

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
May 11, 2009 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Kristine Chalifoux, Sue Grey, Stig Lanesskog, Thomas Lockman, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, 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, Special Projects Administrator Joe Davis

Approval of Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the agenda. The motion carried on voice vote.

Recognitions

Staff Service Awards and the C-U Community Schools Foundation Awards were presented.

Guests

Representatives from CFT, CESP, local media and other interested persons

Public Comment

Terry Townsend expressed concerns regarding Champaign Unit 4 trying to obtain land in Douglas Park to be utilized for anything other than the park.

PTA Council

Nancy Hoetker welcomed new Board members, expressed appreciation to teachers and staff for their hard work, congratulated Superintendent Culver on his appointment by the Governor to the Illinois Education Funding Board, and also shared the scope of the PTA's mission as an advocate for children.

Reports

Academic Spotlight – Center for Education in Small Urban Communities

University of Illinois staff members Dr. Lizanne DeStefano, Julia Johnson, Brad Thompson and Haeyn Yoon provided a brief report on the aspects of their work within Champaign Unit 4 related to instructional coaching, job-embedded professional development, and teacher collaborators/projects that support district-adopted curricula. The Center for Education in Small Urban Communities is a service, outreach, and research unit with the College of Education at the University of Illinois that focuses on enhancing teaching and learning, houses the College's professional development activities and serves as the liaison for school-university partnerships.

Consent Decree Update – Kindergarten Lottery

Executive Director Dedrick Martin provided a brief update on the Kindergarten Lottery for the upcoming school year. The Champaign Unit 4 School District has operated the Schools of Choice program as its student assignment method for the past 10 years. With the assistance of Dr. Michael Alves and the Monitoring team, the District revised the Schools of Choice program to a race-neutral assignment plan that utilizes Socioeconomic Status (SES) as a factor for student assignment. The Kindergarten Lottery is conducted annually during the month of March as a part of the Schools of Choice program. This lottery gives parents/guardians of all students the opportunity to apply for admission to a variety of elementary schools, each with its own unique learning environment.

Summary Results SY10:

Total Kindergarten Students: 703
 Total Lottery Applicants: 679
 Total Pre-Assigned: 24*
 First Choice Assignments: 572 (84.2%)
 Second Choice Assignments: 34 (5.0%)
 Third Choice Assignments: 18 (2.7%)
 Total Lottery Choice Assigned: 624 (91.9%)
 Unassigned: 55** (8.1%)

Summary Results SY09:

Total Kindergarten Students: 654
 Total Lottery Applicants: 638
 Total Pre-Assigned: 26*
 First Choice Assignments: 550 (86.2%)
 Second Choice Assignments: 37 (5.8%)
 Third Choice Assignments: 21 (3.3%)
 Total Lottery Choice Assigned: 608 (95.3%)
 Unassigned: 30** (4.7%)

Five of the District's eleven elementary schools were over chosen. These over chosen schools have a waiting list as follows: Barkstall (68), Bottenfield (29), South Side (6), Kenwood (2) and Stratton (1).

*Pre-Assignments are made for select students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and recommended kindergarten retentions. The vast majority of these kindergarten pre-assignments were recommended retentions as of March 31st.

**Unassigned refers to the number of students who did not receive an initial assignment in the lottery system. These students represent the number of students in the system whose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices were schools to which they have no proximity/priority status.

Dr. Michael Alves conducts the Kindergarten Lottery process in conjunction with the staff at the Family Information Center (FIC).

The cost of the Kindergarten Lottery process is part of the ongoing consultant costs for the services of Dr. Michael Alves.

Safe Route to Schools Survey (SRTS) & Report

Rose Hudson, Project Co-Chair, and Cynthia Hoyle from the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) project provided a brief report on four years of data that has been collected from Unit #4 parents and students from the SRTS surveys. Parent comments were included, as well as the comments from the Walkability Checklist forms from the events. They spoke about how valuable the information can be in focusing on pedestrian and bike safety concerns from the parents' point of view.

