the student as soon as possible. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0. Abstained 1. Nathaniel Banks Abstained.

#### Charter School Proposal (Exhibit "F")

Franczek Sullivan Attorney Brian Crowley presented the following revisions that were made to the original resolution still calling for denial of the original proposal and also for the amended proposal.

1. Enrollment referring to the fact that the Charter School will be a single-sex school – did not change in the amendment; they did not provide how they will comply with the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution;
2. Life/Safety Requirements – assertion was made in the amendment that they would comply but, concrete evidence was not provided on how the existing building complies with life-safety requirements;
3. Educational Programs – the amendment remained vague regarding the various educational programs and how they will comply with Illinois Standards;
4. Transportation regarding the need for geographic diversity – concern is they are only offering car pooling;
5. Evidence of Economic Soundness – the revised budget still indicates that items are under-funded;
6. Compliance with Charter Schools Law re: Desegregation Plans – did not indicate in the amendment how they will comply with the Consent Decree;
7. Evidence of Support – while people did express their support, a petition displaying they will have the necessary support to fill student seats for the Charter School was not submitted;
8. Amendment - was not submitted in a timely manner; was provided 28 days after the public hearing which was held on December 11, 2006; however, for the aforementioned reasons, it does not comply with the Charter Schools Law;
9. Employee certification was removed because it could easily be amended in a subsequent hearing before ISBE;
10. Open Meeting Act was removed because they indicated that they would comply with Open Meetings Act which can be easily amended before ISBE.

David Tomlinson moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, that the Board of Education adopt and approve the Resolution Denying the Charter School Proposal and Amendment in substantially the same form as presented to the Board, and to modify the Charter School Name, and further direct the President and Secretary to execute the Resolution. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. Nathaniel Banks voted Nay.

#### **Adjournment**

1/08/07

Regular Meeting

There being no further business, Scott Anderson moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

*Approved: February 19, 2007*