

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
October 9, 2006 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Scott Anderson, Reginald Alston, Nathaniel Banks, Arlene Blank, Margie Skirvin, David Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Minosca Alcantara

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Arthur Culver, Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd, Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley, Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas, Facilities/Transportation Supervisor Joe Davis

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

Approval of Agenda

David Tomlinson moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. The School Site for Savoy Report was presented after the Academic Spotlight. The Three-Year Budget Forecast 2007/2008 Report and the Approval of Settlement in Case No. 05-2161, United States District Court for the Central District Illinois were pulled from the agenda.

Board member Minosca Alcantara arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Recognitions

National Merit Scholars from Centennial High School and Central High School were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements.

Gail Rost was recognized for receiving the Those Who Excel Award for her outstanding contributions as a community volunteer.

BTW teacher Shauna Carey was honored for being named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for the State of Illinois.

PTA Council

Brian Minsker thanked Jeannine Wheeler, Director of Food Services, for attending the October PTA Council meeting. He also stated that September Board meeting minutes are not posted on the web and suggested posting the minutes in a timelier manner. Board President Margie Skirvin

informed him that the September 11 minutes would be approved at this meeting and then would be posted on the web. Board minutes are to be posted within seven days after Board approval.

Board

Arlene Blank asked the administration to make the appropriate changes to policy as it relates to the information received from DCFS regarding important changes to state law concerning the legal obligations of school employees and board members as mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect in Illinois.

Margie Skirvin shared the following important dates for prospective candidates for the April 2007 election. There will be five seats open (four four-year seats and one two-year seat).

October 30, 2006, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Prospective candidates may pick up packets at the Mellon Building.

November 7, 2006

First day prospective candidates may circulate nominating petitions for signatures for the April 17, 2007 school board election.

January 1 – February 5, 2007

Statement of Economic Interest for 2007 must be filed by any incumbent board member seeking re-election, as well as for any new candidate.

January 29, 2007, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

First day candidates may file nominating papers with the school board secretary for the April 17, 2007 school board election.

February 5, 2007, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Last day candidates may file nominating papers with the school board secretary for the April 17, 2007 election.

Last day candidates may file receipt for Statement of Economic Interests to accompany nominating papers.

April 17, 2007

Consolidated Election Day, includes election of school board members.

Reports

Academic Spotlight - Central High School

The Central High School Drama troupe was selected as one of the premier programs in the country and won the opportunity to represent the best of high school theatre at the International Fringe Festival in August. Parents, family, and friends of 22 students and 4 chaperones raised and contributed over \$145,000 to participate in the two-week tour. The Central Thespians presented a short Power Point Presentation to the School Board and school community. The Central Drama troupe thanked the district for their support and asked for continued support as the program grows this year. The Drama troupe hopes to perform at the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska next summer.

School Site for Savoy

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas attended a Planning Commission meeting in Savoy at which Steve Meade, who represented the developer, Randy Peifer, presented to the commission a proposed alternate school site in Savoy for an elementary school. The Planning Commission did not take any action on the proposal at that time. The Planning Commission and the Village Commissioners are looking for input from Unit 4. Steve Meade from US Homes explained briefly to the Board that he could acquire land approximately ½ mile south of the proposed school site in Prairie Fields for an alternative school site. He stated that he would acquire 20 acres along First Street and donate 15 acres to the district. The five acres on First Street would

be developed as commercial property. They are developing two subdivisions in Savoy (Prairie Meadows and Lake Falls).

Mr. Meade presented the following information regarding Savoy school site location options:

Option 1: Prairie Fields Subdivision

Location: southeast corner of Prairie Rose & Sunflower (6 acre lot); adjacent to 10 acre Village Park with playground equipment; adjacent properties are completely developed – all residential; Prairie Rose was widened to handle the additional traffic for the school; all necessary utilities are available to the site;

Access: Prairie Rose & Sunflower Street

Option 2: Weidemier Property

Location: west of First Street between Old Church Road and Airport Road (15 acre lot); larger tract allows more flexibility for school site plan; new site is more central to developing area east of Route 45; access from First Street can be for the school only avoiding competition with local traffic for pick up/drop offs; all necessary utilities are being extended to the site;

Comments and questions from Board members regarding the proposal:

1. Park already built in Prairie Fields; if build further south, who will build park?
2. Will receive criticism if school is built further south; was criticized during bond referendum;
3. Proximity major concern if build further south;
4. Savoy needs a school;
5. Cost for infrastructure at new site would high;
6. Political consequences of giving up a site with no development costs for a site which could reach \$1 million would be huge;
7. Do not want a school site adjacent to commercial property;
8. Big backlash will be generated by residents in Prairie Fields who bought a house because they thought a school would be built there;
9. If Prairie Fields site is given up, the development of new site by a certain date would have to be negotiated;
10. Did not agree with the development of 5 acres on First Street as commercial property
11. Access from First Street could cause problems with emergency vehicles;
12. Area east of Route 45 is only about one half mile from Unity School District which would make it a further site;

Attorney Mike Tague explained that the donated land can only be used for a school site. The District and the owner would enter into an agreement that would protect the land. If the school district hasn't built a school by 2009, then it shall either purchase the land or the land reverts back to the developer.

