

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
April 13, 2009 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Nathaniel Banks, Arlene Blank, Kristine Chalifoux, Sue Grey, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, Dave Tomlinson

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Arthur Culver, Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd, Assistant Superintendent Michael McFarland, Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas, Special Projects Administrator Joe Davis

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

Approval of Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. Project Labor Agreement was added as a discussion item; Pending Litigation in 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) was added to Closed Session.

PTA Council

Nancy Hoetker thanked the Administration for the use of the Mellon Center to conduct a Board Candidate forum, and also for scheduling community forums related to the high school redistricting.

Superintendent Culver thanked the outgoing Board members Nathaniel Banks and Arlene Blank, and the entire Board, for their continued support and dedication to Champaign Unit 4.

Board

Board member Novak requested an update on kindergarten registration and an update related to technology (virus issue and computers at the schools). He also requested feedback on the April 14, 2009 high school redistricting community forum that was postponed.

Reports/Discussion

Consent Decree Update – Jefferson Middle School

Principal Susan Zola provided the following report on the AVID program which was implemented at Jefferson Middle School in 2004-2005. The first teachers to be trained were the sixth grade teachers who made up Jefferson's first AVID site team. Two sections of AVID classes were made up of approximately forty students. In accordance with the District plan, each year, a new grade level was phased into the program. Currently, Jefferson has six sections of AVID (two per grade level). Jefferson has 120 students in the AVID program. The largest

minority ethnic group in their AVID classes is African-American. The breakdown of African-American students by grade level is as follows: 57.5% at sixth grade, 53% at seventh grade and 52.6% at eighth grade. The goal continues to move the African American student percentage to 70%.

Last year, new AVID incoming sixth grade students were offered a four-week summer academy to ensure their skill set in the area of math was in place to find success as sixth grade honors math students. This new effort seems to have paid off for those students who were able to attend.

The program will run using existing staff. Staff development and training will involve a classroom teacher at each grade level, special educator, librarian, hearing impaired educator, physical educator, parent, and administrator. The teachers trained will then support the other staff in the building. The physical education teacher acts as coordinator for all aspects of the program.

Monies are allocated from both the district budget and the building budget. The site team submits a budget at the beginning of each year to the building principal and the district AVID administrator. All activities for the year are listed in the budget.

Individual student schedules are reviewed each September to ensure that all students have an AVID class and at least one or more honors courses. The AVID team meets monthly to review student progress, AVID goals and implementation of initiatives to maintain National Demonstration School status. The AVID teachers review individual student performance each week. Students who are struggling are offered a support plan.

The AVID team continues to be a strong and cohesive group with a powerful vision for student success. The building administration will continue to support their work, as well as include them on the faculty agenda once a month to allow an update to all staff on their successes.

George Buss, AVID consultant, reviewed the summary of findings of the evaluation site visit.

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris acknowledged Director Judy Wiegand, Principal Susan Zola, the Jefferson Middle School site team, and the AVID coordinators. She also thanked George Buss, AVID consultant, for his guidance and support.

Consent Decree Update – Minority Enrollment in G/T & Enrichment (Grades 2-8)

Executive Director Dedrick Martin provided a brief update regarding minority enrollment in gifted/talented and enrichment (grades 2-8). 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 in order to "close the achievement gap" between African American and non-African American students. One of the stated objectives of this plan is to eliminate, to the greatest extent practicable, unwarranted disparities in the enrollment of minority students in Honors or Gifted & Talented classes. This objective is further reinforced in the Operation Plan through the following steps:

#2 – Increase recognition of successful African American students in the gifted program;

#3 – Developing networking opportunities for African American gifted and enrichment students moving into middle school honors programs;

#5 – Ensure all first grade students are screened for the gifted program except where special needs preclude testing;

#6 – Automatically enroll self-contained elementary gifted students into middle school honors courses and enrichment students where appropriate;

#7 – Automatically enroll 8th grade honors students in upper level high school courses;

#9 – Intensify staff development regarding identification of giftedness among traditionally underrepresented students; focus on buildings with lowest identification of African Americans in Gifted Program.

