

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 15, 2008 Within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Nathaniel Banks, Kristine Chalifoux, Susan Grey, Scott MacAdam, Greg Novak, David Tomlinson

Board Members Absent

Arlene Blank

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

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. 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) related to the North Side Seats was moved to the Action Agenda. The Vision Committee's Final Report was moved as the first item for consideration.

PTA Council

Nancy Hoetker thanked the Vision Committee for their work, time and effort.

Action Agenda

Vision Committee's Final Report

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to adopt the Vision Committee's long-range strategic plan. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

City of Champaign Planning Director Bruce Knight provided a brief presentation on the work of the Vision Committee and the Working Groups. *Great Schools, Together* was initiated by the Board of Education and supported by the Administration. The process began in November 2007 and concluded in September 2008. This initiative brought community members together and obtained their vision for Champaign schools. The goal was to create a long-range strategic plan which includes a vision statement and six strategic goals. He shared the priorities that evolved from community input, provided a brief report related to the community forums, spoke about the vision statement and outlined the District's commitment. The Board of Education will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan and engaging the community in an

ongoing planning process. The Administration will use this plan to create detailed action plans and responsibilities to achieve the goals of the initiative.

Board members thanked Bruce Knight, Stig Lanesskog and Elizabeth Perrachione for their leadership in the process. Board members also publicly thanked each of the Vision Committee members and each of the members of the Working Groups for their time and effort.

Reports/Discussion

Academic Spotlight – Construction Education & Work-Based Learning Program

Director Judy Wiegand introduced Sean McLaughlin who is the Coordinator for Education of Employment. Mr. McLaughlin provided a brief update on the construction education and work-based learning program. Central teacher Alex Ramirez spoke about the importance of obtaining a job, getting to work on time, and about the need to work as a team. Students Albert Teague and Gabe Ramirez spoke about the program and the importance of being a responsible employee.

The main objective of this regional program is to bring underrepresented populations (African American and females) into the construction workforce, help create a more stable workforce, and support economic development in east-central Illinois. Goals for the participants include:

1. Gain exposure to a variety of careers related to the field of construction.
2. Obtain hands-on knowledge of the various trades.
3. Develop employability skills.

The program was open to high school students entering junior or senior year from Champaign, Urbana, and Rantoul High Schools. Students were required to submit an application and were interviewed by a committee. Forty-five applications were submitted for the twelve available slots. Eight of the twelve accepted applicants were from Champaign. After completion of the program, students will be prepared to transition into the Parkland Construction Program or apply for a union apprenticeship.

The students that were selected enrolled in a four-week summer program, July 14 – August 8, 2008 at Central High School. The class met Monday – Friday, four hours a day, and for eight hours on a Saturday to complete the OSHA certification class. The instructor for the program is Champaign Central High School teacher, Alex Ramirez, who is a certified Industrial Technology Instructor.

Students that participated in the summer program will continue to meet monthly during the school year with the teacher, Alex Ramirez, and mentors from local trade unions. Students that participated this summer received elective credit (Residential Carpentry) and a stipend of \$7.50 per hour. Student progress will be monitored through the monthly meetings with the teacher and mentors.

Costs:

Teacher Stipend for the Summer Program = \$3,491

Student Stipends = 140 hours at \$7.50 per hour (\$7,840 for Champaign students)

Transportation = \$1,000 (field trips to project sites)

Materials = \$3,000

Curriculum Materials = \$5,900

Tools = \$3,000

Financial support was provided through donations from local businesses and organizations. These include the United Way, Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, and the University of Illinois.

Consent Decree Update – Leadership Training

Director Dedrick Martin provided a brief report on the leadership training. On August 7, Dr. Donna Ford, the Betts Chair of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University, conducted training for Champaign Unit 4 School administrators and coordinators entitled “Effective Differentiated Instruction Strategies for Increased Achievement with At-Risk Populations.” All Champaign Unit 4 building administrators, coordinators, student service coordinators and central office administrators attended the training which focused on:

- Culture – Why does culture matter in teaching & learning?
- Building trusting and nurturing relationships with students who come from culturally different backgrounds.
- Creating learning environments where culturally different students feel a sense of membership.
- Creating learning environments that honor the worth and dignity of marginalized students.

The District will seek to bring other diversity related training opportunities and consultants for continued staff development for teachers and building administrators. The cost for the training provided by Dr. Ford in the amount of \$7,500 was covered by the FY09 Equity Budget.

