

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
September 11, 2006 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Scott Anderson, Reginald Alston, Nathaniel Banks, Arlene Blank, Margie Skirvin, David Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Minosca Alcantara

Staff Members Present

Superintendent Arthur Culver, Deputy Superintendent Dorland Norris, Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd, Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley, Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas, Facilities/Transportation Supervisor Joe Davis

Guests

Representatives from CFT, and local media and other interested persons

Approval of Agenda

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Scott Anderson, to approve the agenda. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board member Minosca Alcantara arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Recognitions

Nancy Greenwalt, Combined Charities Campaign, presented the 2005 Platinum Performance Award to Champaign Unit 4 for a 40% increase in district contributions.

Board member Minosca Alcantara arrived at 7:05 p.m.

PTA Council

Cyndy Lammert, PTA Treasurer, commended the schools for a smooth and orderly beginning of school year.

Reports

Consent Decree Update – Staffing & Hiring

Assistant Superintendent Beth Shepperd provided an update on staffing and hiring. In accordance with the Consent Decree, the District's objective is to achieve a substantial level of racial diversity in certified and classified staff District-wide and at each school level in order to facilitate educational equity. The District's diversity goal for classified staff is a minority representation at least equal to the proportion of African Americans qualified for jobs not requiring certification in the available labor pool.

The District hired 20 African American teachers for SY 2006, which is a 25 percent increase over the previous year, and the largest number of African American teachers ever hired in a single year. The percentage of African American teachers increased from 10.9 percent for SY05 to 11.4 percent for SY06. The percentage of African American certified administrators is 33.3 percent.

The Minority Teacher Retention Committee was formed to supplement the work of the Novice Teacher Retention Committee, which provides support for first year teachers. The District recently received a grant in the amount of \$154,157 to support this project.

Other Recruitment and Retention Efforts:

- U of I tuition waivers and summer school work opportunities have been added as recruitment incentives. A \$2,000 salary advance continues to be a successful recruitment tool.
- The District's Grow Your Own Program provides tuition and books for CESP support staff members who are attending college to become teachers. Seven of the participants are African American.
- The District initiated a \$1,000 annual budget line item in 2004 for an MLK scholarship for a Unit 4 graduate to become a teacher and return to the District. The scholarship is good for four years.
- Administrative evaluations were revised to include accountability for hiring a diverse staff.

In the spring of each year hiring administrators are trained on the importance of creating and maintaining a diverse population and the District approved process of screening, interviewing and hiring applicants. Annually the Human Resource department completes the AAEO report which details the minority representation in Champaign Unit 4 in comparison to the national labor pool. Unit 4 spent a total of \$13,072.83 toward recruitment of all teachers.

Board of Education Proposed Policies (BUDGET – Financial Support for Special Events/Opportunities)

Dr. Carol Stack presented the proposed policy. The Board of Education directed the administration to develop a policy to provide a rationale and guidelines for approving or denying requests for district funding of special trips or opportunities by school district groups or clubs either before or after the school year budget has been approved. The administration prepared the following proposed policy for that intent.

Depending upon the financial status of the school district when the request is made and the other criteria established in the proposed policy, a maximum contribution of \$5,000 to any one organization and a maximum of \$15,000 per year to all approved special events was recommended.

2006/2007 High School Graduation Dates

Director George Stanhope presented the dates when the 2007 graduations will be held. In consultation and collaboration with the high school principals and wanting to provide students

and parents with information in a timely manner, the following dates, times and locations were set for their respective high school graduations:

Central High School	Tuesday, May 29, 2007	6:00 pm	Krannert Center
Centennial High School	Tuesday, May 29, 2007	8:00 pm	Assembly Hall

These are the corresponding dates from the previous year. In past years, Central and Centennial switched graduation times. The principals of Central and Centennial determined the 6:00 p.m. time best meets Central High School's needs and the 8:00 p.m. time best meets the needs of Centennial High School. The times of graduation will not be changed next year. It is not anticipated that the dates will need to be changed, should there be additional school days needed at the end of the year due to weather emergency days.