To provide and ensure equitable access to all Honors or Gifted & Talented Programs and to maximize the participation and success of low income and minority students at all levels, the District seeks to identify all students who exhibit high performance capacity in at least one or more of the following areas: intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership or specific academic fields such as Math, Reading, Writing, Science, etc.

Gifted and Talented children in Champaign Community School District 4 are identified as those children with outstanding talent who perform or show the potential for performing at exceptionally high levels of accomplishments when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. They require additional services or activities that need to be provided by the schools (Adapted from the 1993 Federal Definition – October, 1998).

The Academic Enrichment program provides opportunities for students to develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, creative thinking, technology, and teamwork. Students in this program are put into small groups to work on challenging units. The Enrichment Specialists also go into classrooms to co-teach, design special activities, or work with small groups of students. Enrichment Specialists may also coach individual students on independent study projects. School theme activities vary from school to school.

Minority student enrollment in Honors or Gifted & Talented classes along with the number of minority students in Enrichment classes are monitored quarterly and documented in the quarterly reports.

Number & Percentage of African American students in Gifted:

<u>SY08</u>	<u>SY09</u>
38 (13.5%)	46 (15.9%)

Number & Percentage of African American students in Academic Enrichment:

<u>SY08</u>	<u>SY09</u>
258 (30.5%)	311 (34.3%)

Number & Percentage of African American students in Honors (Reading & Math combined):

<u>SY08</u>	<u>SY09</u>
280 (27.1%)	287 (26.1%)

Sales Tax Referendum

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief update regarding the successful passage of the Sales Tax Referendum. As previously discussed, the tax will be effective January 1, 2010

and the District will begin receiving payments in April 2010. In addition, while several bond issuance dates were discussed, the Administration believes it is in the District's best interest to plan for a January 2010 issuance date. Administration looks forward to working with the Board to fulfill the promises made during the campaign including payment of the \$14.5 million in Construction Debt (which will reduce property taxes by \$32 on a \$150,000 home beginning next year) and the formation of a Promises Made, Promises Kept Committee.

The District anticipates issuing \$70 million worth of alternate revenue bonds in January 2010 to provide the funds necessary for the projects previously discussed by the Board of Education.

Project Labor Agreement (PLA) between the East Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council & Champaign Unit 4

Board President Dave Tomlinson asked the Administration to submit the Project Labor Agreement for Board approval at the April 27, 2009 Board meeting.

Action Agenda

Championship Rings for IHSA & IESA State Champions

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the purchase of Championship rings for the Centennial Chargers boys' basketball team members at a cost of \$4,400, and a plaque or trophy for the Jefferson Jaguar girls' basketball and girls' volleyball team members at a cost not to exceed \$3,000. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. Board member Grey voted Nay.

Assistant Superintendent Michael McFarland provided a brief report regarding the recommendation to purchase championship rings for the Centennial boys' basketball team members, and a plaque or trophy for the Jefferson Middle School girls' basketball and volleyball team members. Currently, Unit 4 has three school athletic teams that have won a State Championship during this school year.

Illinois High School Association Winners:

The Centennial Chargers won the 2009 IHSA Boys' State Basketball Championship. The state championship is the fourth state championship won by a Champaign High School since 1967. There have been three individual state award winners since 2004.

IHSA Allowable Awards:

IHSA By-Law 3.082 states: Schools may provide an individual or teams that win an IHSA state championship, a ring/memento not to exceed \$200 in fair market value. Businesses, booster clubs or other organizations desiring to make contributions toward the purchase of a championship ring/memento must make those contributions to the school.

Illinois Elementary School Association Winners:

The Jefferson Jaguars won the 2009 IESA State Girls' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball Championships. The Jefferson titles represent the third IESA team state championship in the last five years and the first state Championship at Jefferson.

IESA Allowable Awards:

IESA By-Law 3.071 states: As the result of participating in the IESA state series (regional, sectional, state) a student in a member school may accept any award (except cash) which does

not exceed \$100 in fair market value, in the following sports: baseball, basketball, cross-country, softball, track, volleyball, and wrestling.

