

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  
October 13, 2008 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President Dave Tomlinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Nathaniel Banks, Arlene Blank, Kristine Chalifoux, Susan 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

**Guests**

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

**Approval of Agenda**

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried on voice vote. High School Redistricting, Safe Route to Schools and the Selection of Architect for the B.T. Washington Project were moved from Consent to Action.

**Public Comment**

Local business owner Tony Pomonis addressed the Board promoting the idea of fiscal transparency for Unit 4. He specifically asked for the posting of check registers on the Unit 4 web site. He also asked to be added to the November Board meeting agenda.

**PTA Council**

PTA Council President Nancy Hoetker thanked Board member Kristine Chalifoux for the update she provided at the October PTA Council meeting related to the work of the Vision Committee. She shared thanks from the high school Council representatives for addressing class size issues and she expressed shared concerns for the Board, administration, and staff to work closely with the Carrie Busey community regarding the closing of Carrie Busey. She also extended an invitation for the Board to attend the PTA Presidents' dinner on November 6, and for the Board to participate in a roundtable discussion regarding school-related topics.

**Reports/Discussion**

Academic Spotlight – Westview Elementary – Response to Intervention (RtI)

Principal Trevor Nadrozny and his intervention team provided a report on the RtI model that has been implemented at Westview Elementary. In 2003/04, the District selected Westview as the pilot school and the RtI model has been used there for the past 6 years. The RtI model is a widely accepted approach for early intervention with at-risk students at the state and national levels. The No Child Left Behind legislation recognizes RtI as one of the scientifically-based models that addresses the needs for at-risk students. In January 2009, school districts across

Illinois are expected to have district-wide RtI plans for implementation within all schools. The presentation highlighted Westview's journey toward full implementation of RtI and the impact that the model has had on the academic achievement of all students. The assessment of the RtI model's success has been monitored through careful longitudinal tracking of DRA reading scores and DIBELS (Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Learning Skills) scores.

#### Consent Decree Update – Minority Enrollment (Upper Level)

Executive Director Dedrick Martin provided a brief update regarding minority enrollment 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 Honors level courses. In an effort to reduce these unwarranted disparities, the District has aggressively sought out strategies to increase the number of minorities in Honors level courses and provide support to minority students who are in these courses. These aggressive efforts include eliminating Level 1 courses, implementing pre-AP (Advanced Placement) strategies into classroom instruction for all students at the middle school level, use of multiple data sources to identify promising students, creation of four-year plans for all students entering high school, the implementation of AVID for students at the secondary level and the revision and implementation of new district policy for supports in Honors courses. As a result, the enrollment of African American students in Honors courses has increased over the last seven years. As a whole, African American students make up 14.4% percent (up from 11.7% in SY2004) of Honors & Level III students.

Progress continues to be made in eliminating unwarranted disparities in the enrollment of minority students in Honors courses, and enrollment of African American students in Honors classes continues to increase. Over the last four years, the enrollment has increased from 304 in SY2006, to 388 for SY2009. The grade rate distribution for African American students in Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and AVID illustrates that the disparity in grade performance continues to close. All AVID and Advanced Placement grades are within racial fairness guidelines, and the grades of A, B, and C are awarded within racial fairness guidelines for honors. The District is confident that the enrollment and performance of African American students will continue to increase and improve. The strength of the AVID program will continue to promote an increase in enrollment and academic success in Honors and Advanced Placement courses for the District's African American students. This continued enrollment and success in Honors level courses will allow the District to meet the interim target goal of increasing enrollment of African American students in upper level courses incrementally each year to meet racial fairness guidelines by June 2009. Minority student enrollment in Honors level courses is monitored during each year and documented in the quarterly reports.

#### Program Evaluation – Fine Arts

Executive Director Dedrick Martin provided a brief report related to the evaluation of the Fine Arts program.

Under Board Policy, the goal of Fine Arts is to:

- Gain knowledge of and appreciation for the aesthetic aspects of our culture.
- Develop abilities for effective expression of ideas, and cultural appreciation (fine arts).