Columbia Alternative Center Update

Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley provided an update on the Columbia Alternative Center, which is a behaviorally focused school designed to meet the educational and social-emotional needs of students who have been reassigned from their home campuses through the expulsion/re-assignment or alternative placement committee referral processes. Students must meet the exit requirement in order to return to their home campuses. Quarterly reports are provided to the Court Monitor regarding the racial fairness of placements and the success of students transitioned back to their home campuses.

Enrollment at Columbia Alternative Center typically averages 75-80 students. Currently, 40 students are enrolled for the 2006-07 school year. Twenty-three students will attend the high school while 17 are enrolled in the middle school. Eighty-five percent of the students are African- American and 15% are non-minority. Twenty-two percent of the students receive special education services and 100% are eligible for the free/reduced lunch program.

The school is characterized by a low student-to-teacher ratio in order to give each student personal attention. Other features of the program include but are not limited to the following:

- Individualized educational plan development
- Mental health counseling
- Positive Behavior Facilitation Model (behavior change model)
- Art instruction
- School library
- Virtual high school
- Computer-based learning opportunities
- Credit recovery/credit acceleration opportunities
- Anger management/conflict resolution classes
- Small group counseling/Skills Streaming curriculum
- Success card initiative

All staff will receive training in Positive Behavior Facilitation and Crisis Intervention Training during the course of the school year. Additional staffing was assigned to Columbia for the 2006-07 school year at a cost of approximately \$198,000. Funding for this additional staffing came from the following sources:

- \$26,708 from the Equity budget
- \$49,428 from the special education budget
- \$31,071 from the Title I budget
- \$90,793 from District funds

Action Agenda

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to approve the proposed policy as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Proposed Policies (SAFETY PROGRAM – Plan for Responding to Medical Emergency at an Indoor Physical Fitness Facility; STUDENT WELFARE - Cellular Radio Telecommunication)

The proposed policies represent the continued effort to update the District's Policy and Procedures Manual.

Procedures 500.05R – (SAFETY PROGRAM – Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at an Indoor Physical Fitness Facility)

Regulations have been developed as per recent State of Illinois legislation requiring such relative to the installation of automatic external defibrillators and their utilization across the District. Draft regulations incorporating the requirements of the new legislation were secured from the Illinois Association of School Boards and modified as appropriate for the District.

Policy/Procedures 710.20/710.20R – (STUDENT WELFARE – Cellular Radio Telecommunication)

Policy revisions will now allow for electronic signaling devices to be allowed on elementary campuses. Many parents have purchased cell phones for their elementary-aged students. Phones will still need to be de-activated during the school day and kept out of sight, unless written approval by the Principal is granted due to health or health-related situations.

Staff development will be required as necessary relative to the new regulations for the automatic external defibrillators that will be located across the District.

Relative to policy 500.05R in order to meet phase-in requirements, AEDs will need to be purchased for a minimum of three campuses next year at a cost of between \$1,000 and \$1,600 each. The District has applied for a state grant to help subsidize this purchase.

The District's Crisis Coordinator will assume responsibility for ensuring that the new procedures for Policy 500.05 are thoroughly implemented, as well as oversight for the implementation of the photo identification expectations at the secondary level.

Champaign Unit #4 Peer Jury Initiative

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks to approve the implementation of the Peer Jury Initiative at a cost of \$4,500 to be paid through budgeted funds in the Achievement and Pupil Services Department. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

Assistant Superintendent Ecomet Burley shared the following information regarding the Peer Jury Initiative. Teen courts, also known as peer juries, are programs that utilize the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice. The American Youth Policy Forum states that peer juries are "...peer operated sentencing mechanisms that constructively allow the offender to take responsibility, be held accountable, and make restitution for violating the law." In the past ten years, there has been a 300% increase in the number of schools across the country that utilize peer juries as an alternative to traditional disciplinary action. Peer juries could provide a needed intervention in order to curb the escalating number of students receiving a suspension in the District.

