

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  
December 14, 2009 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President David Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Kristine Chalifoux, Sue Grey, Stig Lanesskog, Thomas Lockman, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, David Tomlinson

**Staff Members Present**

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Michael McFarland, Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas

**Approval of Agenda**

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. The Presentation of 2008/09 Audit Report & CUSF Acting as Lessor on BTW & Savoy Projects were moved as first items on the agenda. The District Report Card Report and the Naming of Stadium at Tommy Stewart Field were removed from the agenda.

**Executive Session**

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/2(c)(2), Property Acquisition/Lease/Purchase 120/2(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Litigation – 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) 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 6:32 p.m.

**Open Session**

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 7:05 p.m.

**Guests**

Representatives from CFT, local media and other interested persons

**Recognitions**

Superintendent Culver recognized retiring Mellon custodian Gil Birge for his years of service to Unit 4.

**PTA Council**

Nancy Hoetker thanked Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris for providing an update to the PTA Council regarding the Consent Decree settlement agreement and related programs. She also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the EEE Committee.

**Board**

Kristine Chalifoux shared that presentations have been made at two elementary schools regarding greening/saving energy.

**Reports**Presentation of 2008/09 Audit by Virchow Krause & Company

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief update on the current financial status of the District. Administration is pleased with the independent auditor's opinion on the 2008-09 financial statements. For the fifth straight year the District received a "clean" or unqualified opinion that the Financial Statements were prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This is the best opinion that an audit client can receive.

The "clean" opinion will result in lower interest rates on bonded debt, which will 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.

**Action Agenda**CUSF Acting as Lessor on BTW & Savoy Projects

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation (CUSF) as Lessor on the Savoy and BTW Projects. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0. Abstained 1. Board member MacAdam abstained.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented a brief update regarding CUSF taking on the role of Lessor. As explained by Mary Kane of Stifel Nicolaus, it is in the District's best interest to utilize the CUSF as Lessor on the Savoy and BTW Projects while under construction. The CUSF Board met on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, and agreed to take on the role of Lessor for the Champaign School District. The cost for the lease will be between \$1,000 and \$1,250 per year plus legal fees related to CUSF serving as Lessor.

A public hearing was held at 7:20 p.m.

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 4, Champaign County, Illinois (the "Board"), held a public hearing on the 14th day of December, 2009, at 7:20 o'clock p.m. in the Mellon Administrative Center, 703 South New Street, Champaign, Illinois. The start of the meeting was slightly delayed due to the need to address certain other administrative responsibilities of the Board. The meeting was called to order by Board President David Tomlinson. All members of the Board were present and participated in the Public Hearing.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comments on the proposal to sell (i) General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) in the amount of \$65,000,000 for the purpose of building and equipping additions to and altering, repairing and equipping existing school buildings, acquiring land, improving school sites and refunding certain of the District's outstanding General Obligation School Bonds, Series 1997, dated June 1, 1997, and other outstanding debt of the District and (ii) General Obligation Lease Obligations (Alternate Revenue Source) in the amount of \$45,000,000 for the purpose of building and equipping two

school buildings, demolishing the Booker T. Washington Elementary School Building, acquiring land and improving school sites.

Mary Kane, a representative of Stifel Nicolaus & Company, was asked to provide summary comments regarding the above for the members of the Board and the public present at the meeting. Following Ms. Kane's comments, Board President Tomlinson asked for comments or questions from those persons present at the meeting. There were no comments or questions.

The public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m. The Board resumed its regular agenda of business.

Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of, not to exceed \$45,000,000, General Obligation Lease Obligations (Alternate Revenue Source) and not to exceed \$65,000,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) to Finance Land Acquisition, New School Buildings and School Building & Site Improvements (Exhibit "A")

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to adopt the Resolution provided by Chapman & Cutler which authorizes the issuance of the General Obligation Lease Obligations (up to \$45 million) and General Obligation Bonds (up to \$65 million). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

A public hearing was held at 7:40 p.m.

Mary Kane, Sifel Nicolaus, provided a brief presentation regarding the benefits of utilizing Build America Bonds.

On December 10, 2009, Mary Kane informed administration that the District must go through a "Backdoor Referendum" process in order to issue Build America Bonds (BAB's). As the federal government pays 35% of the interest on this debt, it is important to utilize as many BAB's as possible. Ms. Kane estimates that their use will save taxpayers over \$18 million in interest over the term of the bonds (interest that will be paid by the federal government).