Board members publicly thanked the developer for the generous donation of the land.

Consent Decree Update – Leadership Training & Staff Development

Director Dedrick Martin shared the following information regarding training and staff development.

On July 27 & 28 and August 14, 15, & 16, Cindy Keller-Higgins held a Positive Behavior Facilitation training for twenty five Unit 4 employees. The training focused on six components:

- Awareness and management of self;
- Knowledge of dynamics of conflict;
- Understanding behavior management vs. change;
- Therapeutic milieu;
- Surface behavior management techniques;
- Effective communication.

On August 10, Dr. Tyrone Tanner and Dr. Theresa McCloud, two Educational Administration professors at Texas Southern University, conducted a leadership training entitled “Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships” for Champaign Unit 4 building administrations, department administrators, coordinators, and central office administrators. The full day training focused on the following:

- Nature of Trust & Distrust;
- Tough Conversations: How to identify issues and what to do when addressing diversity in relation to staff;
- Improving Classroom Management;
- Helping Struggling Students Achieve Success; and
- Increasing Parental Involvement through Trust Based Relationships.

On August 22, Dr. Ron Ferguson, an economist and Senior Research Associate at the Wiener Center for Social Policy at Harvard University, conducted a teacher training session entitled “Closing the Achievement Gap” for secondary teachers at Centennial High School. The training initiative was aimed at closing the achievement gap by increasing communication and building knowledge among teachers. It is providing ways of achieving success in the classroom by attending to all three legs of the instructional tripod – Content, Pedagogy and Relationships. Dr. Ferguson’s teacher staff development training was a follow-up to the Leadership training on “Closing the Achievement Gap” conducted in January 2005.

On August 22, Jeannette Gordon, from Illinois Resource Center, conducted training for all elementary teachers on Differentiated Instruction with a focus on English Language Learners (ELL). The training centered on helping teachers develop a greater understanding of the complexities with challenging and providing rigor for students who are learning English as a second language.

Board of Education Proposed Policies (ATTENDANCE: School Admissions & Student Transfers To & From Non-District Schools)

Dr. Carol Stack provided the following information regarding the proposed policy.

Policy 705.05 (ATTENDANCE: School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

The policy was revised to further clarify the procedures for proof of identity of a student according to the Missing Children’s Act (325 ILCS 50/5 b) which specifies a determined timeline for a parent to supply proof of identity for their child.

September 29, 2006 Benchmark

Director Fred Clarke presented the following five-year picture of benchmark data. The September 29, 2006 Official Benchmark Report for the 2006-2007 school year shows that the PreK-12 enrollment for Champaign Unit 4 is 9,342. The preschool total is 288.

The following is a grade by grade comparison of the September 30, 2002, September 30, 2003, September 30, 2004, September 30, 2005, and September 29, 2006 enrollments:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
PreK	309	298	304	292	288
Kinder	685	683	673	696	730
1 st	678	687	710	667	701
2 nd	663	675	693	722	690
3 rd	722	682	654	670	714
4 th	737	716	669	657	671
5 th	686	734	710	671	649
Subtotals	4,480	4,475	4,413	4,375	4,443

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
6 th	680	713	704	696	636
7 th	705	647	677	690	693
8 th	662	711	632	662	688
Subtotal	2,047	2,071	2,013	2,048	2,017
9 th	780	800	866	839	796
10 th	754	731	716	774	741
11 th	704	685	676	670	717
12 th	604	674	698	640	628
Subtotal	2,842	2,890	2,956	2,923	2,882
Grand Total	9,369	9,436	9,382	9,346	9,342

General School Safety

Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley provided an update on general school safety. In light of the recent school shootings that have occurred across the nation, the District has taken the following steps to ensure a safe learning environment for all children:

- Developed comprehensive emergency management plans for the District and each campus during the 2005-06 SY that involved the school district, city, state, and private school entities.
- Assigned school resource officers to high schools, middle schools, and Columbia Center using a nationally recognized school resource model.
- Placed cameras in strategic locations at our early childhood center, high schools, Columbia Center, and Jefferson Middle School.
- Limited the number of points of entry into our schools with signs posted instructing visitors to enter and sign in at our front offices.
- Reevaluated/reinforced school visitor procedures.

