

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
May 14, 2007 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President David Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

Approval of Agenda

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. The Mentoring Program Report was moved to 11.A. Action Agenda items 12.A.1 and 12.A.2 were pulled from the agenda.

Recognitions

Staff Service Awards and the C-U Community Schools Foundation Awards were presented.

Public Comments

Numerous parents and community members spoke in support of the mentoring program.

PTA Council

Brian Minsker encouraged the Board and administration to support the mentoring program.

Reports

Academic Spotlight – Carrie Busey Elementary

Principal Zanita Willis shared the following good news regarding Carrie Busey Elementary. The school currently serves 397 ethnically and socially diverse students. Forty-one percent of the student population is African American; forty-two percent is White; five percent is Hispanic and twelve percent is Asian/Pacific Islander. Fifty-one percent of our student population comes from low income families.

As evidenced by their 2006 ISAT scores, the staff utilizes creative, innovative methods to effectively address the educational needs of all our children. Sixty-four percent of the students in third grade met or exceeded state standards in reading and eighty-one percent met or exceeded in math. Seventy-eight percent of students in grade four met or exceeded standards in reading

while eighty-six percent met or exceeded in math. Seventy-four percent of students in grade 5 met or exceeded state standards in both reading and math.

As a result of three consecutive years of outstanding school performance, Carrie Busey Elementary received the honor of earning the distinctive title of Illinois Spotlight School. The title of Illinois Spotlight School is awarded to high poverty schools exhibiting high academic performance and helping to close the achievement gap.

Consent Decree Update – Schools of Choice Kindergarten Lottery Results

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided a brief overview of the lottery results. A summary of results was shared.

The Champaign Unit 4 School District has adopted the Schools of Choice program as its student assignment method. The Kindergarten Lottery is conducted each year during the month of March as a part of the Schools of Choice program. The 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.

Summary Results:

Total Lottery Applicants: 653
 First Choice Assignments: 556 (85.2%)
 Second Choice Assignments: 48 (7.4%)
 Third Choice Assignments: 14 (2.0%)
 Total Lottery Choice Assigned: 618 (95%)
 Unassigned: 35 (5%)

Five of the District's eleven elementary schools were over chosen. Those schools are Barkstall, Bottenfield, Westview, South Side and Stratton.

Dr. Michael Alves conducts the Kindergarten Lottery process in conjunction with the staff at the Family Information Center (FIC). The cost of the Kindergarten Lottery process is part of the ongoing consultant costs for the services of Dr. Michael Alves.

KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL OF CHOICE LOTTERY RESULTS SY 2007

Code	School	Program	Capacity	Total Assigned	Black Assigned	Non-BL Assigned	BL WL	Non-BL WL
9	BARKSTALL	RE	69	69	19	50	17	38
10	BOTTENFIELD	RE	69	69	17	52	0	21
11	CARRIE BUSEY	RE	69	50	16	34	0	0
12	STRATTON	RE	60	60	40	20	3	0
12	STRATTON	ESL	20	11	0	11	0	0
13	DR HOWARD	RE	69	49	25	24	0	0
14	GARDEN HILLS	RE	59	29	19	10	0	0

14	GARDEN HILLS	ESL	10	5	0	5	0	0
15	KENWOOD	RE	69	63	26	37	0	0
16	ROBESON	RE	92	92	23	69	0	0
17	SOUTH SIDE	RE	46	46	10	36	0	6
18	WASHINGTON	RE	23	16	14	2	0	0
18	WASHINGTON	BL	23	15	0	15	0	0
19	WESTVIEW	RE	54	54	12	42	0	12
19	WESTVIEW	ESL	15	12	0	12	0	0
	TOTALS		747	640	221	419	20	77

2007/2008 Student Code of Conduct

Assistant Superintendent Patricia Lewis provided the following information regarding the recommended changes to the 07/08 Student Code of Conduct.

