

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 13, 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

Nathaniel Banks, Arlene Blank, Margie Skirvin, David Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Minosca Alcantara, Reginald Alston, Scott Anderson

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

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

Recognitions

Sue Gray, Champaign County United Way, expressed appreciation to all who volunteered to rake leaves on October 28 to help make a difference for residents in neighborhoods surrounding Dr. Howard Elementary, Barkstall Elementary, Stratton Elementary, Garden Hills Elementary, and Franklin Middle School.

Shauna Carey, who was recently named the Wal-Mart National Teacher of the Year, will be formally recognized at the December 11th Board meeting.

Board member Minosca Alcantara arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Public Comment

Doug West expressed appreciation to Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley for his efforts at Champaign Unit #4. He congratulated Mr. Burley regarding his recent selection as the Superintendent of LaMarque ISD in LaMarque, Texas.

PTA Council

Brian Minsker thanked the Board, Superintendent, and the administration for attending the PTA Council Presidents' dinner. He congratulated Shauna Carey for being selected as the Wal-Mart National Teacher of the Year.

Reports

Academic Spotlight – Jefferson Middle School Encore Curriculum

Dr. Susan Zola provided a brief presentation regarding Jefferson Middle School and their success. The academic program embodies the beliefs and goals stated in the Champaign Unit #4

School District's mission statement. Through its diverse programming, students receive opportunities to experience mathematics, literature, language arts, science, social studies, art, drama, foreign languages/world cultures, music, and science & technology lab throughout the school year. By actively engaging students in dynamic, meaningful, and hands-on learning experiences, the faculty is providing diverse learning environments that allow students to gain knowledge and skills in areas they would not normally experience within the core curriculum.

The National Middle School Association (NMSA) states, "A community for active learning means that students recognize, respect, and value the diversity that each participant brings to the learning." This statement, and goal of Unit #4, can be no truer than in the context of Jefferson Middle School's academic program. Within the instructional settings, students are able to explore their individual strengths and talents as well as learn to recognize and appreciate the talents of others that often lie outside the realm of the traditional core classroom. Through experiences in teamwork and collaborative learning, students come to see each class member as vital to the learning community created within the classroom. Jefferson has demonstrated strong gains in their academic scores over the past few years. Those gains as well as a snapshot of the academic courses offered at Jefferson were shared.

2005/2006 Financial Update

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented on the financial condition of the District. Administration is pleased with the independent auditor's opinion on the 2005-06 financial statements. The district received a "clean" or unqualified opinion (the best possible opinion an audit client can receive) on its 2005-06 financial statements. The unqualified opinion demonstrates that the Business Office is capable of producing accurate, timely financial statements on which the district can rely. Moreover, the "clean" opinion will result in lower interest rates on bonded debt, if it should be sold in the future. Rating agencies like Standard & Poor's and Moody's take the "unqualified" opinion into consideration when issuing a rating on a governmental unit. A positive audit equals a positive rating and, thus, lower interest rates. Evidence of this was demonstrated last year when the District issued Working Cash Bonds and received an "AA" rating (which is superior to the average district in the state with an A+) and a lower interest rate on its new debt.

John Rossi, Virschow Krause & Company, provided the following financial highlights related to the audit:

- Net assets decreased by \$448, which represents a 3% decrease from 2005; Net assets in 2005 (\$15,646); Net assets in 2006 (\$15,198);
- General revenues accounted for \$67,778 in revenue of 79% of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services & fees & grants accounted for \$18,445 or 21% of total revenues of \$86,223;
- District expenses (\$86,672) related to governmental activities; \$18,445 of these expenses were offset by program specific charges & grants;
- \$482,000 of planned life safety projects completed;
- Interest income increased significantly by \$873,000 over previous year;
- District received largest allocation ever of corporate personal property replacement taxes which was \$601,000 more than 2005;
- District settled a 3-year contract with the CFT calling for raises of 3.5%, 4.5% & 4.5% for 2006, 2007, & 2008;

- Federal & State Aid decreased by nearly \$1.5 million as result of decrease in state & federal grants;
- Total Fund Balance increased by nearly \$6 million as result of issuing \$6,250,000 in Working Cash Bonds.

Consent Decree Update – Level III Enrollment

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Superintendent Culver, and Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas participated in a collaboration meeting with the District’s attorneys and plaintiffs’ attorneys on November 7, 2006 in Chicago. Additional collaboration meetings will be held on November 16, 17, 28 & 29, 2006, and on December 14 & 15, 2006.