- Required mandatory school safety drill orientations for students and staff in five key crisis situations, in addition to the required drills for fire and tornado events.
- Conducted orientations for students and staff to spot signs of danger and report them to the appropriate authorities.
- Installed keyless entry systems to eliminate or reduce the need for staff to use keys to access buildings.
- Assigned supervisory period for designated teaching staff at District high schools.

In addition to mandatory fire and tornado drills, school staff and student orientations are conducted annually by building administrators in five key crisis situations. Costs to meet vulnerability assessment recommendations will be determined and prioritized in collaboration with the financial services and maintenance and operations departments. In addition, the District will look at the feasibility of using Health, Life, Safety monies to meet some of the outstanding needs. Further, the administration recommended the addition of a full-time school resource officer at Columbia Center. Costs for the additional school resource officer will be determined after discussion with the Champaign Police Department.

Yearly and ongoing assessments will be conducted to respond to safety needs, along with annual updates of the crisis plan by central office and campus-level staff.

Board members suggested installation of cameras and buzzer systems at the schools. Superintendent Culver stated that the administration would explore this and make it a priority.

Action Agenda

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Scott Anderson, to approve the proposed policy as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Board of Education Proposed Policies (BUDGET – Financial Support for Special Events/Opportunities)

The Board of Education directed the administration to develop a policy to provide a rationale and guidelines for approving or denying requests for District funding of special trips or opportunities by school district groups or clubs either before or after the school year budget has been approved. The administration prepared the following policy for this intent. Depending upon the financial status of the school district when the request is made and the other criteria established in the proposed policy, a maximum contribution of \$5,000 to any one organization and a maximum of \$15,000 per year to all approved special events was recommended.

Appointments – Board Committees/Representatives

Board members are asked from time to time to serve on committees to represent the district. The administration prepared the following list of committee appointments, including committees of the Board (e.g., negotiations teams and Planning & Implementation Committee) and committees that serve other organizations (e.g., C-U Schools Foundation Board). Board members agreed to serve on the following committees:

Committee	Estimated Time Commitment	2006/2007 Member(s)
Alternative School Restructuring Task Force	As needed	Nathaniel Banks/Margie Skirvin
*C-U Community Schools Foundation Board	Monthly 4 th Tuesday, 4-5:30pm	Reginald Alston
Attendance Improvement Committee	Quarterly	Nathaniel Banks
*CFT Areas of Consultation	Monthly 1 st Wednesday, 3:30	Margie Skirvin (David Tomlinson, Arlene Blank & Minosca Alcantara will alternate)
*CFT Negotiations Team	Several meetings in negotiation years (Spring 2008)	Margie Skirvin/Arlene Blank/David Tomlinson (two will participate)
*CESP Areas of Consultation	Monthly 2 nd Wednesday, 4:00	Margie Skirvin (David Tomlinson, Arlene Blank & Minosca Alcantara will alternate)
*CESP Negotiations Team	Several meetings in negotiation years (Spring 2007)	Margie Skirvin/Arlene Blank
*Chamber of Commerce Education Steering Committee	As needed	Reginald Alston
*Champaign Co. Economic Development Corp. Board	Monthly	David Tomlinson/Minosca Alcantara
Curriculum Steering	4-5 meetings/year	Margie Skirvin
Discipline Advisory Committee	4-5 meetings/year	David Tomlinson/Nathaniel Banks
*IASB Delegate Assembly (Delegate & Alternate)	Annual Meeting during the Joint Conference	Margie Skirvin
*Planning & Implementation Committee	Monthly 3 rd Wednesday, 3:00	Nathaniel Banks (Margie Skirvin - alternate)
Strategic Planning	1-3 days at beginning of review/revision year	Minosca Alcantara

*Contractual/Legal/Non-Operational Committees

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:

Donation – Wal-Mart

The Board of Education accepted the donation in the amount of \$10,000 from Wal-Mart to B.T. Washington Elementary School in honor of Shauna Carey who was named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for the State of Illinois.

Sub-Contracting for Services – Physical Therapy for 06/07

The Board of Education approved the contract for physical therapy services for the 2005-2006 school year. The contract allows for either party to terminate the agreement upon a 10-day written notice being delivered to the other party. The agreements will be effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The rate for the contracted physical therapist is \$63/hour. Approximately \$50,000 will be spent for the 2006-2007 school year.

Minutes – September 11, 2006 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.

Executive Session

Reginald Alston moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, 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 8:49 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 9:09 p.m.

Student Discipline

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to expel student #580298 from Edison Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year, and reassignment to Columbia Center for violating Conduct Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with Staff) and #24 (Threats to 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 school officials and foster parents should develop a 504 plan for the student as soon as possible. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Arlene Blank moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education