Proposed 2009/2010 Building Budgets

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented the proposed 2009/2010 building budgets. The Board of Education previously directed administration to develop formulas to guide the allocation of money to the building budgets. The Board also discussed some minimum allocations to some various programs (although no specific programs or amounts were identified). The building budgets were created after receiving extensive input from the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, Directors and Principals. Per review of budgets from the late 1990's, it appeared that the 2010 elementary school budgets needed to be increased to make them similar to 10 years ago. Total funding is just less than last year's funding because the Academic Academy had a substantial amount allocated last year for start-up costs. The utilization of a formula at the high schools resulted in Centennial receiving \$40,488 more than Central. Administration recommended allocating the majority of the additional amount of \$36,533 to the Superintendent so that a small contingency amount is available to meet the needs of the buildings as they develop during the school year.

The total recommended building budget allocation for FY10 is \$1,532,824. Last year the total was \$1,540,270. This amount will be included in the Final 2010 Budget.

Action AgendaReady Expansion

Sue Grey moved with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the expanded use of READY as the District's behavioral alternative placement. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Columbia Alternative Center was closed at the end of the first semester of the 2008-09 school year and READY was used as the District's behavioral alternative placement for students who committed expellable offenses or engaged in persistent misbehavior.

READY has increased its student capacity and has submitted a proposal to provide expanded placement opportunities for the 2009-10 school year. Based on past trends of expulsions and alternative placements, the expansion of capacity at READY should adequately accommodate students who may need alternative placement during the 2009-10 school year. The Columbia Alternative Center will remain closed and READY will be used as the District's behavioral alternative placement of choice. The academic and behavioral performance of students will be closely monitored, and the transition coordinator will provide quarterly information on grades, discipline, graduation rates, completion rates, and rates of return to home campus.

Staffing/Staff Development Needs: 1 Transition Coordinator

The additional cost of expansion is allocated to districts based on their percentage of students served. Champaign's cost is \$43,600 to be paid in two installments over the next two years. The SY10 and SY11 budgets for alternative education will include monies for this purpose.

Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation Financial Support

Thomas Lockman moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve a maximum annual contribution of \$15,000 to the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation, a portion of which will be offset by the American Express Program. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Over the last several years, the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation has done a tremendous job of supporting Champaign Unit 4. This year, CUSF donated over \$100,000 in grants to fund projects for numerous teachers. In order to continue this level of support, the Foundation is requesting that the District contribute \$15,000 to their operations. A portion of this new funding will be offset through a new American Express Program. The new Program will generate a 1% return on selected large purchases.

Board Resolution Clarifying Mr. Thomas C. Lockman's Role as a Board Member (Exhibit "A")
Sue Grey moved, with a second by Grey Novak, to adopt the resolution regarding legal advice and the role of Mr. Lockman on the Board of Education. The motion carried on roll call.
Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Thomas Lockman was recently elected by the voters in the Champaign Unit 4 School District to serve on its Board of Education. Mr. Lockman is employed by the Meyer Capel Law Office. The purpose of this resolution is to make clear that he does not represent Meyer Capel and is not giving legal advice for them in his role as a Board Member.

Board President David Tomlinson read the resolution into the minutes.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF CHAMPAIGN UNIT 4 SCHOOL DISTRICT

BE IT RESOLVED that:

WHEREAS, Thomas C. Lockman serves on the Board of Education of Champaign Unit 4 School District;
and

WHEREAS, Champaign Unit 4 School District has not engaged either Mr. Lockman or his employer, Meyer Capel, A Professional Corporation, to provide legal services to the School District;

WHEREAS, Thomas C. Lockman wishes it clearly understood that any opinions and/or actions taken or omitted by him as a member of said Board of Education will be based upon his business expertise and knowledge of Champaign Unit 4 School District, are provided in his capacity as a Board member, and will not constitute legal advice or counsel rendered by him or Meyer Capel, A Professional Corporation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Board of Education acknowledges that any opinions and/or actions taken or omitted by Thomas C. Lockman as a member of the Board of Education of Champaign Unit 4 School District will not constitute legal advice or counsel from him or Meyer Capel, A Professional Corporation; and

This Resolution shall be considered ongoing as long as Thomas C. Lockman serves on said Board of Education; and

This Unanimous Consent may be signed in original counterparts, and all such original counterparts shall be deemed one unanimous consent and action by this Board of Education.