Ms. Kane was informed on December 10, 2009 that Chapman & Cutler (bond counsel) was taking this position on the BAB's. In order to get a clean legal opinion from them, the Board must pass a resolution stating its intent to issue them. After doing so, a notice advertising their use will be advertised in the newspaper. During the 30-day period that follows, anyone may sign a petition opposing the issuance of the BAB's. If 10% of all registered voters do so, the Board would not be able to issue the BAB's. After 30 days, the Board will hold a public hearing on the subject. Assuming 10% of all registered voters have not signed a petition, the Board will then be allowed to move forward.

Ms. Kane explained to the Board that the new hurdle is extremely frustrating to everyone. The hurdles that have been met seem to stem from the fact that Unit 4 is the first district to move through the entire process without the problems faced in Williamson County. Following Ms. Kane's comments, Board President Tomlinson asked for comments or questions from those persons present at the meeting. There were no comments or questions.

The public hearing was closed at 7:49 p.m. The Board resumed its regular agenda of business.

## Reports

### Academic Spotlight – Centennial High School (MSAN 2009 Student Conference)

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris stated that information on the MSAN Student Conference would be shared. The AVID team from Centennial High School shared highlights on the conference. Students also shared ideas and projects for future implementation at Centennial High School. On September 23-26, 2009, Ryan Cowell, Centennial High School AVID and English teacher, and four Centennial High School students attended the 2009 Annual MSAN Student Conference, “Sanfoka: Reflecting on the Past, Building on a Decade of Minority Achievement.” The conference was held at Evanston High School, Evanston, IL. Students participated in sessions discussing core equity issues they face and sharing out of ideas and brainstorming project ideas to address achievement gaps. The cost of attendance at the conference included a substitute for Mr. Cowell and mileage reimbursement. MSAN provided funding for registration and hotel rooms. Evaluation of student efforts will be conducted through focus group discussions and survey instruments.

### District Immunization Survey Summary

Assistant Superintendent Michael McFarland provided a brief overview regarding the district immunization survey summary. The purpose of the survey is to determine the level of compliance with immunization and physical examination requirements of all children who are enrolled in the school as prescribed in Section 27-87.1 (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1) of the School Code. The information will be used by the Illinois State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health, to take action necessary to raise immunization levels and prevent outbreaks of disease in the State of Illinois. Reporting of data results are in compliance with the exclusion date of October 15, 2009.

*Number of students protected and in compliance with immunization requirements	9292
*Number of students with Medical Reason or Religious Objection on file**	49
*Number of students unprotected and in non-compliance with immunization requirements	109
*Number of students excluded due to non-compliance	59

\*Numbers are reflective of 10-15-09

\*\**Students with Medical Reason or Religious Objection are considered unprotected, but compliant.*

As of 11-16-09:

Number of students still excluded: 0

*All students are now compliant or have doctor appointments scheduled.*

### Grow Your Own Program

Director Doretha Simmons shared the successes of the Grow Your Own Program. In Fall 2003, the Board of Education approved the “Grow Your Own” program to encourage current Educational Support Personnel to obtain teaching certification to address shortage areas. Upon completion of certification, Grow Your Own participants fill one of the District’s identified shortage areas and remain employed with the District for a minimum of three years in exchange for payment of tuition and books. The identified shortage areas are bilingual education, special education, higher level math or science, and African American teachers. A selection committee comprised of administration, CFT and CESP representatives drafted the Eligibility Requirements, Application Process and Participation Guidelines for the program. A selection process was designed that included an application similar to the one completed by a teacher

candidate, and a selection committee comprised of representatives from the CFT, CESP and the District administration. The District agreed to supply funding for tuition and books up to \$20,000.00 annually for the program. The District also agreed to work with Parkland College and area universities to utilize counseling services and financial aid for participants.

Currently there are three (3)-Black females; and, one (1)-Black male participating in the program. The number of participants has decreased in order to stay within the approved budget of \$20,000.00 per year. Currently, four participants have completed the program and are teaching in Unit 4 schools. They are Tammie Windom, African American female cross-categorical teacher at Carrie Busey Elementary; Alex Ramirez, Latino male industrial arts teacher at Central High School; Katia Gray, African American female second grade teacher at Westview elementary; and Gwenetta Posey, African American female 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Dr. Howard Elementary.

A maximum of \$20,000.00 annually is allocated. This amount was not spent until the SY2006-2007. Prior to SY2007, cost ranged from \$11,500.00-\$13,297.00. The increase in cost is due to participation in the accelerated PACE (Professional Adult Comprehensive Education) program sponsored through Millikin University. This program allows participants to take several courses per year and is designed for working adults. It is offered through Parkland College and enables participants to complete teaching certification more quickly than traditional program.

The GYO application process was opened again in March 2006 to fill three slots made available through resignations and graduation. Three candidates were chosen through the screening process from a pool of six applicants. The ethnicity of the three new applicants are, two (2) African-American females and one (1) African American male.

