

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
January 11, 2010 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board Vice President Sue Grey called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:33 p.m.

Board Members Present

Kristine Chalifoux, Sue Grey, Thomas Lockman, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak

Board Members Absent

Stig Lanesskog, David Tomlinson

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Arthur Culver, Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd, 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 Memorandum of Understanding – Race to the Top Funding was moved as first item on the agenda. Personnel & Property Acquisition/Lease/Purchase were added to Closed Session.

Board Member Lanesskog joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Executive Session

Thomas Lockman 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 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/2(c)(2), Property Acquisition/Lease/Purchase 120/2(c)(5), and Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 6:35 p.m.

Board Member Tomlinson joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 7:00 p.m.

Guests

Representatives from CFT, local media and other interested persons

Board

David Tomlinson recognized Superintendent Culver on being awarded the Martin Luther King Drum Major Award. The Superintendent will be honored at the Martin Luther King Celebration

on January 15, 2010. Superintendent Culver stated that the award is for the district as he could not have done it alone.

Public Comment

Phyllis Vanlandingham, Director of Secondary Education Programs at the University of Illinois, spoke briefly regarding the benefits of the tutoring/mentoring program.

Board President David Tomlinson announced that an official request was received to name the Centennial Auditorium after Clif Aldridge who passed away after a courageous battle against cancer. Superintendent Culver will expedite the process for naming the facility.

PTA Council

Vice President Ruth Mininger shared with administration the importance of posting communication procedures on the District's web site related to school closure due to inclement weather. She also invited the Board and administration to the upcoming Founder's Day dinner that will be held on February 4, 2010.

Board Members Lockman and Novak praised the BTW staff and all involved for doing an excellent job on the recent move to the Columbia School.

Action Agenda

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Race to the Top Funding

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Stig Lanesskog, to approve signing the Memorandum of Understanding – Race to the Top Funding. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Franczek Attorney Todd Faulkner joined the meeting at 7:36 p.m. via telephone to answer questions and advise the Board regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided a brief overview related to the MOU. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has asked school districts to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order for a school district to be eligible to receive a portion of federal Race to the Top Grant Money. The MOU is an element of the State's application in the Race to the Top grant completion, which ISBE must submit to the U.S. Department of Education by January 19, 2010. The federal government's Race to the Top application calls for local district participation. Half of any sum of money Illinois receives through Race to the Top will go directly to participating LEAs that agree to implement Race to the Top goals and strategies. In order to be considered a participating LEA, a district superintendent must sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the state (the federal government will give states extra points if the memoranda of understanding are also signed by the local board president and the leader of the local teachers' union). According to ISBE, the state will be applying for \$400 million, which would leave \$200 million to be distributed to participating districts.

Mr. Faulkner ended his conversation at 8 p.m.

Reports

Academic Spotlight – Edison Middle School Reading Festival)

Principal Carmela Levy provided a report regarding the Edison Middle School Reading Festival.

Edison recently held its first Reading Festival during the week of December 15th -18th. The Festival is a key supporting element of Edison's Literacy Support Program and one of the driving forces behind the development of a reading culture among middle school students. Students at all grade levels were invited to participate via their reading classes, and they were asked to complete a form listing their top three book choices in order to receive a free book. Once the forms were collected, students were invited to the library for a lunch of pizza and lemonade, where they enjoyed a presentation with local storyteller Becky Kasten. During their luncheon, students participated in a lively discussion on topics including: how to start and organize their own personal libraries, book clubs, and the life enhancing qualities of books. At the end of the discussion, each student present received one of the books they requested and shared information about their book choice with their peers.

The Reading Festival was executed at a total cost of \$2,122. 20. Five hundred dollars were obtained by writing a Splash Grant through the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation. The remaining \$1,622.20 which included books, food, drink, and plates was obtained from the building budget.

District Report Card

Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris provided an update on the District Report Card which provides data regarding percent of students who exceed, meet, or do not meet standards established by the Illinois State Board of Education, AYP information, composite and subtest means on nationally normed achievement test for college bound students, student attendance rates, and chronic truancy rates.

The State Educational Reform Act of 1985 mandates school districts to release individual school report cards to the Board of Education, taxpayers, local media, parents and the Regional Superintendent.

