

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
February 11, 2008 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President David Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board Members Present

Nathaniel Banks, Kristine Chalifoux, Susan Grey, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, David 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, Administrator Joe Davis

Approval of Agenda

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

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

PTA Council

Brian Minsker thanked Board members and the Administration for attending the Founders' Day dinner.

Reports/Discussion

Academic Spotlight – Carrie Busey Elementary

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris introduced Busey Principal Zanita Willis. Principal Willis and three of her teachers shared information regarding how they use technology with kindergarten students to increase student learning. Kindergarten and first grade students at Carrie Busey Elementary experience integration of literacy and technology in creative and innovative ways.

Kindergarten students are the only children in the District that have a structured literacy component incorporated into the use of computers. This initiative was teacher created and has a significant impact on literacy and technology skills. Students visit literacy stations that increase phonemic awareness and writing skills in tandem. The writing stations are designed to provide a practical application of the District's Lucy Calkins' writing curriculum and are strategically aligned with the newly adopted Standards-Based Report Cards. Parental and community support of this initiative has been crucial to the program's success.

First graders have access to a computer-based program designed to illustrate and animate student writing. "SQUEAK" was introduced to the District in conjunction with the University of Illinois several years ago. First grade teacher Elizabeth Slifer has masterfully integrated this technology based literacy program into the District's first grade literacy curriculum. Students become teachers and tutors for children in other classes as they master the essential tools for illustrating and animating authentic text.

Consent Decree Update – Climate & Discipline

Executive Director Dedrick Martin provided the following update related to climate and discipline. The purpose of the District's Education Equity Implementation Plan is to set forth a comprehensive framework for improving the District's educational programs and opportunities for African American and non-African American students. Some of the stated objectives of the plan are:

- Seek to provide educational tools and alternative resources that eliminate unwarranted disparities in student discipline and attendance at alternative schools.
- Seek to use discipline as an intervention strategy only and as a means to improve student behavior

The Unit 4 administrative team is focused on accelerating progress in the area of climate and discipline because it is clear that a safe and orderly environment improves student learning. Administrators across the District have engaged their respective faculties in collaborative teams in order to capitalize on the collective knowledge of all. Proactive plans to impact the quantitative indicators are occurring across the District and in some places the results are astonishing, with elementary schools showing consistent progress during the last few years.

Elementary School Summary Results:

- Elementary disciplinary incidents are 11% lower than SY2007 June;
- In October of 2007, the number of disciplinary incidents was recorded as 192 while in SY2008 the number of disciplinary incidents has decreased significantly by 42 incidents to 150;
- Insubordination decreased by 18%;
- Verbal Abuse and Threats decreased by 11%;
- Physical Acts and Disruptions decreased by 11%, when compared to the quarterly trend line;
- Elementary disciplinary actions are 11% lower than reported on the SY2007 quarterly trend line.

The positive trend at the elementary level is also visible when analyzing middle school data. All middle schools are showing outstanding results and it appears that the proactive approaches are beginning to result in positive reductions in disciplinary incidents for all students, and especially for African American students.

Middle School Summary Results:

- Middle school disciplinary incidents are 12% lower than SY2007 June;
- In October of 2007, the number of disciplinary incidents was recorded as 1295 while in SY2008 the number of disciplinary incidents has decreased significantly by 337 incidents down to 958;
- Insubordination decreased by 14%;

- Verbal Abuse and Threats decreased by 14%; and
- Physical Acts and Disruption decreased by 15% when compared to the quarterly trend line.

At the high school level, progress has been inconsistent. Systemic issues have been identified, and data integrity and consistency issues within recording, interpretation, and implementation have been challenging during the first quarter of SY2008. The first indicator of a process or systems issue is visible when comparing disciplinary incidents in October SY2008 to SY2007. The disciplinary incidents are 9% higher than SY2007 trend line data. This statistic is alarming and has led the Leadership team to re-examine the tardy, truancy process. The increase in tardy and truancy reported accounts for the significant increase in disciplinary incidents.

A quantitative analysis of data clearly reveals positive trends at both the elementary and middle school levels and minimal gains at the high school level as they relate to reducing disciplinary incidents and disciplinary actions. Systemic proactive efforts to create a safe and orderly learning environment are producing the desired results based on discipline data indicators. It is also important to note that instructional improvement in curriculum, instruction, and achievement, and qualitative improvement in school climate, teacher behavior, and administrator approaches have all impacted the results produced.