Director Dedrick Martin shared the following information regarding enrollment of minority students in upper level courses. The purpose of the District’s Education Equity Improvement Plan is to set forth a comprehensive framework for improving the District’s educational programs and opportunities in order to “close the achievement gap” between African American and non-African American students. One of the stated objectives of the plan is to eliminate, to the greatest extent practicable, unwarranted disparities in the enrollment of minority students in upper level courses. In an effort to reduce these unwarranted disparities, the District has actively sought out strategies to increase the number of minorities in upper level courses and provide support to minority students who are in upper level courses. Minority student enrollment in upper level courses is monitored during each year and documented in the quarterly reports. As indicated on the following chart, the number and percentage of African American students enrolled in upper level courses has increased dramatically over the last five years. African American student enrollment in upper level courses meets racial fairness guidelines.

Centennial High School	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07
Total African American (AA) Students Enrolled	301	359	380	394	435
English	81 26.91%	95 26.46%	173 45.52%	167 42.39%	162 37.25%
Mathematics	14 4.65%	21 5.85%	53 13.95%	37 9.39%	33 7.59%
Science	11 3.65%	19 5.29%	41 10.79%	51 12.94%	49 11.26%
Social Science	17 5.65%	30 8.36%	67 17.63%	63 15.99%	55 12.64%
Foreign Language	22 7.31%	34 9.47%	51 13.42%	48 12.18%	39 8.97%
Total Upper Level Courses taken by African American Students	145	199	385	366	338

Central High School	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07
Total African American (AA) Students Enrolled	405	440	454	507	514
English	38 9.38%	63 14.32%	130 28.63%	139 24.71%	156 30.35%
Mathematics	20 4.94%	24 5.45%	51 11.23%	47 9.27%	60 11.67%
Science	20 2.96%	24 5.00%	51 9.25%	47 6.71%	50 9.73%
Social Science	11 2.72%	24 5.45%	40 8.81%	43 8.48%	52 10.12%
Foreign Language	28 6.91%	41 9.32%	52 11.45%	52 10.26%	46 8.95%

Total Upper Level Courses taken by African American Students	117	176	324	328	364
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- 949 AA students enrolled between Centennial & Central by September 30 benchmark
- 370 AA students enrolled in at least 1 Level III course by September 30 benchmark
- 702 upper level courses taken by AA students as of September 30 benchmark
- AA enrollment typically increases at both high schools during the second semester
- Based on 05/06 EOY Report to Court Monitor, 68% of grades earned by AA students enrolled in Level III courses were A, B, or C
- Based on 05/06 EOY Report to Court Monitor, 75% of grades earned by AA students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses were A, B, or C

General School Safety

Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley provided an update on general school safety. School safety has come back to the forefront as a “front burner” issue in light of the recent tragic shootings in some of our nation’s schools. Since the last Board meeting when this topic was first discussed, the administration has taken the following steps to further secure our buildings:

- Convened the District Safety Advisory Council to review the Science Applications International Corporation’s vulnerability assessment findings and recommendations for District facilities.
- Directed the maintenance and operations department to prepare cost estimates and install cameras and buzzer intercom systems at all of our schools, with our elementary and Edison Middle School receiving top priority. To date, cameras and buzzer systems have been installed at Edison Middle School and Carrie Busey Elementary. The next priority will be to install cameras and intercom buzzer systems at the remainder of the elementary, middle, and high schools by winter break.
- Directed principals to review their buildings’ security arrangements to ensure that they are operative and actively monitored and enforced.

Orientation will occur for all principals regarding school safety issues and guidelines for securing buildings. In addition, the contractor installing the camera and intercom buzzer system will provide an orientation for all designated building personnel in the use and operation of the security system. The installation of cameras and intercom buzzer systems for front doors of all elementary and middle school buildings will cost between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per building.

Annual and ongoing assessment of building security needs will be done by building and central office staff to determine the effectiveness of the current system and identify areas needing improvement. In addition, the Director of Pupil Services will conduct quarterly meetings with the Safety Advisory Council to provide ongoing oversight of the District’s Crisis Management Plan and make revisions and recommendations to the administration and Board concerning school safety.

CU One-to-One Mentoring Grant

Lauren Smith, Mentor Coordinator for Bottenfield and Garden Hills, spoke about current volunteers at the schools. The CU One-to-One Mentoring program began in 1994 at Bottenfield Elementary School. Mentors in the research-based mentoring program meet with their students for an hour weekly. It is a long-term relationship building program that supports students’ social and emotional needs so they can achieve their potential. In the fall of 2002, a part-time Mentor Coordinator was hired to monitor, support, and evaluate existing mentoring activities and to establish them at buildings where mentoring was not present. Within two years, mentoring had spread to all 16 buildings. In October of 2004, Champaign Unit #4 and Urbana #116 won a three-year Mentoring Program Competitive Federal Grant that enabled the District to hire mentor

coordinators for all elementary and middle schools. During the summer of 2005, Unit #4 and Unit #116 collaborated to develop a standardized set of procedures for volunteers who work in the schools on a regular basis. Mentor coordinators track the contributions of all mentor programs and regular school volunteers, as well as ensure that appropriate protocols are followed. Program accomplishments include:

- **Growth**- The program has grown to 214 mentors/mentee pairs as of October of 2006 from 59 pairs in the fall of 2002.
- **Academics**- Seventy-two percent of students with a mentor improved in at least one core subject, and 16 percent improved in three core subject areas.
- **Attendance**- There was a decrease in unexcused absences in 58 percent of students with a mentor who had previous attendance issues.
- **Classroom Behavior** – According to teachers, 86 percent of students with a mentor had a positive change in at least one of the following areas: acting out, shy/anxious behavior, problem solving and/or social skill deficits.
- **Programmatic Improvement** – The program is close to full compliance for mentoring programs best practices. The District’s Attendance Specialists have collaborated with the program to provide support for high school students and their mentors. The program has also worked with Columbia’s Social Workers to provide support to mentors and their students who have transferred to Columbia.
- **Volunteer Program Growth** – During the 2005-06 school year, over 895 volunteers were screened, received orientation and provided 10, 192 hours of service to the District.
- **Tutoring Partnership** - Parkland College students partnered with Garden Hills Elementary to tutor all third grade students. Preliminary results show that 94 percent of all third graders met or exceeded ISAT standards (up from 59 percent in 2005). African American reading scores improved from 28 percent in 2005 to 84 percent in 2006. 100 percent of all third graders met or exceeded ISAT standards in 2006. The efforts of these tutors contributed to the success of the teachers and students.

Last year, the federal grant funded \$116,883.40 of the program costs, and the District funds \$4,220.13. Grant funds will end in June 2007, and the District will have to determine the cost of any services retained or reorganize the way that services are delivered. The program has been evaluated by the District’s Program Evaluation Team. The CU One-to-One program coordinator is evaluated by the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Community Relations.

Board member Arlene Blank stated that, as the District begins the 2008 budget planning process, she hopes the District will consider funding the program when the grant expires.

Physical Education Waiver

Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley provided the following report regarding the District’s request for a physical education waiver. Last year and in previous years, the District was granted a waiver that allowed high school student-athletes to opt out of physical education during their competitive season and enroll in a study hall instead. Only Centennial High School utilized this waiver. The waiver that allowed the District to do this expired on June 30, 2006. The administration submitted a special wavier request petitioning the State Board of Education to grant an extension of this wavier due to extenuating circumstances. In late September, State Board of Education representative Winnie Tuthill informed us that when the State Board of Education met in Chicago, Superintendent Dunn recommended to state board members that Champaign Community Unit #4 School District’s physical education wavier renewal request be

transmitted to the legislative General Assembly with a recommendation for a two-year approval. The recommendation was approved by state board members and has been forwarded for legislative approval when the General Assembly convenes in late November. The approval will be for school years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The administration will require both high schools to offer this option. There may be a need to increase staff slightly to allow both campuses to offer this option. Should the District want to pursue an extension of the waiver beyond 2007-08, it would need to submit to the ISBE two years of comprehensive physical fitness data in order for the State Board to assess the waiver's success for the period 2006-2008.

School Board Election Calendar

Board Secretary Nathaniel Banks shared the following information regarding the upcoming election. Five board seats will be open in April. One seat is for a two-year term, which will expire in April 2009. The four remaining seats will expire in April 2011. Newly-elected members will be seated at the April 30, 2007 Board meeting.

Potential candidates may find the following dates notable:

Monday, October 30	Candidate packets available at Mellon Building
Tuesday, November 7	First day that candidates may circulate nominating petitions for signatures
Monday, January 29	First day to file nominating petitions at Mellon
Monday, February 5	Last day to file nominating petitions at Mellon
Tuesday, April 17	Election Day

Candidates must submit the following documents when filing their petition for candidacy, except as noted:

- Statement of candidacy
- Petition for nomination with required number of valid voter signatures and notarized circulator's affidavit
- Receipt from County Clerk noting filing of Statement of Economic Interest

Action Agenda

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve the proposed policy as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

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

Director Fred Clarke presented the following proposed policy which represents the continued effort to update the District's Policy and Procedures Manual.

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

This 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.

Resolution – Proposed 2006 Tax Levy (Exhibit “A”)

David Tomlinson moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to adopt the “Resolution Regarding the Estimated Taxes Necessary to be Levied for the Year 2006” and to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented the following information related to the resolution for the proposed 2006 tax levy. 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 notice of proposed aggregate tax levy and the public hearing must be provided to the public not more than 14 days nor less than 7 days prior to approval by the Board of Education and must be published, in a format prescribed by law, in a newspaper of general local circulation. The notice of such intent is scheduled to be printed in the News – Gazette on Wednesday, November 29, 2006

The public hearing on the proposed tax levy is to be held on Monday, December 11, 2006. The Certificate of Levy must be filed with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December.