The Discipline Advisory Committee held meetings during the months of January through March for the purpose of revising the District's Student Code of Conduct for the 2007-08 school year. The Student Code of Conduct is one of the foundational components of our district-wide behavior management plan. The Code consists of an informational section that provides an overview of the tenets of Unit 4's Student Code of Conduct, elementary and secondary sections that discuss disciplinary violations and consequences, elementary and secondary glossaries, and sections that cover transportation issues, administrative procedures regarding substance abuse, student discipline, sexual harassment, electronic network access, student cell phone use, student tardiness (high school), and homework.

Staff development will be provided to building administrators and campus personnel, including new teachers, substitute teachers, and bus drivers during the month of August prior to the beginning of the 2007-08 school year. Additionally, staff development will take place throughout the school year on an as-needed basis.

Cost for mailing is approximately \$1,050. In addition to annual revisions being made, this year the Code will need to be converted and reformatted into an updated software program. Cost for conversion and reformatting is expected to be approximately \$2,160; the cost for this year's revisions is expected to be approximately \$756.

Each year in the spring semester, the Discipline Advisory Committee, consisting of teachers, CFT representatives, community members, parents, Board members, and district-level representatives, reviews and revises the Student Code of Conduct for submission to the Board of Education for its approval. Final action to approve the 07/08 Student Code of Conduct will be taken at the June Board meeting.

Vocational/Career & Technology Education

Director George Stanhope provided an update on Career/Technology Education. Career and Technical Education (CTE), formally known as Vocational Education, encompasses three areas of course offerings within the Champaign Unit 4 high schools: Business and Computer Technology, Family and Consumer Science, and Industrial Technology. The curriculum offered

through CTE courses are part of a larger challenge to prepare students for the world beyond high school (Quint 2006).

To address this challenge, the high schools in Champaign Unit 4 are asking, “What does a 21st Century high school look like?” The curriculum department is working with high school teachers to develop curriculums that answer this question. For example, from current brain research we know that students who are digital natives, children who have grown up in a technologically rich environment of (e.g., video games, iPods, text messaging) are better at multitasking and process information faster than previous generations. Many recently developed curriculums in science contain a multi-media approach to learning using power point. All science classrooms have a ceiling-mounted LCD project where teachers can tap into information on the internet and provide it to students in real time.

Specific to CTE, the District and high schools in Champaign Unit 4 work closely with the regional Education for Employment (EFE) office. The EFE is a regional delivery system designed to administer the efficient delivery of career and technical education and associated grants (e.g., Perkins, Career and Technical Improvement, Tech Prep). Through the EFE, the District has developed funded CTE programs that are structured around a series of course offerings. This year, the District received \$125,895.00 through the state-approved CTE programs. The funds for CTE programs go back into the programs and are managed by each high school. The District is working with the EFE and local trade unions to develop a school-based apprenticeship program that builds upon a rigorous high school curriculum and provides students with internships. The local electrical workers union runs an evening apprenticeship program out of Central High School for post-high school graduates.

In addition to working with the EFE, the District also works with Parkland Community College and regional colleges and universities to prepare students for the world beyond high school. Through Parkland, Champaign Unit 4 students can take dual-credit courses, earning both high school and college credit. Dual-credit courses can either be taken at Parkland, for which students pay tuition, or can be taught by an approved Unit 4 teacher at no cost to students. The District is seeking ways to capitalize on dual-credit opportunities for students across all disciplines. A further example is through AVID, where a group of students will attend Eastern University this summer to experience college life and earn a college credit in sociology. The District is also seeking ways to be included in programs and grant opportunities, such as our current Math and Science Partnership grant in nanotechnology, that provide our teachers with cutting-edge information to include in curriculum and instruction, as well as provide our students opportunities to work shoulder to shoulder with graduate students and professors through internships or independent study. The District is currently seeking an opportunity as a collaborator for the Engineering Research Center proposal for Thermal and Electrical CoDesign of Ultra-Scaled Electronics (CTEC).