The three new GYO participants entered the program with more than 60 credit hours toward teacher certification. In September 2006, a partnership between Millikin University and the Champaign Unit 4 Human Resources department was established to create a cohort at Parkland University for GYO participants. Through this Professional Adult Comprehensive Education Program (PACE), four participants of the PACE program were put on an accelerated track to certification. One (1) African American male participant is on track to graduate in January 2011. Two African American females are on track to graduate in June, 2011. All three participants are seeking certification in elementary education. An African American female, who is the most recent addition to the program in August 2008, is on track to graduate in June 2010 with certification in secondary education with a math endorsement. She is the first participant to enter the program with more than 100 credit hours in education.

Four of the original female GYO participants, one (1) Asian female, and (2) White females and One (1) African American female withdrew from the program. District funds have been repaid by one participant, and the remaining participants who withdrew are in the process of repayment.

There are currently six slots available in the GYO program but the \$20,000.00 annual allocation will not support any new participants due to the accelerated costs of the PACE program for current participants.

**Action Agenda****Public Hearing & Adoption of 2009 Tax Levy (2010/2011 School Year) (Exhibit “B”)**

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the proposed tax levy adoption as stated in the “Resolution Concerning and Effecting Tax Levy for 2009” and direct the Chief Financial Officer to file the Certificate of Tax Levy with the County Clerk prior to the last Tuesday in December. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

A public hearing was held at 8:10 p.m.

Director Barbara Ramsay provided a brief presentation on the adoption of the 2009 Tax Levy. The Truth-in-Taxation Act requires that when a school district’s proposed tax levy exceeds the previous year’s levy by 5%, a public notice of such intent must be advertised. The appropriate resolution of intent to increase the levy by more than 5% was approved by the Board of Education on November 9, 2009, and published in the News-Gazette as required, on Friday, December 4, 2009. The Certificate of Levy must be filed with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December. The 2009 total projected tax levy is \$71,625,846. Total projected EAV is \$1,992,061,043. The levy requested of \$75,615,846 is substantially higher because EAV and the amount of new construction are only estimates today. Board President Tomlinson asked for comments or questions from those persons present at the meeting. There were no comments or questions.

The public hearing was closed at 8:15 p.m. The Board resumed its regular agenda of business.

**Consent Agenda**

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Thomas Lockman, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

**2010/11 High School Course Proposals/Handbook Changes**

The Board of Education approved the 2010-2011 High School Curriculum Handbook as presented. Consistent with our District’s focus to provide educational opportunities that are relevant and stimulating to students, the faculties of Central and Centennial High Schools recommended revisions to course offerings for the 2010-2011 school year. The changes were presented after an extensive process of curriculum evaluation by the building principals, individual departments, and counselors of both schools. The revisions include course deletions, proposals for pilots, and clarification/explanation of both general information and specific course descriptions. A summary outlining the proposed changes was provided.

Each spring, Central Office administrators and the high school principals determine staffing allocations for the next school year. The allocations are dependent on student enrollment numbers in the courses outlined in this handbook.

High school courses that require summer writing will be considered for approval following the guidelines outlined in the Curriculum Development and Evaluation Guide. Funds are budgeted for summer writing. Pilot courses will be evaluated using the procedures described in the District’s Curriculum Development and Evaluation Guide.

Desktop Replacement – Instructional Technology (Exhibit “C”)

The Board of Education approved the bid for desktop replacement from Dell Marketing for \$398,349.98 to be paid over four years. Board policy states that requests for proposals will be solicited when items are expected to exceed a total of \$10,000. As part of the request for proposal process, requests for proposals were advertised in the News-Gazette and formal requests were mailed to 51 vendors. RFP's were received from nine vendors and opened on October 16, 2009. The Technology Department reviewed the proposals and the criteria was weighted in importance as follows: price (35%), ability of vendor to provide financing and cost (25%), ease of service agreement and warranty (15%), platform compatibility with current equipment (15%) and value added services (10%). Based on the weighted criteria, the Technology Department recommended the desktop replacements be awarded to Dell Marketing.

Central High School E-Plan (Electronic School Improvement Plan)

The Board of Education approved Central High School's E-Plan for submission to ISBE. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* requires all states to measure each public school's achievement and establish annual achievement targets for the state toward the goal of all students (100%) meeting or exceeding standards by SY2014 in reading and math. The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) minimum target for SY2008 was 62.5% and for SY2009 was 70.0% meets or exceeds.