- Cultivate appreciation of beauty in various forms.
- Develop creative self-expression through various media (art, music, writing, and etc.).
- Develop special talents in music, art, and literature.

The Champaign Unit 4 K-12 Fine Arts program serves eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools. The K-12 Fine Arts program is known for award winning high school and middle school bands, orchestras, choirs, and theatrical productions. Student art work is displayed throughout the District in buildings as well as the Mellon Building and displayed in community art shows. Fine Arts teachers are known for their dedication to craft and their willingness to share student's work with the community through art shows and community performances.

Champaign Unit 4 offers a strong standards-based K-5 Fine Arts curricula in all elementary schools in addition to a wide variety of Fine Arts opportunities at the late elementary and secondary levels. The Fine Arts program is made up of eleven focus areas: K-5 Visual Arts, K-5 Music, 6-8 Visual Arts, 6-8 Drama, 6-8 Music, 4-8 Orchestra, 5-8 Band, 9-12 Orchestra, 9-12 Band, 9-12 Drama, and 9-12 Visual Arts. Additionally, the Fine Arts program of Champaign schools have received admirable community support to supplement the program in addition to having the talents of many Champaign students and teachers showcased locally and nationally. Each year staff development opportunities are provided through School Improvement (SIP) and District Improvement (DIP) days.

Text book adoption and material acquisition for the Fine Arts program are part of the District's six-year textbook adoption cycle. The next adoption of the Fine Arts program is scheduled for the 2009-2010 academic year. Additionally, each principal provides a yearly budget for the Fine Arts program within their building to purchase materials and supplies to support the various Fine Arts programs. The STEP committee's final response recommended that the District seek to implement its recommendations contained within the final evaluation.

#### School Board Election – Calendar of Events

Board Secretary Nathaniel Banks shared information and important dates related to the April 2009 election. Board members elected to four-year terms in April 2009 serve until April 2013. Candidates in the upcoming election will vie for three seats currently filled by Nathaniel C. Banks, Arlene M. Blank and David W. Tomlinson. Newly-elected members will be seated at a Special Board Meeting on April 30, 2009.

Potential candidates may find the following dates notable:

Monday, October 20	Candidate packets available at Mellon Building, Superintendent's Office
Tuesday, October 28	First day candidates may lawfully circulate nominating petitions for signatures
Tuesday, January 20	First day to file nominating petitions at Mellon Building, Superintendent's Office
Monday, January 26	Last day to file nominating petitions at Mellon Building, Superintendent's Office Last day to file receipt for Statement of Economic Interests to

	accompany nominating papers. The Statement of Economic Interests for 2009 must be filed with the County Clerk between January 1 & January 26 for any incumbent Board member seeking re-election as well as for any new candidate.
Tuesday, April 7	Election Day
Thursday, April 30	Special Board meeting to seat new members, elect officers, and set a time and place for regular meetings
Tuesday, May 5	Last day for the Board to reorganize by seating new members, electing officers and setting a time and place for regular meetings.

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**

#### Resolution – Local Election Official (Exhibit “A”)

Nathaniel Banks moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to adopt the "Resolution Directing, Authorizing and Designating the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent to Accept Petitions for Nomination for Members of the Board of Education." The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Language of the State Board of Elections states 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 7, 2009. Because the Secretary of the Board of Education is removed from daily activities of the District, an appropriate Resolution was prepared naming the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent as the designee to handle all pre- and post-election activities.

#### Ratification of CFT Tentative Agreement (Exhibit “B”)

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve the Tentative Agreement ratified by the Champaign Federation of Teachers for the 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011 school years. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Champaign Federation of Teachers' (CFT) contract expired on June 30, 2008. A District team led by Board President Dave Tomlinson included Arlene Blank, Beth Shepperd, Gene Logas, Dorland Norris, Michael McFarland, Joe Williams, and Attorney Charles Rose. The team spent many hours in negotiation with CFT leadership to determine economic and language issues. A Tentative Agreement between the Board of Education and the CFT for a three-year contract was reached on September 24, 2008. The Tentative Agreement was presented to CFT membership on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, and was ratified by its membership on that date.