The CTE programs are an important and integral part of a larger District effort to make a high school education relevant to our students. In a recent conversation with the President of the electrician’s union we jointly acknowledged the need for all students to have a common rigorous and relevant high school education that prepares students for the many post-secondary options available to them, whether that is as an apprentice in the trades or a four-year college. In either case, the preparation should meet the same high standards for what students should be able to know and do.

Quint, J. (2006). Meeting five critical challenges of high school reform: Lessons from research on three reform models. New York: MDRC. Available at: <http://www.mdrc.org./publications/428/full.pdf>.

Mentoring Program

Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd spoke about the District's desire to expand the duties of the district-wide coordinator position and making it full-time in order to make the position more effective. The District recognizes the quality of the mentoring program and is not looking at cutting the program entirely. Money has been allocated, along with other budget requests, for consideration during the development of the 07/08 budget.

Action Agenda

2007/2008 Regular & Special Board Meeting Schedule

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the 2007/2008 Regular and Special Board meeting schedules as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Historically, the Unit #4 Board of Education has scheduled its regular meetings for the second Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the E.H. Mellon Administrative Center. Attached is a schedule for the regular Board meetings for 2007/2008, along with the special Board meetings that will be held at the schools.

Champaign Unit #4 Board of Education
Regular Meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the
Second Monday of Each Month at the
E.H. Mellon Administrative Center,
703 South New Street, Champaign, Illinois

2007/2008 Regular Board Meeting Dates

2007

July 9
August 13
September 17
October 15
November 12
December 10

2008

January 14
February 11
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9

Special Board Meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the
Fourth Monday of Each Month (some exceptions due to certain events)

September 24, 2007	Garden Hills Elementary
October 29, 2007	Kenwood Elementary
November 26, 2007	Centennial High School
January 28, 2008	Jefferson Middle School
February 25, 2008	Carrie Busey Elementary
March 25, 2008	Early Childhood Center
April 28, 2008	Bottenfield Elementary
May 27, 2008	Stratton Elementary
(Meetings will not be held during the months of August, December, June & July)	

K-3 Standards-Based Report Cards

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve the K-3 Standards-Based Report Cards for implementation in the 07/08 school year. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Director Mary Muller reviewed the process for the development of a standards-based report card. In 2003-04, the District began the process of creating K-3 curriculum maps for each content area which are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. During the summer of 2005, initial writing took place to develop a standards-based report card, which reflected the changes in each curricular area. Throughout the next two years, teachers have worked as teams revising the report cards based on feedback from parents, staff members, and community members. The following timeline highlights this history:

- Summer 2005 – Initial drafts of standards-based report cards were written.
- Fall 2005 – Draft report cards were reviewed and revised by the Report Card committee with teacher representation from every grade level.
- End of third quarter 2006 – Pilot using standards-based progress report with teacher representation at all grade levels.
- April 2006 – Pilot report card surveys were gathered from parents and teachers at the end of pilot.
Revisions were made to report cards based on feedback by the Report Card committee.
- April 2006 – Revised report cards were shared at grade level meetings with an invitation to all K-5 teachers to participate in a second pilot.
- Spring and fall 2007 – Final report card revisions reflecting teacher feedback and new adoptions were made by grade level teachers.
- Fall 2006 and spring 2007 – A teacher handbook was created to support implementation of standards-based progress report.
- April 2007 – Final standards-based report cards and a teacher handbook were shared with elementary principals.
- Standards-based report cards were shared at grade level meetings.
- April 11, 2007 – Standards-based report cards were shared and approved by Curriculum Steering Committee.
- May 14, 2007 – Standards-based report cards were shared with Board of Education.
- Summer 2007 writing set-up to:
 - develop parent handbook
 - revise cumulative folders
 - translate progress reports into Spanish
- Fall 2007 – Grades 4/5 standards-based report cards will be piloted. Teacher handbook will be revised to include grades 4/5.
- Fall 2008 – Implementation of grades 4/5 standards-based report card.

All elementary teachers will participate in continuing professional development related to the K-3 standards-based report cards throughout the 2007-2008 school years. Parents will have the opportunity to attend District and campus level meetings explaining the new report cards, as well.