The pilot program would initially target students at Central High School who have committed acts of disruptive behavior, truancy, tardiness, and insubordination or other acts that traditionally lead to suspension. In Champaign Unit #4 schools during the past school year, a total of 1,266 suspensions were issued for violations of the Student Code of Conduct and 80% of the suspensions involved minority students. In addition, the program would be a collaborative effort between community agencies such as the Champaign/Urbana Area Project Office, Project Access (Mental Health Providers), TALKS Mentoring Program, and Champaign Unit #4 School District.

The goals of the program are to reduce the number of students receiving a suspension for the first time to less than 5%, decrease the students suspended more than once to less than 3% for the 2006-07 school year, and provide campuses with a viable alternative to suspension. Other goals include:

- ✓ Establishment of a peer jury model in one school during the 2006-07 SY
- ✓ Youth empowerment
- ✓ Train 15-25 youth in the peer jury model
- ✓ Train 2-5 adults on peer jury supervision
- ✓ Maintain a 70% completion rate of peer jury agreements
- ✓ Provide the District with an alternative to traditional disciplinary actions.

Staff development will be provided for youth jurors and a staff supervisor in the month of September with the first peer jury session beginning in October. The District will provide funding for one adult supervisor at a cost of \$4,500 and provide a facility to conduct peer jury sessions. These funds have been budgeted in the Achievement and Pupil Services Department budget.

The program will be evaluated based upon the following indicators of progress:

- ✓ The number of cases seen by the peer jury (goal for first year = 35 cases)
- ✓ The number of youth and adults that serve on peer juries (15-25 youth, 2-5 adults)
- ✓ The successful diversion of 20-35 cases to an alternative disciplinary option
- ✓ Pre/post surveys given to participants to measure juror growth and skill enhancement
- ✓ The number of youth in attendance at the Career/College Job Expo

Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

A public hearing was held at 8:03 p.m.

The Illinois School Code, Article 17, requires that each school district in the State prepare a budget in tentative form and make it conveniently available to public inspection for at least 30 days prior to the Board taking action to approve the budget. The district must also publish a notice to hold a public hearing on the tentative budget. The district will meet both directives by its September 11th meeting.

The public hearing is to allow for a presentation of the various revenues included in the budget and the expenditures that are expected to be made during the fiscal year. After the presentation, the Board of Education may have questions prior to accepting comments or questions from the general public.

Resolution – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2007 Budget (Exhibit “A”)

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by Arlene Blank, to adopt the Resolution adopting the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. Board President Margie Skirvin read the resolution into the minutes. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 1. David Tomlinson voted Nay.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas presented the FY07 budget. The Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/17-1 requires each school district to adopt its operating budget not later than September 30th of each year. The tentative budget was available for public inspection since August 7, 2006.

All administrators responsible for building, department, program, and grant areas participated in the budget development process and are responsible for the management of their respective budget areas throughout the year. In addition, the Business Office will closely monitoring all budgets and will communicate concerns to the appropriate party.

Through the adoption of the FY07 budget, the Board of Education acknowledges anticipated Total Direct Receipts, Other Financing Sources, and Other Receipts in the amount of \$89,111,735 and anticipated Total Direct Disbursements, Other Financing Uses, and Other Disbursements in the amount of \$91,065,356 for a net difference of \$1,953,621 during Fiscal Year 2007, beginning July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2007. The planned transfer of \$2.1 million from the Working Cash Fund will offset the difference.

Consent Agenda

Reginald Alston moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, 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:

Donations

The Board of Education authorized the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$6,615.00 from WGRC for Robeson Elementary School for Robeson Rockets for Reading (literacy initiatives for low-income families).

2006/2007 Application for Recognition of Schools

The Board of Education approved the 2006-2007 Annual Application for Recognition of Schools form and submission of same to the Regional Office of Education for submission to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Annually, the district is required to forward information and assurances of compliance with provisions of School Code and Health/Life Safety through the Regional Office of Education to the Illinois State Board of Education. The ISBE is requiring individual schools to complete the "Application for Recognition of Schools" form which includes the previously requested health/life safety information as well as the policy compliance. Review by the Board of Education is required by the Department of Recognition and Supervision of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Beverage Service Contracts with Pepsi & Coke ("B")

The Board of Education approved the Beverage service contracts with Pepsi and Coke as presented.