The Leadership team acknowledges that challenges still exist in the area of discipline and that the challenges are great, but the District's progress toward meeting these challenges is encouraging. The Collaboration Plan will be used as a guide and as a catalyst for acceleration toward Consent Decree goals.

All principals and District administrators were trained in implementing the revised Code of Conduct prior to the beginning of the 2008 school year. All principals trained their faculty in the implementation of the Student Code of Conduct during the School Improvement days prior to the beginning of the school year. Also, the District must continue intense training in culturally responsive approaches to instruction, teaching students from diverse backgrounds, and behavior management of a diverse student population. The improvements resulting from Nurtured Heart training are an example of the efficacy of such training. Additional training opportunities will be provided as outlined in the Collaboration Plan.

The Department for Achievement and Pupil Services routinely monitors progress towards District, department, and Consent Decree goals and provides quarterly reports to the Court Monitor.

Proposed Board of Education Policy/Procedure (SUPERINTENDENT – Evaluation)

Director Judy Wiegand presented the proposed policies/procedures which represent the District's continued effort to update the Policy and Procedures Manual. The following revisions were recommended for final Board approval in March.

Policy 315.05 SUPERINTENDENT – Evaluation

The following addition to item #1 in the "Guidelines for evaluation procedure" was recommended:

"The goals/objectives setting process shall be completed by the regular Board meeting in April, for the ensuing school year, in order to provide an optimum amount of time for both the Board

and Superintendent to address the agreed upon goals/objectives in a comprehensive evaluation within the specified deadline cited above.”

Policy 315.05R SUPERINTENDENT – Contract and Evaluation

The Board recommended revising Procedure 315.05R in accordance with State law.

Planning Discussion/Long-Range Facilities & Infrastructure Plan

Board member Kristine Chalifoux shared that the first joint meeting of the Vision Committee and the Working Groups took place on February 6 at the new Champaign Library. The meeting covered setting up the working groups and giving them their charge as well as planning for community forums and other community engagement processes.

See the web site www.greatschoolstogether.org at www.champaignschools.org for more information about upcoming meetings.

Action Agenda

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

It was the Board’s decision that the Closed Session Minutes remain closed.

2008/09 Proposed Calendars – Traditional & Balanced (Exhibit “A”)

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve the proposed 2008/09 calendars. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 1. Board Member Chalifoux voted Nay.

Director George Stanhope shared that a committee comprised of parents, teachers, support staff, principals and District administrators met multiple times to develop the proposed school calendars for the Regular and Balanced calendar schools. The committee discussed calendar development parameters established by the Illinois State Board of Education and District-specific considerations in the process of preparing the proposed calendars, including feedback from staff and parents. Special considerations for the 2008-09 school calendars included:

- Honoring the Board’s request to hold semester exams before Winter Break;
- Following the recommendation from the High School Futures Committee that the end of 1st semester should coincide with 1st semester exams before Winter Break;
- Sensitivity to the placement of the Fall and Spring Holidays respective to family plans over designated holiday breaks and other variables;
- Alignment with the University of Illinois spring break;
- Adherence to any teacher contract language relative to the design of the school calendars;
- Alignment of the Regular and Balanced calendars to allow all District staff to be trained together on designated Institute days or District school improvement days;
- Honoring the Board’s request to take President’s Day, the third Monday of February, as a school holiday instead of February 12, President Lincoln’s birthday.

Copies of the Regular and Balanced school calendars were shared. It was stated that there are no foreseen Average Daily Attendance (ADA) implications in the development of the calendar proposals that could impact District funding by the State of Illinois.

Board of Education Proposed Policy (Board of Education Officers)

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the policy as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Director Judy Wiegand presented the proposed policy which represents the District's continued effort to update the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Policy 245 BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS

Revised to indicate that the policy may be temporarily set aside to allow for completion of the remainder of the term.

Consent Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, 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

The Board of Education approved the donation for Winter Break skating passes from Skateland for Barkstall, Bottenfield, Carrie Busey, Dr Howard, Garden Hills, Kenwood, Robeson, South Side, Stratton, Washington, Westview, Edison, Franklin and Jefferson valued at \$36,688.00.

Reading Recovery Grant

The Board of Education approved the submission of the FY08 Reading Recovery grant in the amount of \$19,100.

Partial funding for Reading Recovery is provided through the K-6 Reading Improvement Block Grant, which was awarded for FY08 in the amount of \$318,305. Additional funding for Reading Recovery is secured through the Reading Recovery grant; the purpose of the Reading Recovery Grant is to provide professional development and continuing contact/support sessions to Reading Recovery teachers.