Steering Team Evaluation of Programs (S.T.E.P.) - Science

Director Dedrick Martin provided a brief overview of the evaluation of the science program. In keeping with state and national standards and research-based best practices, the overall goal of Champaign Unit 4’s Science Education program is to develop scientific literacy in all students. The science program shall ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to access high levels of science literacy in upper level science courses. Scientific literacy, as defined in the National Science Education Standards, will enable a student to:

- Experience the richness and excitement of knowing about and understanding the natural world.
- Use appropriate scientific processes and principles in making personal decisions.
- Engage intelligently in public discourse and debate about matters of scientific and technological concern.
- Increase their economic productivity through the use of the knowledge, understanding, and skills of the scientifically literate person in their careers.

There is a full time K-12 Science Curriculum Coordinator housed at the Champaign Unit 4’s Curriculum Center. The Curriculum Center provides support for the science curriculum, training and materials for K-12 teachers in the district. The District’s Science program is structured as follows:

- K-5 Science Program: Science is taught as part of the core curriculum. Curriculum maps were completed for the entire K-5 science curriculum in 2004 and made available to teachers. Assessments for each science unit in grades 2-5 were completed in the fall of 2006, and are given to the students when each unit is completed. There are no textbooks

for the K-5 science curriculum, as the curriculum maps and teacher's manuals supply the written curriculum. Teachers may choose when to teach the four units available to their grade level at any time during the year. Teachers contact the Science Center to order the materials tub, teacher's manual, book tub, and assessment for the unit. There is substantial variation in the amount of time that teachers spend teaching science at the elementary level.

- 6-8 Science Program: Science is taught as a stand-alone class at the middle school level. Curriculum maps were completed for the entire 6-8 science curriculum in 2005 and made available to teachers. Assessments for each science unit in grades 6-8 were completed in 2005, and are given when the unit is completed at the end of each quarter of the school year. A science textbook is made available for each teacher and student, and accompanies the current science curriculum for grades 6-8. The four units at each grade level 6-8 are assigned to be taught during a particular quarter of the school year. The Science Center sends the materials tub, teacher's manual, and book tub to each middle school science teacher before the beginning of each quarter. The assessment for the unit is also ordered from the district assessment office each quarter. Science is taught during one period every day in grades 6-8 at each middle school. Each period is approximately 40 minutes. The science teachers at each middle school are considered highly qualified, as determined by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- 9-12 Science Program: Champaign School District Unit 4 requires two years of a laboratory science at the high school level for graduation. Science is currently taught in a variety of high school classes including: Unified Science, Biology, Chemistry, Integrated Biology & Chemistry I & II, Chemistry of Nutrition, Anatomy & Physiology, Physics, Biotechnology, and Microbiology. Advanced Placement courses are offered in Physics, Biology, and Chemistry. Although most class offerings at the two high schools are the same, there are a few significant differences; specifically: Integrated Biology & Chemistry I & II, Biotechnology, and Microbiology are only offered at Centennial High School. Curriculum maps were completed for the majority of the high school science courses in the summer of 2007 and made available to teachers. Assessments for the majority of high school science courses were completed in the summer of 2007, and are given at the end of each quarter. Most science courses have a textbook that accompanies the curriculum for that course. The science departments at the high school level maintain their own curriculum, laboratory supplies and equipment.

Each year staff development opportunities are provided through School Improvement (SIP) and District Improvement (DIP) days. Staff development is provided for all K-5 classroom teachers, eighteen 6-8th grade subject area teachers and twenty-two subject area high school teachers each year.

Text book adoption for the Science curriculum is part of the District's six-year textbook adoption cycle. The next adoption of the Science curriculum is schedule for the 2008-2009 academic year. Additionally, Unit 4 provides a yearly budget for the Science Center to purchase consumables and replacement science materials to support the District curriculum.

The STEP committee's final response recommended that the District seek to implement recommendations contained within the final evaluation. A response to the report and its recommendations for the Board will be scheduled for a later date.

Action Agenda

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve the proposed policies. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Proposed Board of Education Policies

Director Judy Wiegand presented the following proposed policies and procedures which represent the continued effort to update the District's Policy and Procedures Manual.

Policy 630.07 SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ACCOMMODATIONS – Elementary Enrichment and Self-Contained Middle School Honors and High School Advanced Placement/Upper Level Courses

Policy needed to be updated to correspond with the procedures.

North Side Seats

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to approve the recommendation to add a strand (K-5) at Garden Hills and a strand (K-5) at B.T. Washington in order to fulfill the Consent Decree requirement of adding two strands north of University. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Superintendent Culver provided a brief synopsis of the work of the North Side Seats Committee. The committee:

- looked at eight or nine sites
- considered the Great Campus concept
- considered adding a wing at Garden Hill
- considered rebuilding BTW from two strands to three strands

After much discussion, The Board of Education and the Administration made the decision to add a strand at Garden Hills and a strand at BTW. The plan is to add a wing at Garden Hills and to rebuild BTW from a two-strand school to a three-strand school. The decision was based on the demographic study and Michael Alves analysis. It was difficult not to go with the Great Campus concept. But, the Great Campus concept would not have met the Consent Decree requirement to add two strands north of University. The decision to add seats at Garden Hills and BTW meets the letter and spirit of the Consent Decree. The District's goal is to magnetize both schools, and also add a competition size gym and a community center at each school. A partnership has been established between Champaign Unit 4, the City and the Park District. The District is also committed to preserving green space at both locations and will work with the Park District on the projects.