As the result of the Coca-Cola contract expiring, a committee comprised of Margie Skirvin, Nathaniel Banks, Judy Wiegand, William Freyman, Joe Williams, Brian Easter, Michele Allen, Katie Rocheford, Michele Johnson, and Gene Logas interviewed both Coke and Pepsi representatives. The committee unanimously endorsed the concept of moving away from an exclusive contract to a non-exclusive contract characterized by being open and flexible. As an example, PTA's and Booster Clubs will now be allowed to purchase products from either company. In addition, at secondary schools, students will have the choice of either product. At the elementary schools, only Coke products will be served, except Barkstall and Stratton, which will have both. Both contracts have been carefully reviewed by Attorney Mike Tague and Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas. There was very little difference between the two companies in the proposed reimbursement to the school district over the three-year contract. All reimbursements depend on the amount of beverages sold.

Utilization of Barkstall Elementary by First Presbyterian Church

The Board of Education approved the utilization of Barkstall Elementary by First Presbyterian Church at a cost of \$1,000.00 per week.

Leaders of the First Presbyterian Church inquired about the possibility of utilizing a portion of Barkstall beginning in March 2007 for two years from approximately 8:00 am – 1:00 pm every Sunday. They would require the use of the cafeteria, gym and several classrooms. The standard fee for such an arrangement would be \$1,340.00 each Sunday. After meeting with church representatives and listening to their concerns, Gene Logas recommended that the weekly fee be reduced to \$1,000.00 each Sunday. Part of the rationale for the decreased rate is the longevity of the agreement and their willingness to both donate money, and volunteer in a variety of capacities at Barkstall, as they do at Stratton Elementary School. Barkstall Principal Trudy Walters approved the use of the school by the First Presbyterian Church. The \$1,000 fee will pay for the required custodian, all utilities, and generate a surplus each week.

FY07 District Depositories Revision

The Board of Education approved the financial institutions outlined below to be used as direct depositories for district funds for fiscal year 2005-06. Annually, the Board formally approves depositories that will be used for financial activities of the district. First Midwest Bank serves as the main depository for the district, with other local banks used when investments are made. The State channels payments to the district through the First Midwest Bank and The Illinois Funds.

For fiscal year 2006/07, the following financial institutions may be used for financial activities:

Chase	Heartland Bank
Busey Bank	The Illinois Funds
Centrue Bank	ISDLAF (Illinois Liquid Asset Fund)
First Bank of Savoy	Main Street Bank & Trust
First Federal Savings Bank	National City Bank
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust	Regions Bank
First Midwest Bank	

As funds become available for investment purposes, the District's Chief Financial Officer solicits bids from these banking institutions to secure the best interest rates on Certificates of

Deposits, Treasury Notes and Commercial Paper. All transactions are in compliance with the Board's policy (410.04) for the investment of district funds.

Minutes – May 8, 2006 & August 3 & 14, 2006 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

Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to adjourn into *Closed Session* in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2c) to consider Employee appointments, employment and compensation 120/2(c)(1), Property Acquisition, Lease/Purchase 120/2(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), & Actual Litigation related to the Consent Decree 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 8:34 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 10:55 p.m.

Student Discipline

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by David Tomlinson, to expel student #650038 from Jefferson Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year, with the administration reviewing placement prior to the beginning of the second semester, and reassignment to an alternative school at the administration's discretion for violating Conduct Code #08 (Drug-Related Activities – Delivery/Attempt to Deliver) of the Champaign Unit 4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the home 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.

Scott Anderson moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to expel student #650314 from Jefferson Middle School for the remainder of the 06/07 school year, with the administration reviewing placement prior to the beginning of the second semester, and reassignment to an alternative school at the administration's discretion for violating Conduct Code #08 (Drug-Related Activities – Delivery/Attempt to Deliver) of the Champaign Unit 4 Student Code of Conduct. The student may return to the home 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.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Arlene Blank moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

3/8/04

Regular Meeting

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Board approved on October 9, 2006