

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
November 14, 2011 within the Boundaries of Said District

Regular Meeting

Board President Sue Grey called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

Jamar Brown, Kristine Chalifoux, Sue Grey, Stig Lanesskog, Thomas Lockman, Greg Novak, David Tomlinson

Staff Members Present

Interim Superintendent Robert Malito, Assistant Superintendent Judy Wiegand, Chief Operating Officer Gene Logas, Interim Executive Director of Human Resources of Arlene Blank, Interim Executive Director of Human Resources Margie Jobe

Approval of Agenda

Member Lockman moved, with a second by member Novak, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried on voice vote.

Executive Session

Member Novak moved, with a second by Member Lanesskog, 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), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Actual/Potential Litigation 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 5:32 p.m.

Open Session

The Board convened into *Open Session* at 6:03 p.m.

Guests

Representatives from CFT, local media and other interested persons

Reports

District Report Card

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 (85%)
- 2) 95% or above participation rate of students taking the state tests

- 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

Resolution – Abating Property Taxes for Year 2011 (Pay Debt Service on Outstanding Bonds Series 1997 and Series 2006B)

The District committed to the residents of the District that it would abate all of the principal and interest owed on the outstanding Bonds of the District previously issued for construction and renovation of Building purposes. This includes the Series 1997 and Series 2006B Bonds.

This Resolution confirms that the District will abate the property taxes levied as promised to District residents. The total amount of the abatement is \$2,837,586 (\$169,623 + \$2,667,963).

Resolution – Abating Property Taxes for Year 2011 (Pay Debt Service on Outstanding Bonds Series 2010A and Series 2010B)

The District committed to the residents of the District that it would abate all of the principal and interest owed on the outstanding Bonds of the District. This includes the Alternate Revenue Source Series 2010A and Series 2010B Bonds. In order to legally abate this property tax, the bond covenants require that the District illustrate that it has at least 125% coverage.

This Resolution confirms that the District will abate the property taxes levied. The total amount of the abatement is \$3,092,893 - \$1,090,923 (BAB reimbursement) = \$2,001,970.

Resolution-Abating Property Taxes for Year 2011 (Pay Debt Service on Outstanding Bond Series 2010C and Series 2010D)

The District committed to the residents of the District that it would abate all of the principal and interest owed on the outstanding Bonds of the District. This includes the Alternate Revenue Source Series 2010C and Series 2010D Bonds. In order to legally abate this property tax, the bond covenants require that the District illustrate that it has at least 125% coverage.

This Resolution confirms that the District will abate the property taxes levied. The total amount of the abatement is \$1,457,817 - \$455,986 (BAB reimbursement) = \$1,001,831

Resolution for Proposed 2011 Tax Levy

The Truth-in-Taxation Act requires that when a school district's proposed tax levy, as extended and less debt service, reflects an increase of more than 105% of the prior year's extension, the school district must publish a notice of such intent and hold a public hearing on the matter. The proposed 2011 Levy does not exceed the 2010 Levy by 105% and, therefore, neither a separate public hearing nor advertisement of a public hearing were necessary.

The Champaign School District continues to have the second lowest tax rate of any unit school district in Champaign County. The average taxpayer with a \$150,000 home residing elsewhere in Champaign County pays \$408 more annually in property taxes than Unit 4. Moreover, Unit 4 now has the fourth lowest rate of the 46 reporting LUDA districts. The average LUDA taxpayer with a \$150,000 home pays \$435 more than a Unit 4 taxpayer. (This is based on 2010-11 rates which are the most recent published by LUDA).

It is estimated that our total tax rate will increase by about seven cents from \$3.72 to \$3.79. This is the result of a very small increase in assessed value. As the result of the levy increasing more quickly than the growth in assessed value, the tax rate will increase.

Finally, note the amount of property taxes lost to tax caps since 1996 – more than \$116 million. If we had the same tax rate as the District had in 1996 we would have received \$116 million more from 1997 to 2011.

Approval of the 2011 Levy in December will provide the District with the potential to receive the allowable amount of property taxes after tax caps of \$76,310,343.

CUScholars

The CUScholars Program is funded by private funds through the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation. The program serves students, families, businesses, the Champaign Unit #4 School District and the Urbana School District #116. This program supports public high school students as they complete courses that exceed Illinois State Graduation Standards and develop skills of excellence that will better prepare them for a challenging and productive future in the workforce, in college and in the military. Gail Rost was present and answered questions.

Consent Agenda

Member Tomlinson moved, with a second by Member 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

Requests were sent to 10 vendors, posted on the district's website and advertised in the News-Gazette for two 4 x 4 pickup trucks. Eight bids were received and opened on November 2, 2011. The lowest bid was from Worden-Martin Ford for \$55,834.00.

Tepper Electric Endowment Grant

This school year, 20 Tepper grant requests totaling \$21,826.40 were submitted. Twelve monetary awards totaling \$9,523.35 will be provided through the Tepper Electric Arts Endowment. This endowment, funded by the Tepper Electric Supply Company, provides Unit #4 with an annual donation of \$10,000 for student activities and/or educational experiences that promote student exposure to and involvement in the fine arts. The carry-over from the 2010-2011 school year is \$253.61. Including this year's grant total, the Tepper Electric Endowment has awarded grants totaling approximately \$230,000 over the past twenty years.

On October 11, 2011, the selection committee met and reviewed applications for funding. Members of the Tepper Review committee consisted of Trevor Nadrozny, Director of Curriculum, Amber Owens, Bottenfield Fine Arts Teacher, Stacey Gross, Centennial Fine Arts Teacher, Sarah Filkins, Robeson Fine Arts Teacher, and Marian Wyatt, Centennial Fine Arts Teacher.

School Library Grant

A grant, intended for qualifying school libraries, has been included in the legislation for the Illinois Library System Act. The grant funds are being made available at seventy-five cents (\$.737) per capita based on the September 30, 2011 enrollment.

School districts must be members of a regional library system or meet the requirements and have applied for membership in a system. A qualified school library is one that has a centrally accessible and bibliographically organized library and has one employee whose primary duty is to serve as a librarian.

Based on the district's September 30, 2011 enrollment benchmark for buildings with a librarian on staff, and a total enrollment of 9014, the district is applying for \$6,760.50. The actual funding will depend on the number of school districts which apply for the funds.

The funds will be used to purchase materials to support the District Library Media Centers (LMC).

Minutes – October 3, 17, 24, 2011 Board Meetings

The Board of Education approved the minutes as presented.

Bills & Treasurer's Report

The Board of Education approved the bills and treasurer's report as presented.

Human Resource Changes/ERO Participants

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

Executive Session

Member Lockman moved, with a second by Member Chalifoux, 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), Land Acquisition 120/2(c)(5), Student Discipline 120/2(c)(9), and Actual/Potential Litigation 120/2(c)(11). The motion carried on roll call. Ayes 7. Nays 0.

The Board convened into *Closed Session* at 7:07 p.m.


The Board convened into *Open Session* at 9:32 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Novak moved, with a second by Member Tomlinson to adjourn the meeting 9:33 p.m. The motion carried on voice vote.



President, Board of Education



Secretary, Board of Education