

MINUTES

Community Unit School District #205
Board of Education
January 14, 2008

Call To Order/Roll Call

The Community Unit School District #205 Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 7:00 PM at 932 Harrison St., Galesburg, IL. The meeting was called to order by President Panther. The roll was read and the following Members responded: Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Osborn (7) Roll Call #1

Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Visitors – Jim Jacobs made several comments on the employee health coverage and the recently approved TRS benefit to administrators.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Osborn and seconded by Member Lindstrom that the Minutes of the regular meeting of December 10, 2007, and special meeting of January 3, 2008 be approved without further reading and without correction or addition. It was moved by Member Harrison and seconded by Member Lindstrom to approve the minutes as presented without further corrections or additions. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Nelson, Panther, Strauch, Harrison, Swanson, Osborn (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #2

Approval of Payrolls and Claims

Upon presentation by Member Harrison of payrolls and claims filed in the Ledger Book as #514 as of January 14, 2008, which exhibit is incorporated herein and by reference made a part hereof, it was moved by Member Nelson and seconded by Member Osborn that the same be approved and allowed for payment as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Nelson, Panther, Strauch, Harrison, Lindstrom, Swanson, Osborn (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #3

Approval of Consent Agenda – None

Correspondence – Dr. Denisar read thank you notes from both the family of Member Nelson and the family of Neal Thompson for the peace lily's that were sent to them for their respective passing of family members.

Committee ReportsRecruitment for Educational Diversity

The R.E.D. Committee last met on January 7, 2008. Received a verbal acceptance from

a recent visitor Susan Woo for the fall 2008. Susan will be a teacher at the high school. Visits for University of Illinois and Illinois State and Eastern Illinois have been scheduled for late February. Possible visits to Bradley and University of Illinois over the spring break are being planned. The Charles F. West Grant is currently \$1000 and will be available in 2008-2009. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2008 at 4:00 pm here at the Lincoln Education Center.

Budget

Member Strauch stated that the Budget Committee met earlier this evening, (January 14, 2008) to review the District's investment portfolio performance against the benchmark set for it last year, as required by policy. The next meeting of the committee has not yet been scheduled.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Member Lindstrom stated that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since last month's Board Meeting. The next meeting of the committee has been scheduled for early February to review bid results for the Nielson and Steele asbestos removal in addition to renovation projects. A status report of the Lombard Zephyr Dome is also anticipated for this meeting.

Insurance Committee

Member Harrison stated that the Insurance Committee had last met on January 3, 2008. Our fund balance to date is reported at \$446,462.15. The committee voted unanimously to implement the Medical Reimbursement Plan (MRP) in place of the RAP plan that is currently in place. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2008 with two (2) meetings scheduled with RAP members in January. Committee also unanimously voted to update a kidney transplant/dialysis wording as

recommended. Member Harrison also stated that the committee has discussed at length on several occasions the insurance issues. She wanted to point out that the Insurance committee is an advisory committee and they have discussed all kinds of possible possibilities including the district picking up a portion of the insurance premiums but as an advisory committee they look to the finance committee to tell them what can and can't be implemented.

Student Council

Jane Simkins, Student Council President, informed the Board that the Council is currently gearing up for the Sweetheart Swirl which will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2008 and the school assembly is February 8, 2008. Nicole also stated that not enough students signed up for the Battle of the Bands so they are replacing it with Mr. GHS which is a type of beauty pageant for guys.

Instructional Presentation

A. Gale School Raising Student Achievement Conference Presentation—Joel Estes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Gale School Principal, Ellen Spittell and the three (3) teachers who attended the Raising Student Achievement Conference. The Gale team sent in a proposal to the Board that runs the conference and were chosen as one of the featured schools in the conference. Ellen introduced the teachers who attended: Kristin Lingafelter, Laura Saey, Katie Lauren and Colleen Noonan. The teachers then presented a brief presentation of what they showed at the conference which involves Standards Aligned Classroom (SAC) and how using the tools have shown significant increase in reading and math scores in Gale School students.

Old Business

A. Alternative School Feasibility—Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Joel Estes introduced Dr. Al Azinger to discuss the results so far on the Alternative School Feasibility Study. Al Azinger informed the Board of the status and recommendation. The charge for the committee was to investigate the needs for the possibility to reestablish an alternative school in the district. What the committee attempted to do was determine the need and then feasibility of the school. A need for an alternative school