The District is extremely proud of the accomplishment of the state championship teams and their coaches. Winning a state championship is a momentous experience and the administration would like to recognize students who win an IHSA state championship with the purchase of a ring not to exceed \$200. Furthermore, the District is equally as proud of our IESA state champions and would like to recognize their accomplishments with a plaque or trophy not to exceed \$100 per student.

Financial Implications:

Centennial Championship rings.....not to exceed \$4,400
Jefferson Championship trophies or plaques.....not to exceed \$3,000

Student Information System Upgrades

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the proposed Student Information System Upgrade request totaling \$95,435.00. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Director Roger Grinnip provided a brief presentation regarding the recommendation to upgrade the Student Information System. The current Student Information System was last upgraded in 2004. Sungard has indicated they are not developing any new features for this version of the software. They will continue support for programmatic issues and government regulation changes effective March 1, 2010.

There are many enhancements included with the newer version which includes:

- an elementary and secondary report card
- a standards based report card for elementary school
- a built in grade book which will reduce duplicate data entry and easier rendering of weekly C/D/F lists and other reporting
- is a web based system that will save money on renewal costs (estimated at a savings of \$22,000 per year)
- is School Interoperability Framework compliant
- provides home access for students, parents, teachers and administrators

There will be in-service training needs for support staff, teachers and administrators. Since this version of the application follows the same basic parameters as the previous the learning curve would be shorter.

The total costs for the migration would be \$254,435.00. After analyzing the existing budget for the technology department, the Information Technology team plans to reduce their budget for next year by \$159,000.00 putting the out of pocket expense at \$95,435.00.

Bleacher Replacement – Centennial High School (Exhibit “A”)

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to award the bleacher bid plus alternatives to Broeren Russo for \$943,400. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief update regarding the bleacher replacement at Centennial High School. 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 for bleachers at Centennial High School. The District originally hoped to repair the bleachers for between \$300,000 and \$400,000. However, after a very thorough inspection by Ken Nelson, architect with Bailey Edwards, it was determined that the damage was so extensive that complete replacement of both side of the bleachers was needed.

Bids were received on April 9, 2009 from four companies for the complete replacement of the bleachers. The low bidder was Broeren Russo for \$855,000. However, with alternates that Administration recommended, the total price was \$943,400.

Proposal to Purchase Electricity (Exhibit "B")

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to select the lowest quote from either MidAmerican Energy or First Energy Corporation that will be received on April 14, 2009 and to finalize all appropriate paperwork to consummate the transaction. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented information related to the proposal to purchase electricity. On April 8, 2009, quotes for electricity were received from four companies. The current contract with the Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) ends at the end of July. The four companies submitted various pricing schemes and time options ranging from 10 months to 36 months. As electric prices are at a near historic low, it is in the Board's best interest to select a 2-3 year contract. Two of the companies, MidAmerican Energy and First Energy Corporation submitted nearly identical quotes. However, one was for a 29-month period and the other was for a 36-month period.

It is in the Board's best interest to for both companies to remain competitive through Tuesday, April 14, 2009 when both will re-submit a 29-month and 36-month proposal. Based on the amount the District is currently being charged and the quotes that were received last week from these two companies, the District should save approximately \$215,000 annually for the next three years.

Printing Costs for Climate Study

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the printing costs for the Climate Study in the amount of \$28,019. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. Board member Novak voted Nay.

Executive Director Dedrick Martin presented the recommendation for printing costs for the Climate Study. In compliance with Consent Decree and Operational Plan, the Board of Education of Champaign Unit Schools District #4 accepted school climate study proposals to conduct a second climate study. The proposal from Aber, Greene, Samuels & Crawford-Simms was accepted by the Climate Survey Committee on November 20, 2008 to complete this project.

On March 9, 2009 the Board of Education approved an additional amount of \$21,306, authorizing Dr. Aber to advance the completion deadline of the Climate Study to June 1, 2009 in

order to provide the Judge and the Monitoring Team an opportunity to review the results prior to the scheduled end of the Consent Decree.

Initially, printing was planned for completion by the District's Graphic Services Department to reduce costs. However, after ongoing and extensive conversations with Dr. Aber and the Director of Graphic Services, it was determined that the scope and complexity with regards to production (formatting, printing, pre-coding and scanning) of the surveys was beyond the scope of Unit 4's Graphic Service Department and that additional professional services from an outside vendor would be required. After discussions with numerous vendors, the District located one vendor would produce the student surveys in a timely manner. The District, in consultation with Dr. Aber, will give the survey to staff electronically (on-line).