Related cost of publishing the notice of increase in Tax Levy in the local newspaper will be approximately \$800.00 and is within the amount budgeted for legal notices in the Education Fund. Approval of the levy in December will provide the maximum allowable receipt of local taxes under the tax cap in 2007-2008 of \$67,530,098.

Consent Agenda

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda items:

Grant – FY07 Tepper Electric Arts Endowment Grant

The Board of Education approved the monetary awards totaling \$10,994 provided through the Tepper Electric Arts Endowment. This school year 32 grant requests totaling \$41,790 were submitted. Of those grant requests, 25 monetary awards totaling \$10,994 will be provided through the Tepper Electric Arts Endowment. This endowment, funded by the Tepper Electric Supply Company, provides Unit #4 with an annual donation of \$10,000 for student activities and/or educational experiences that promote student exposure to and involvement in the fine arts. The carry-over from FY06 school year is \$992.58. Including this year’s grant total, the Tepper Electric Endowment has awarded grants totaling approximately \$190,000 over the past nineteen years.

On October 13, 2006, the selection committee, consisting of Mr. & Mrs. Tepper, Mary Muller, Director of Elementary Curriculum, Trevor Nadrozny, Westview Elementary principal, Shauna Carey, fine arts teacher, and Marian Wyatt, fine arts teacher, met and reviewed applications for funding which teachers and administrators submitted. A list of the grants submitted and the amounts funded was shared. All grants are available for review upon request.

Grant – FY06 State School Library Grant

The Board of Education approved the proposed school library grant in the amount of \$6,788.25 with permission to submit the same to the Illinois State Library via Lincoln Trail Libraries System. A grant, intended for qualifying school libraries, has been included in the legislation for the Illinois Library System Act. The grant funds are being made available at seventy-five cents per capita based on the September 29, 2006 enrollment.

School districts must be members of a regional library system or meet the requirements and have applied for membership in a system. A qualified school library is one which has a centrally accessible and bibliographically organized library and has one employee whose primary duty is to serve as a librarian. Columbia Center Middle and High Schools do not meet the qualified school library criteria.

Based on the District's September 29, 2006 enrollment benchmark, the District is applying for \$6,788.25 (9051x \$.75). The actual funding will depend on the number of school districts which apply for the funds. The funds will be used to purchase materials to support the District's balanced literacy initiative and to purchase reference materials. The grant covers all costs.

Resolution – Local Election Official (Exhibit "B")

The Board of Education adopted the "Resolution Directing and Authorizing and Designating the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent to Accept Petitions for Nomination for Members of the Board of Education."

Language of the State Board of Elections stated the "local School Board Secretary or designee" shall perform the duties necessary to complete pre- and post-election activities for the consolidated election. The election is scheduled for April 17, 2007. Because the Secretary of the Board of Education is removed from daily activities of the school district, an appropriate resolution has been prepared naming the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent as the designee to handle all pre- and post-election activities.

Central High School – Trip to France & Spain

The Board of Education approved Central High School's request to travel abroad.

Debbie Black, Central High School's foreign language content area chair, plans to take a group of Central High School French students to Paris, Provence, and Barcelona during spring break in March 2007. It is anticipated that a trip of this kind will build a lasting appreciation of cultural differences and a passion for foreign languages. Chaperones will be provided according to district guidelines. Students will be responsible for their own funding. Depending on the number of students traveling, adult chaperones may be given funding through the American Council for International Studies (ACIS) or they will pay their own way. A substitute teacher, at a cost of \$75, will be needed for one day.

Minutes – Sept. 19, 2006, Oct. 3, 9, 11 & 17, 2006 & Nov. 2, 2006 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the minutes as presented.

Bills & Treasurer's Report & Budgeted vs. Actual Financial Reports (Exhibit "C")

The Board of Education approved the Bills and Treasurer's Report and the Budgeted vs. Actual Financial Report as presented.

Human Resource Changes (Exhibit "D")

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

Executive Session

Nathaniel Banks 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 Property Acquisition 120/2(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), Actual Litigation - Johnson vs. Board of Education Champaign Unit 4 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 8:35 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 9:15 p.m.

Student Discipline

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Minosca Alcantara, to expel student #651076 from Jefferson Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year and the entire 07/08 school year and reassignment to an alternative school at the discretion of the Administration for violating Conduct 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 0.

David Tomlinson moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to expel student #640293 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year and reassignment to Columbia Center for violating Conduct Code #19 (Physical Confrontation with Student) and #25 (Threats to 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 0.

Adjournment

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

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Approved: December 11, 2006 Board Meeting