Key terms in the Tentative Agreement include raises of 4.5%, 4.5% and 4.5% including increases to health insurance contributions, a HRA contribution to full-time employees, and an

expanded retirement option plan. The Tentative Agreement does not require the addition of personnel. The financial implications of the agreement will be addressed through the budget process. Funding for year one of the contract is included in the current budget. Years two and three of the contract will be included in future budgets.

#### High School Redistricting (Exhibit "C")

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the McKibben Demographics High School Redistricting proposal at a cost of \$9,900. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The proposal for high school redistricting was shared by McKibben Demographics. The Board of Education hired Jerry McKibben and his firm to prepare last year's Demographic Study. Their proposal for redistricting builds upon the work that they have performed. The cost of their proposal is \$9,900 including expenses. The District budgeted \$40,000 in Planning and Research Development Services for such needs.

#### Safe Route to Schools

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the School Travel Plan. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Gabriel Lewis, Transportation Planner from the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, presented the School Travel Plan that is part of the Champaign Urbana urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS). This is an essential step for the governmental agencies to qualify for grants from the Safe Route to School Grant Programs. The Regional Office is looking for an endorsement from the Board stating that the Board is aware of the School Travel Plan. The District will work with the City to apply for grant money. The City officials have met with the District and will be applying for money to purchase traffic speed control signs for schools located on busy articulate streets.

#### Selection of Architect for B.T. Washington Project

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve OWP/P & Bailey Edwards as the architect for the B.T. Washington Project, pending final negotiations of an acceptable fee arrangement. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided a brief presentation regarding the recommendation of OWP/P & Bailey Edwards as the architect for the B.T. Washington project. Notices were sent to 60 different architectural firms requesting RFQ's and ten firms responded. A committee consisting of Kristine Chalifoux, Joe Davis, John Ayers and Gene Logas chose four firms (BLDD, DLA, Perkins & Will/IGW and OWP/P & Bailey Edwards) which were interviewed on October 8th. The interview team consisted of Kristine Chalifoux, Superintendent Arthur Culver, Dorland Norris, Joe Davis, John Ayers, Roland White (engineer for the City of Champaign), Attorneys Sally Scott and Carol Ashley, and Gene Logas.

After interviewing and checking references, the committee unanimously recommended OWP/P & Bailey Edwards. It was determined that OWP/P & Bailey Edwards could not only design an appropriate elementary school, but more importantly supply extensive programming expertise.

**Consent Agenda**

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Sue Grey, 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:

**Grant**

The Board of Education accepted the FY09 Reading Improvement grant in the amount of \$64,800

Funding for Reading Recovery is provided through the K-6 Reading Improvement Block Grant, which was awarded for FY09 in the amount of \$304,305. The Reading Recovery continuous grant application provided to Districts from ISBE is no longer available. Beginning 2008-09, ISBE provided a competitive Reading Recovery Training and Ongoing Professional Development grant application proposal. Funding for the teacher-leader portion ranged from \$30,000 - \$45,000 per Reading Recovery teacher trained as a teacher-leader. Funding for the new teacher and continuous contact teacher training portion was awarded in the amount of \$19,800. Champaign Unit 4 was awarded full funding for both portions of the grant. The FY09 Reading Recovery Training and Ongoing Professional Development grant was awarded in the amount of \$64,800.

Reading Recovery teachers will participate in continuing professional development. A new Reading Recovery teacher-leader will begin training this school-year. No new staffing is requested.

The Reading Recovery program serves over 200 children a year representing over 25% of the lowest readers in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Of the 168 students that had a complete intervention in SY07, 72% were excited from Reading Recovery reading at grade level and 38% were recommended for other interventions, which in most cases would lead to a referral for Special Education. In a building with veteran Reading Recovery teachers, 88% of students served exited the program reading at grade level.

**Board Minutes**

The Board of Education approved the August 25, 2008 and September 15, 2008 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**

Scott MacAdam 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 related to employee appointments, employments, compensation, dismissals, complaints 120/2(c)(1) and 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) 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 9:47 p.m.

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

**Adjournment**

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

*Board Approved: November 10, 2008*