The parent survey is more complicated, and will take three to four weeks to print, and approximately one month for the vendor to compile the results after the survey is complete. Based on this new information, the current estimate for completion of the survey results for students and staff should be mid-June, which is consistent with the timeline established and communicated during the March Board meeting. The parent survey results will not be completed until late July or early August.

Financial Implications:

Cost for Production and Data of Student Surveys	\$ 8,250
Cost for Production and Data of Parent Surveys	\$19,769
Dr. Aber & Associates Cost Initial Cost	\$58,248
Dr. Aber & Associates Additional Cost approved by the board	\$21,306

The total cost of the Climate Study is projected at \$107,573.

Dr. Aber & Associates will analyze all surveys and data obtained from the Climate Study and prepare a draft report and final report. All final reports will include tables and graphs suitable for public presentations and will be delivered in both written and digital formats.

Consent Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, 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 (South Side Elementary – Technology)

The Board of Education accepted a donation from Peter Fox, Fox Development Corporation, in the amount of \$12,611 for South Side Elementary School to be used for technology. The donation requires approval by the Board of Education as it is \$5,000 or more in value.

Bids (Answering Service; Warehouse – Paper Supplies) (Exhibit “C”)

The Board of Education awarded the answering service bid to Champaign Telephone Company in the amount of \$35,218.63, and the paper bid to the lowest qualified bid in the amount of \$296,058.17.

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 for the answering service and paper supplies. For the answering service, staff recommended the bid go to Champaign Telephone Company for \$35,218.63. For paper supplies, an item-by-item award to the lowest qualified bidder was recommended totaling \$296,058.17.

The answering service will be charged to the Human Resources/District budget in FY10. The prior year's bid was \$33,801.00. The initial cost of \$296,058.17 will be charged to the warehouse inventory account for the paper bid. As the schools order the items, the schools expenditure accounts will be charged. The prior year amount for paper supplies was \$220,846.57.

Modification of 2008/2009 School Calendars

The Board of Education approved June 3, 2009 for the Regular calendar schools, and June 8, 2009 for the Balanced calendar schools as the last official day for the 2008-09 school-year.

Annually, the administration requests that the Board adjust the adopted calendar to set the last official day of school. As required by the Illinois State Board of Education, the calendar adopted by the Board includes five (5) emergency weather days. Since the District used three (3) of these emergency weather days, Friday, December 19, Thursday, January 15, and Friday, January 16, 2009, the last day of this school year will be June 3, 2009 for the Regular calendar schools and June 8, 2009 for the Balanced calendar schools.

Board Minutes

The Board of Education approved the January 26, 2009 & March 9, 2009 Board meeting 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 Greg Novak, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel related to employee appointments, employments, compensation, dismissals, complaints, staffing allocations 120/2(c)(1), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Pending Litigation 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 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 9:18 p.m.

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 10:08 p.m.

Open Session

Student Discipline

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to expel student #650713 from Centennial High School for the remainder of the 08/09 school year and reassign to READY for

violating Conduct Code #35 (Weapon-Related Activities - Guns & Explosives) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the regularly assigned school following the expulsion period provided the student has completed the requirements of the alternative school. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to expel student #620039 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the 08/09 school year and reassign to READY for violating Conduct Code #35 (Weapon-Related Activities - Guns & Explosives) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the regularly assigned 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 1. Board member Banks voted Nay.

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to expel student #631028 from Centennial High School for the remainder of the 08/09 school year and the first semester of the 09/10 school year and reassign to an alternative site at the Administration's discretion for violating Conduct Code #24 (Threats to/Intimidation of Staff) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the regularly assigned school following the expulsion period provided the student has completed the requirements of the alternative school. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Executive Session

Arlene Blank 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 related to employee appointments, employments, compensation, dismissals, complaints, staffing allocations 120/2(c)(1) and Pending Litigation 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 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 10:09 p.m.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: May 11, 2009