Information Technology Plan

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to formally approve the technology plan approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on April 2, 2009. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Information Technology (IT) department has two very important roles in the District beyond repairing computers. The first is the accumulation, aggregation and disbursement of the data. This is a bi-monthly process with varying degrees of complexity. Once a quarter, IT produces a complete set of information for the District Administration team to use for producing the required Quarterly Report for the Consent Decree submission to the Court. IT also produces data on an ad-hoc basis for various levels of use.

The second role it plays is the equitable placement of technological resources. Ensuring the equitable placement of computers, other District resources and accessibility to those resources is monitored at many levels. IT keeps digital records of equipment through DNS (computer names) and DHCP (digital addresses and identification). A record exists as each machine is joined to our Domain and when it requests an address for access to network services. IT also attempts to stay informed of all donations to insure supportability and compatibility.

The Technology plan was submitted to ISBE and approved on April 2, 2009 due to time constraints. The plan is now being submitted for review and formal approval. The Technology Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to stay current with the needs of the schools and changing technologies. IT will solicit participants willing to engage in the challenging times ahead of us to allocate resources with fiscal responsibility and clarity of purpose.

IT will continue to monitor data and resource allocations, and conduct annual reviews of the Technology Plan.

Consent Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, 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:

Bids (Roofing – (Exhibit “B”))

The Board of Education approved awarding the bid for a walk-in freezer at Central to KEC Design, Pest Control Services to Terminix, and General Supplies to the lowest qualified bidders.

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, formal requests were sent to 11 vendors for the walk-in freezer at Central. There was a mandatory pre-bid meeting on April 8th, and the bids were received and opened on April 22nd from four bidders for the walk-in freezer at Central High School. The lowest bid for the walk-in freezer at Central was submitted by KEC Design for \$28,805.00. The cost of the walk-in freezer will be charged to the Food Service Fund. Staff recommends the bid be awarded to KEC Design for \$28,805.00.

Bids were sent to three vendors for pest control services; two bids were received and opened on March 30th. The lowest bid for Pest Control Services was submitted by Terminix for \$22,500.00. Last year's bid was \$25,596.00. Staff recommends the award go to Terminix for 2009-2010 for \$22,500 with an option for continued services in 2010-11 for \$22,500 and 2011-12 for \$24,750 based on satisfactory performance.

Bids were sent to 39 vendors for general supplies. Bids were received and opened on April 7th. An item-by-item award of general supplies will go to the lowest qualified bidder. The total for general supplies is \$13,782.37. Last year the total for general supplies was \$11,027.89. Staff recommends an item-by-item award to the lowest qualified bidders totaling \$13,782.37.

C-U Community Schools Foundation Grants

The Board of Education accepted the Master Grants funded through the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation in the amount of \$ 6,062.60.

Each year the C-U Schools Foundation, through charitable donations, provides staff in the Champaign and Urbana School Districts the opportunity to apply for grants. Grant dollars go to support educational excellence in the classroom through innovative and creative ideas. The C-U Schools Foundation selection committee met and has funded two Master grants submitted by Unit #4 staff.

The total amount awarded is \$ 6,062.60 which will be given to the District to support teacher initiated projects. Teachers have also received \$115, 608.35 to date for Splash Grants. These do not require Board of Education approval as they are individual grants for \$500 or less.

2009/2010 IHSA Memberships

The Board of Education approved the Central and Centennial High Schools' memberships in the IHSA for the 2009-10 school year.

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) requires confirmation that member schools are recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and that each school's Board of Education/Governing Board has voted to adopt and abide by the constitution, bylaws, terms and conditions, and administrative procedures, guidelines, and policies of the Association.

Minutes – April 13 & 22, 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 Human Resource changes as presented.

Executive Session

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Stig Lanesskog, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Personnel, employee appointments, employment, compensation, dismissals, complaints 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/2(c)(2), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Pending Litigation 120/2(c)(11) 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 9:22 p.m.

Open Session

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

Student Discipline

Thomas Lockman moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to expel student #550221 from Edison Middle School for the remainder of the 2008/2009 school year and the first semester of the 2009/2010 school year and reassigned to READY for violating Conduct Code #03 (Arson) 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.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Greg Novak moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board approved: June 8, 2009