Feedback will be gathered from parents and teachers throughout the 2007-2008 school years to ascertain if any revisions will be necessary. Teachers will be given the opportunity to offer suggestions for improvement during District and campus meetings. Parents will be asked to complete a survey regarding the new report card during Parent/Teacher conferences.

Resolution to Prepare a Final Budget for FY07 & Hold a Public Hearing on Such Budget (Exhibit "A")

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to adopt the Resolution to Prepare a Final Budget for FY07 and Hold a Public Hearing on such Budget. The Board President read the resolution into the minutes. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief presentation regarding the preparation of the final budget for FY07. He shared original budget amounts for 2007, amended budget information for 2007, and additional deficit figures for 2007. When the 2007 Budget was originally prepared last summer, every attempt was made to make it as accurate as possible. However, during the course of the year a number of financial transactions occurred that necessitate an amendment. The changes are highlighted on the following page. Failure to amend the budget will cause both the Education and Health Life Safety Funds to contain higher expenditures than appropriated (budgeted). Technically, this is a violation of state law and would be noted by our independent auditors in their review of our 2006-2007 financial statements.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract (Exhibit "B")

Susan Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the School Resource Officers (SRO) contract. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Assistant Superintendent Patricia Lewis recommended that the Board of Education approve the annual SRO contract renewal and extension through June 30, 2008 at a cost of \$220,306.

Per the original contract language, the SRO contract was brought to the Board of Education for annual renewal and extension. The term of this agreement will be July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008. The cost to be paid by the school district for Year 2 of the three-year contract is \$220,306.

Appointments to Be Considered

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the appointments. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. Novak voted Nay.

Consent Agenda

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Susan Grey, 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:

Health/Life Safety Work 2007

The Board of Education approved the Health Life Safety Work to be completed the summer of 2007 at an estimated cost of \$256,920.

Bottenfield, Centennial, Central, Edison, Franklin, Robeson, and Westview are in need of Health/Life Safety Work to be completed the summer of 2007. The work includes: tuck pointing, replacing intercom systems, replacing boiler room pumps, repairing cracks in masonry and repairing and replacing sanitary piping. A more detailed breakdown by school will be presented with the 2008 budget.

The architectural firm of Bailey Edward Design has completed the appropriate Health/Life Safety bid paperwork. The work will begin in early June and will be finished by August 20, 2007 at an estimated cost of \$256,920 which will be paid from the Health/Life Safety fund.

Donations

The Board of Education approved the donation from Central High School's PTSA for \$5,000 to purchase a scanner. The donation was in need of approval by the Board of Education, as it was \$5,000 or more in value.

Grants - C-U Community Schools Foundation Grant

The Board of Education approved the grants funded through the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation in the amount of \$11,315.50.

Each year the C-U Schools Foundation, through charitable donations, provides staff in the Champaign and Urbana School Districts the opportunity to apply for grants. Grant dollars go to support educational excellence in the classroom through innovative and creative ideas. C-U Schools Foundation Executive Director Gail Rost met with K-12 principals to explain the grant process and encourage teacher participation. The C-U Schools Foundation selection committee met and funded 13 grants submitted by Unit #4 staff. \$25,289.52 will be given to the District to support teacher initiated projects.

Minutes – April 5 & 16, 2007 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the 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

Greg Novak 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 Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9) and Actual/Potential Litigation 120/2(c)(11) as it relates to pending litigation in Johnson, et. al. v. Board of Education of Champaign Unit #4, Case No. 00-1349 (U.S.D.C. Central District of Illinois). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 10:15 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 10:19 p.m. in order to include discussion of personnel during Closed Session.

Executive Session

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel 120/2(c)(1), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Actual/Potential Litigation 120/2(c)(11) as it relates to pending litigation in Johnson, et. al. v. Board of Education of Champaign Unit #4, Case No. 00-1349 (U.S.D.C. Central District of Illinois). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 10:20 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 11:20 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: June 11, 2007