

**MINUTES**

Community Unit School District #205  
Board of Education  
February 11, 2008

Call To Order/Roll Call

The Community Unit School District #205 Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Monday, February 11, 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, Osborn, Strauch, Swanson (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 – Mr. Bart Arthur, Principal, Churchill Junior High School, introduced Stephanie Saey who won the Martin Luther King Essay Contest to read her essay. Ms. Saey read her essay during recognition of visitors as listed under Instructional Presentation. Visitors Jim Jacobs, Gary Tomlin and Karen Lynch spoke in favor of saving the Lombard “Zephyr Dome” and Laura Strauch spoke in favor of the demolition of the Lombard “Zephyr Dome”.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Harrison and seconded by Member Osborn that the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 14, 2008, special meeting of January 28, 2008 and special meeting of February 6, 2008 be approved without further reading and without correction or addition. It was moved by Member Harrison to approve the minutes and seconded by Member Osborn. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Nelson, Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Harrison (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #2

Approval of Payrolls and Claims

Upon presentation by Member Strauch of payrolls and claims filed in the Ledger Book as #515 as of February 11, 2008, which exhibit is incorporated herein and by reference made a part hereof, it was moved by Member Strauch and seconded by Member Harrison that the same be approved and allowed for payment as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Nelson, Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #3

Approval of Consent Agenda – None

Correspondence – Dr. Denisar presented a thank you note for the plant Diane Copeland received from the Board due to the passing of her son.

Committee Reports

Recruitment for Educational Diversity:

Member Swanson reported that the R.E.D. Committee last met on January 7, 2008. Recruitment for the 2008-2009 school year is well underway with visits scheduled for ISU, U of I, and Eastern IL University for February

26 - 28, 2008. The Charles F. West grant is currently \$1000 and will be dispersed at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2008 at 4:00 PM.

**Budget:**

Member Strauch stated that the Budget Committee did not meet this month and another meeting has not yet been set.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

Member Lindstrom stated that the Buildings and Grounds Committee last met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008. At that time, bid results for the Nielson and Steele core area asbestos removal and renovation projects were discussed. Both bids for both projects are on the agenda for approval. Also, the committee reviewed an estimate of renovation costs for the Rose Hoben Welch building replacement of windows; it was decided to table that project for the time being. The committee reviewed and approved a design for the Steele Elementary School parking lot project which is intended to create separation of spaces for bus lanes and parking spaces as was done with King and Nielson last summer. Lastly, the committee reviewed the status of the Life Safety application for demolition and replacement of the Lombard Zephyr Dome. The replacement application is pending at the State Board of Education with an approval expected later this month. The demolition application was rejected by the Knox County Regional Superintendent of Schools. The committee authorized the District to proceed with the replacement project regardless of the status of the demolition application. The committee has not yet set a date for the next meeting.

**Insurance:**

Member Harrison stated that the Insurance Committee last met on February 7, 2008. Our fund balance to date is reported at \$359,639.04. The committee unanimously voted to implement The Medical Reimbursement Plan (MRP) as an alternative to The Wrap Plan that is currently being used.

The implementation date has been revised to March 15, 2008. Meetings are being scheduled in each building by the principal for the staff to meet on a one on one basis with Karen Addis should they have any insurance related questions. Finally, the committee will plan to investigate fully insured quotes for dependents. The next scheduled meeting is February 21, 2008.

Student Council:

Jane Simkins, Student Council Representative stated that Sweetheart Swirl was a great success and a lot of hard work was put into the event. Their next project is to get thank you notes out to those who helped.

Alternative School Feasibility Study:

Mr. Joel Estes stated that the committee has started their visits to alternative schools in Burlington and Moline and tomorrow they will visit an alternative school in Iowa City. On Thursday February 14, 2008 they will see a presentation from a company that provides alternative school programming. The committee will meet again on February 19, 2008.

Commencement Committee Report:

Member Nelson stated that as of present the survey has had 699 responses. The deadline for the survey is February 15, 2008.

Instructional Presentation

Stephanie Saey, a seventh grader at Churchill Junior High School, won the Martin Luther King Essay Contest sponsored by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee. She received her first place award at the annual breakfast held on January 21st. Stephanie read her award-winning essay concerning how she would have handled the 1957 integration of Little Rock Central High School had she been governor of Arkansas at the time. This presentation was moved to the beginning of the Recognition of Visitors section of the agenda, since Stephanie had another commitment.