Reading Recovery is the only Beginning Reading Program to receive a double-plus rating from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Educational Sciences, for General Reading Achievement and the only program to demonstrate evidence or strong evidence of effect in all four rating categories: Alphabetic, Fluency, Comprehension, and General Reading Achievement.

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, DRA results, and ISAT scores.

Bids (Exhibit "B")

The Board of Education approved the bids for two 30-passenger buses and three 71-passenger buses to Midwest Transit Equipment for a total amount of \$346,621 for all five buses.

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 and received from five vendors for

two 30-passenger buses and three 71-passenger buses. Midwest Transit Equipment submitted the lowest bid for the 71-Passenger school buses. Total price after trade-in is \$205,989. The Administration also recommended the acceptance of Midwest Transit Equipment bid of \$140,632 for the two 30-passenger buses. Costs will be charged to the Transportation fund for budget year 2008-09.

The low bid from Central States Bus Sales, Inc did not meet the specifications of the bid.

Proposal – Teacher Collaboration project, Ctr. for Ed. in Small Urban Communities

The Board of Education approved the funding of an additional teacher collaborator position through the University of Illinois.

In collaboration with the University of Illinois and Urbana School District 116, creation of the Center for Study of Education in Small Urban Communities was realized. The Center's goals include enhancing local teachers' instructional capacities related to literacy, developing high quality professional development, and strengthening the partnership with the University of Illinois and local schools. To provide sustained support for Chancellor's Academy participants as they implement and re-explore new teaching strategies during the academic year, the Center created the Teacher Collaborator Project. The goal of the Teacher Collaborator project is to refocus professional development from the occasional workshop to contextualized, classroom focused, ongoing learning based on reflection, collaboration, and joint action. To facilitate this project, two teacher collaborators were hired for the 2007-08 school year to provide professional development in literacy for the respective school districts. Consequently, Chancellor Herman agreed to further expand this initiative with the addition of three more teacher collaborators to include the content areas of literacy, math and science. Both Champaign and Urbana school districts agreed to increase the project by funding one additional position each.

The total cost to the District for one teacher collaborator salary will be approximately \$55,000 to \$60,000. Additional employment benefits, including insurance and retirement, will be paid by the University of Illinois.

The Center is committed to learning about school needs and continuously improving programs to better serve the purpose and goals of the partners. In addition, the Center also seeks to document activities and outcomes to be able to share rich and valuable knowledge about school-university partnerships in small urban communities. Toward these ends, the Center engages program participants in multiple evaluation activities. Evaluation findings are shared with program staff to guide program improvements. Evaluation reports are also made available to district and university leadership as they make decisions about Center resources and programs.

Board Minutes – November 26, 2007 & December 5, 10 & 18, 2007 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the 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

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, 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 120/2(c)(2), Property Acquisition/Lease/Purchase 120/2(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Pending Litigation 120/2(c)(11) related to 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). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 8:28 p.m.

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 8:42 p.m.

Open SessionPrincipal – South Side Elementary (Exhibit “E”)

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve the appointment of William Taylor as Principal of South Side Elementary. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

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 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/2(c)(2), Property Acquisition/Lease/Purchase 120/2(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Pending Litigation 120/2(c)(11) related to 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). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 8:44 p.m.

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 11:32 p.m.

Open SessionStudent Discipline

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to expel student #570293 from Jefferson Middle School for the remainder of the 07/08 school year and reassigned to Columbia Center for violating Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) 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 motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Grey Novak, to expel student #630285 from Centennial High School for the remainder of the 07/08 school year and reassigned to Columbia Center for violating Code #15 (Harassment/Hazing/Sexual Harassment/Bullying) and Code #24 (Threats to/Intimidation of Staff) 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 motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to expel student #530057 from Edison Middle School for the remainder of the 07/08 school year and reassigned to READY or a site of the administration's discretion for violating Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) and Code #19 (Physical Confrontation with Student) 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 motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 1. Board Member Banks voted Nay.

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to expel student #560377 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the 07/08 school year and reassigned to Columbia Center for violating Code #24 (Threats to/Intimidation of Staff) 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 motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to expel student #640700 from Columbia Alternative Center for the remainder of the 07/08 school year and reassigned to READY for violating Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff), Code #20 (Property/Damage/Vandalism/Littering), and Code #24 (Threats to/Intimidation of Staff) 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 motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board approved: April 14, 2008