was felt necessary by the committee being that in the past two (2) years there have been 295 students who left GHS without graduating nor did they transfer to another institution where records were requested to follow them. Follow up done by GHS showed that 30% of those students were enrolled in other educational programs but those were not schools. Those students were homeschooling or working towards a GED. Not a traditional educational program. Dr. Azinger stated that when talking about a need there also needs to be a discussion at some point on the existing programs. It was the conclusion of the committee that there is a need for an alternative school. Dr. Azinger stated that the committee did take a close look at the Knox County Academy since it is existing and there are 18 students in the program but the viability of that program had indicators that suggested a district program would work better for students than the Knox County Academy. The committee felt that an alternative school is beneficial for both the students who are not struggling and those who are. The non struggling students would have more time with instructors and those students struggling would be in a smaller more productive setting. The committee perspective felt that the need is clear and present. Location and affordability are both issues. Dr. Azinger stated that while it poses a challenge it will be beneficial financially to the district. District space is likelihood since the possibility stands that one of the schools may close. Rose Hoben Welch was also discussed since its proximity is close to GHS and this may be an easy transition for students re-entering GHS. The committee felt that when it comes to affordability it would be fairly easy to establish. Over the last two (2) years approximately 147 students have been lost in the district each year. An additional 18 students are at Knox County Academy. For each student that drops out or attends Knox County Academy the District loses just under \$5734 in state aid for each student per year. One of the ways an alternative school can be financed is regaining some of the lost income. The 18 students at Knox County Academy would generate \$103,000.00 if they were attending a district school. Recapturing one half of the dropouts would generate \$400,000 for the District per year. State aid is received on a delayed basis so over a three (3) year period the revenue would be felt due to the way the Illinois funding works. The District would get approximately 1/3 each year. Recommendations of the committee are that there is a need for an alternative school within the District and the committee recommends that an alternative school be established. The committee would also add to the recommendation that after three (3) years the program be evaluated to be sure that it is meeting the goals in regards to serving the students and financial position for the District. It is also recommended that if the Board wants to move forward that it is moved forward with best practices for the alternative school. Which means addressing the needs to make sure it is a quality school. Al then asked if there were any questions. After a discussion between Board members and questions answered by Mr. Estes and Dr. Azinger it was moved by Member Lindstrom and seconded by Member Strauch to move forward with the feasibility study. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Nelson, Strauch, Swanson, Osborn, Harrison, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call # 4 (Insert Alternative School Feasibility Study Report)

New BusinessA. Approve Personnel Agenda

Diane VanHootegem, Director for Human Resources, stated that the Personnel Agenda stands as presented and recommended its approval. It was moved by Member Nelson and seconded by Member Lindstrom to approve the Personnel Agenda as presented and recommended by the administration. (Insert Personnel Agenda) On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Panther, Strauch, Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson, Osborn, Swanson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #5

B. Adopt Resolution on Preparation of Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2008-2009

Paul Woehlke, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, stated that this is a routine annual resolution to allow the administration to begin preparing the 2008-2009 budget. The Board annually adopts its tentative budget in July and its final budget in September and

requests the adoption of the Resolution as presented. It was moved by Member Strauch and seconded by Member Harrison to Adopt the Resolution on Preparation of Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2008-2009 as presented (Insert Resolution) On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Strauch, Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson, Panther, Osborn, Swanson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #6

C. Revision of Policy 520.17—Board of Education—Suspension Without Pay

Diane VanHootegem, Human Resources, stated that administration recommends the approval of the Revision of Policy 520.17—Board of Education—Suspension Without Pay. Ms. VanHootegem stated that the only revision to the policy is to move from a maximum of five (5) days suspension without pay to a maximum of ten (10) days without pay.

It was moved by Member Harrison and seconded by Member Lindstrom to Approve the Revision of Policy 520.17—Board of Education—Suspension Without Pay. (Insert Policy) On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson, Panther, Strauch, Osborn, Nelson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #7

- D. Approval of District Title 1 Plan—Joel Estes stated that the District was informed by the State Board of Education in mid December that we needed to file a District Title 1 plan which would need to be approved by the Board of Education by January 15, 2008. That deadline was extended to February 1, 2008 due to the number of Districts not having enough turn around time to get approval. Joel stated that last week the plan was posted on the District website for review and comment by parents, staff and community members. The plan reflects what is done with the funds. Administration is requesting approval of the District Title 1 Plan for submission to the ISBE. It was moved by Member Lindstrom and seconded by member Nelson to approve the District Title 1 Plan as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Swanson, Panther, Lindstrom, Nelson, Osborn, Harrison, Strauch (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #8

Administrative Reports

Comments were made by Paul Woehlke, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations in regards to the comments made by Jim Jacobs and that the funds from the BIMP bill are being dispersed. Joel Estes reminded the Board about the invitation to dinner with Ruby Payne on January 29, 2008 and a reminder to the public that she will be speaking at the high school on January 30, 2008 at 3:45 PM. Dr. Denisar stated that the Commencement Committee has created a survey which is posted on the District's website. Paper copies are also available at the high school and at the Central Office.

Comments by Board of Education

Comments were made by Members Lindstrom, Panther and Strauch.

Closed Session—It was moved by Member Strauch and seconded by member Osborn to move to closed session for discussion of negotiations. No motions will be made. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Swanson, Strauch, Lindstrom, Panther, Osborn, Harrison, Nelson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call # 9

Following the closed session it was moved by Member Strauch and seconded by Member Harrison to return to open session. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Strauch, Panther, Nelson, Osborn, Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #10

Adjournment

It was moved by Member Strauch and seconded by Member Swanson that the meeting be adjourned—9:06 PM. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Nelson, Panther, Strauch, Harrison, Osborn, Swanson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #11

Michael D. Panther, President

ATTEST:

Mike Nelson, Secretary