Public Hearing on Adoption of FY09 Budget

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 for public inspection for at least 30 days prior to the Board taking action to approve the budget. The District published a notice to hold a public hearing on the tentative budget. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow Administration to present the highlights of the 2008-2009 Budget, including total revenues and expenses.

A public hearing on the 2009 Proposed Budget was held at 9:06 p.m.

Chief Financial Officer Gene Logas provided the following information and presented the FY09 budget. He presented the following overview on the 08/09 budget:

Total revenues	\$96,824,521
Other financing sources	\$1,095,121
Total	\$97,919,642
Total expenses	-\$99,049,256
Other financing uses	-\$750,000
Total	-\$99,799,256
Revenues & other financing sources (under) expenses & other financing uses	-\$1,879,614
Beginning fund balances	\$20,451,962
Ending fund balances	\$18,572,348

Mr. Logas also shared information on the following:

- ending fund balances for June 2007
- estimated surplus for 2007/08
- estimated ending fund balances for June 2008, June 2009, June 2010, June 2011 & June 2012
- estimated deficits for 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11 & 2011/12
- estimated total revenues for 2010/12
- June 2012 estimated fund balance to revenue ratio
- expenditures & other financing uses by fund
- education fund expenses – salaries/benefits, revenue by source, expenditures by program

After the presentation, the Board of Education entertained questions or comments from the general public on the budget.

The public hearing was closed at 9:07 p.m. There were no public comments.

Resolution – Adoption of FY09 Budget (Exhibit “A”)

Scott MacAdam moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to adopt the Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2009 budget as presented. The motion carried on roll call. Board President Dave Tomlinson read the Resolution into the minutes. Ayes 5. Nays 1. Board member Novak voted Nay.

MTD Contract (Exhibit “B”)

Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Scott MacAdam, to approve the Transportation Agreement between the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) and Champaign Unit 4 School District for 2008-2009. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Special Projects Administrator Joe Davis provided a brief update on the 08/09 MTD contract. The District has provided transportation for high school students via an agreement with MTD since 1977 and started transporting middle school students in 2004. This service has been a major assistance in getting students both to and from school at a reasonable cost to the District. The annual cost to transport the District's secondary students in 2008-09 will be \$258,300. Last year it was \$210,333. Part of the increase is due to late starts and early dismissals due to testing.

Consent Agenda

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda items:

Bids (RFQ – Drivers' Education Vehicles) (Exhibit "C")

The Board of Education approved the purchase of three used 2008 Ford Fusions from Courtesy Ford Lincoln Mercury for a total of \$43,500 (\$14,500 each) to be used for the Drivers' Education Program.

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 eleven local vendors for new or used vehicles to be used in the Drivers' Education Program. The District received responses from three vendors which were reviewed by Jay Huffman, Centennial Drivers Education teacher.

2008/2009 Application for Recognition of Schools

The Board of Education approved the 2008-09 Annual Application for Recognition of Schools form and the provision 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. ISBE requires each individual school 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.

Board Minutes

The Board of Education approved the August 11, 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

Greg Novak 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 Personnel related to employee appointments, employments, compensation, dismissals, complaints 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations 120/2(c)(2), 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 6. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 9:18 p.m.

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

Open SessionAppointment – Director of Transportation (Exhibit “F”)

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Sue Grey, to approve Steven Rousey as Director of Transportation, effective September 22, 2008. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Appointment – Interim Administrator for Athletics & Facilities at Centennial (Exhibit “G”)

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Greg Novak, to approve Brian Easter as Interim Administrator for Athletics and Facilities at Centennial High School, effective September 16, 2008. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Appointment – Interim Administrator for Athletics & Facilities at Central (Exhibit “H”)

Sue Grey moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to approve the appointment of John Woods as Interim Administrator for Athletics and Facilities at Central High School, effective September 16, 2008. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 5. Nays 1. Board member Novak voted Nay.

Personnel - Dismissal

Greg Novak moved, with a second by Kristine Chalifoux, to terminate employee #160687. The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 6. Nays 0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Kristine Chalifoux moved, with a second by Nathaniel Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.

Board Approved: October 13, 2008