The district and individual school report cards now display a full presentation of data, by grade and by student subgroup. Results from the Illinois Student Achievement Test (ISAT), the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) are included on the district and school report cards.

Under the federal law, No Child Left behind Act (NCLB), districts and schools are required to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) by meeting certain performance benchmarks. AYP in Illinois is based on 1) the percentage of a school's or district's reading and mathematics scores that meet or exceed standards (70%); 2) 95% or above participation rate of students taking the state tests; and 3) the attendance rate of students in elementary and middle schools, and the graduation rates of students in high schools. The District's report card can be found on line www.champaignschools.org

Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd shared information on staffing related to: 1) percentage of White, Black, Hispanic, Asian/PI, and Native American professional staff; 2) teacher information related to teaching experience, percentage of teachers with Bachelor's Degrees, Master's Degrees, emergency or provisional credentials, percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers; and 3) teacher/administrator salaries.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas shared financial information related to: 1) instructional expenditure per pupil; 2) operating expenditure per pupil; 3) equalized assessed valuation, 4) total school tax rate per \$100; and 5) expenditures by function, fund and source.

Action Agenda

Contract for Project Manager (Exhibit “A”)

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Stig Lanesskog, to approve the contract for Joseph Davis as the Construction Observer with compensation of \$70,000 per year. The contract is to be amended to include liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 2. Board Members Grey and Novak voted Nay.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented the administration’s recommendation to approve the contract for Joseph Davis as Construction Observer. On November 9, 2009, the Board of Education approved Joseph Davis to serve as Project Manager on the B T Washington and Garden Hills Projects. A proposed contract prepared by Attorney Mike Tague was provided. Mr. Tague recommended reference to the position as “Construction Observer” rather than “Project Manager”. The change was recommended because the position is not a “management” position. The contract is retroactive to January 4, 2010 when Mr. Davis began reviewing documents and attending meetings on the district’s behalf. The proposed ending date is August 31, 2011. Board Member Kristine Chalifoux, who attended one of those meetings, stated that it was important to bring Mr. Davis on board as soon as possible. Compensation is based on the amount that was paid to the individual who performed similar duties ten years ago and the required skills and abilities to manage these projects. The Construction Observer’s compensation is \$70,000 per year (pro-rated for any portion thereof).

Consent Agenda

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

Bid – Asbestos Abatement Prior to Demolition at BT Washington Elementary (Exhibit “B”)

The Board of Education approved awarding the bid for asbestos abatement services to Colfax Corporation for a base bid of \$62,390 plus \$25 per lineal foot for pipe insulation using glovebag removal methods, and \$20 each for pipe fittings using glovebag removal methods.

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 advertised in the News-Gazette and formal requests were provided to fifteen vendors. Bids were received and opened on December 18, 2009 from twelve vendors for Asbestos Abatement Services at BTW. The lowest responsible bid was received from Colfax Corporation. .

Minutes – November 16 & 30, 2009 and December 14, 2009 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the minutes as presented.

Bills & Treasurer’s Report (Exhibit “C”)

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

Human Resource Changes (Exhibit “D”)

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

Executive Session

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 9:30 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 10:35 p.m.

Student Discipline

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to expel student #631477 from Central High School for the remainder of the 2009/10 school year and reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with 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.

Thomas Lockman moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to expel student #641154 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the 2009/10 school year and reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with 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.

Thomas Lockman moved, with a second by Stig Lanesskog, to expel student #641177 from Franklin Middle School for the remainder of the 2009/10 school year and reassigned to an alternative site at the administration's discretion for violating Conduct Code #18 (Physical Confrontation with 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.

Thomas Lockman moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to expel student #651042 from Centennial High School for the remainder of the 2009/10 school year and the first semester of the 2010/11 school year and reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #8 (Drugs, Related) 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.

Human Resource Changes (Exhibit "E")

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Stig Lanesskog, to approve Beth Shepperd's request to rescind her retirement request and remain with the District after June 30, 2010. Her salary will return to the amount that she would be earning if she had not participated in the retirement incentive plan, and she will not be eligible for any further retirement incentive. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. Board Member Novak voted Nay.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Thomas Lockman moved, with a second by Stig Lanesskog, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: February 8, 2010