Central High School's State Improvement Status is Academic Warning Status, Year 3. Although Central continues to be in the Restructuring process, schools that fail to make AYP for two consecutive years will be identified for school improvement and must continue this process until AYP is met. Because Central High School did not make AYP in SY2008 and SY2009, it is required to submit an improvement plan electronically (e-plan) to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) addressing areas identified as deficient based on PSAE testing. In SY2009, Central was identified as deficient in meeting AYP for All students in reading and for All students in math and for specifically African American and low income students. The attached e-plan addresses these deficiencies.

Summary of Changes since Board Review on November 30, 2009

The Area IV RESPRO reviewed the School Improvement Plan for Central High School on November 24. The purpose of the review was to give schools some feedback prior to the official review by ISBE. The reviewers commented that since the school is in restructuring some of the boxes under "Corrective Actions," page 41, should be checked. Although it refers to Title I schools in this section, the reviewers suggested this section be completed. Under the "**Corrective Actions**" section the first (Require implementation ...) and sixth Restructuring the ...) items were checked. Under the "**Restructuring Options**" the fourth option along with all three subheadings were checked. These changes were also noted in the narrative section on page 40.

Staff development needs are embedded in the plan. Financial implications and funding sources are noted in the plan. Review of the progress of the plan is described in the plan.

Centennial High School – Student Trip to Italy

The Board of Education approved the request for Centennial students to travel to Italy on March 19-27, 2010. Aaron Scarlett, Centennial social science teacher, and necessary chaperones plan to take a group of Centennial High School students to Florence, Rome, and Sorrento, Italy March 19-27, 2010. This trip, aligned with the district social science curriculum, particularly

ancient world history, will provide students insight into Italian history, politics, art, language, music, food, architecture, and culture. As world travelers, students are expected to expand their perspectives by becoming global thinkers and to gain independence and resourcefulness.

The chaperone to student ratio will be 1:5. As students register for the trip, chaperones in addition to Mr. Scarlett will be identified.

Transportation to and from Chicago O'Hare Airport will be provided via Unit 4 bus, the cost of which will be covered by Centennial's mileage allotment. There are no substitute costs since the day of departure is a parent-teacher conference day. All other costs associated with the trip, including breakfasts, dinners, hotel accommodations, admission fees to museums/attractions, travel within Italy, and air travel provided by a major, international airline, are the responsibility of the traveler. The per-person cost is \$3,182.

The American Council for International Studies (ACIS) is the educational trip provider. Information about ACIS' financial security, overall integrity, safety assurance measures, including proof of insurance for travelers, was shared.

#### Magnet Grant Consultant Agreement (Exhibit "D")

The Board of Education approved the Letter of Agreement to Provide Proposal Development Services provided by Metis Associates. Magnet School Consultant Marilyn Zlotnik from Metis Associates has been selected as the consultant who could most effectively support the District in preparing a competitive magnet school grant. The RFP for the grant is expected in March with the grants due at the end of April. The narrative is approximately 250 pages with multiple appendices that include highly detailed information that must be presented in a very technical format. A voluntary desegregation plan must be included. The amount of this grant is up to \$4 million dollars per year per district for three years. An expected award for a district this size would be approximately \$2.5 million dollars per year for three years. The District is seeking to include Booker T. Washington (STEM), Garden Hills (PYP with a Fine Arts emphasis), and Stratton (theme to be selected) in the grant proposal. Grant awards are expected to be announced by September 30, 2010.

Grant Writer Sue Schumacher is an excellent technical coordinator for this project, but the scope, size and technical requirements of the magnet grant make it very difficult to be competitive without experienced writing and process support. Administration believes that the amount of the potential award justifies the use of an outside consultant for this project.

Approximately four release days per school will be required for school-based teams to make site visits to magnet schools and to answer program design questions that will be used in developing the grant. The cost of the services of Metis and Associates is \$59,700. The Magnet School grant includes an outside assessment component.

#### Minutes – October 26, 2009 & November 3 & 9, 2009 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the minutes as presented.

#### Bills & Treasurer's Report (Exhibit "E")

The Board of Education approved the Bills and Treasurer's Report as presented.

Human Resource Changes (Exhibit "F")

The Board of Education approved the Humana Resource Changes as presented.

**Executive Session**

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 8:17 p.m.

**Open Session**

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 9:17 p.m.

Student Discipline

Thomas Lockman moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to expel student #631382 from Centennial High School for the remainder of the 2009/10 school year and reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #24 (Threats to Staff) of the Champaign Unit #4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the regularly assigned school following the expulsion period. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Personnel (Exhibit "G")

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the settlement agreement with a certified employee. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Land Acquisition (Exhibit "H")

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the acquisition of the property at 613 E. Grove at a cost of \$15,000. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Stig Lanesskog, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

*Board Approved: January 11, 2010*