Old Business – None

New Business –

A. Approve Personnel Agenda

Mrs. 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 Swanson to approve the Personnel Agenda as presented and recommended by the administration. (Insert Personnel Agenda) On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #4

B. First Student Contract Extension

Mr. Paul Woehlke, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations stated that the District's transportation contract with First Student (formerly Laidlaw) expires on June 30. The options available are to seek Requests for Proposal for a new contract or extend the current contract for another year under the existing terms (costs to increase by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Items from April 2007 to April 2008). Given limited competition in transportation services and recent fuel increases higher than overall inflation, the administration believes it is in the best interest of the District to extend the current contract for one year. (Insert Contract) It was moved by Member Strauch and seconded by Member Nelson to approve the extension as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #5

C. Acceptance of Bid for Nielson and Steele Asbestos Removal

The 2004 Life Safety Audit called for asbestos removal and renovation of all pod elementary schools. To date, such work has been done in all classroom pods, as well as the core areas of Gale, King and Lincoln. This summer the core areas of Nielson and Steele will be done, and the full Audit requirement will then have been met. Three bids were received for the asbestos abatement phase of the Nielson / Steele project. The lowest bid for both buildings together is recommended for approval. The bid is in excess of the budgeted amount, but the difference can be made up from interest income generated to date in the Fire Prevention & Safety Fund. It was moved by Member Lindstrom and seconded by Member Harrison to approve the bid. The following Members voted AYE: Strauch, Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson, Osborn, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #6

D. Acceptance of Bid for Nielson and Steele Core Area Renovations

The 2004 Life Safety Audit called for asbestos removal and renovation of all pod elementary schools. To date, such work has been done in all classroom pods, as well as the core areas of Gale, King and Lincoln. This summer the core areas of Nielson and Steele will be done, and the full Audit requirement will then have been met.

Seven bids were received for the core area renovation phase of the Nielson / Steele project. The lowest bid for both buildings together is recommended for approval. The bid is in excess of the budgeted amount, but the difference can be made up from interest income generated to date in the Fire Prevention & Safety Fund. It was moved by Member Swanson and seconded by Member Nelson to approve the bid as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson, Osborn, Panther, Strauch (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #7

E. Report on C.U.S.D. No. 205 Farm Property

Annually, the financial results of the two farms owned by the District are reported to the Board. Proceeds from the Coldbrook Township farm fund four scholarships for business education students in college, and proceeds from the Kelly Township farm fund equipment purchases for the Business Department at GHS. Given higher crop prices this year, we will double scholarship levels next year to \$5,000 per student per year and will increase the equipment purchase budget this spring to \$40,000 (from \$18,000 last year).

F. Lombard Middle School Waiver

Joel Estes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, stated that Mr. Thompson and the GEA representative at Lombard have presented to the staff the waiver to the contract that allows the school to continue to operate within the middle school model. (Insert Waiver) There are no substantive changes in this year's waiver. With a vote of 37 to 2, the Lombard faculty has approved the waiver by more than the 75% majority vote required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement. It was moved by Member Harrison to approve the Lombard Middle School Waiver and seconded by Member Lindstrom. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Harrison, Lindstrom, Nelson, Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #8

G. Churchill Junior High School Waiver

Joel Estes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, stated that Mr. Arthur and the GEA representative at Churchill have presented to the staff the waiver to the contract that allows the school to continue to operate within the middle school model. (Insert Waiver) There are no substantive changes in this year's waiver. With a vote of 55 to 2, the Churchill faculty has approved the waiver by more than the 75% majority vote required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement. It was moved by Member Strauch and seconded by Member Nelson to approve the Waiver as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Nelson, Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Harrison (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #9

H. Proposed 2007-2008 School Calendar

Joel Estes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, stated that the 2008 – 2009 Calendar Committee has met on two separate occasions to discuss the recommendation for a school calendar for next year. After looking at a range of possibilities, and considering the principles the Board adopted in March of 2006, the committee took a model calendar back to each of their buildings for consideration by the faculties. The recommended calendar is attached and represents a compilation of the recommendations made at the buildings. For the Board's information the Principles for Calendar Adoption have also been attached. Committee members were:

Bright Futures – Megan McCamon and Maury Lyon  
Cooke – LeeAnne Scherpe and Jean Brown  
Gale – Kathy Disbennet and Ellen Spittell  
King – Margaret Tolley and Renee Wallace  
Nielson – Kim Lakis and Matt LeClere  
Silas Willard – Jenny Cummings and John Shelly  
Steele – DeeAnn Spring and Rochelle Streeter  
Churchill – Patti Keenan and Bart Arthur  
Lombard – Cindi Roach and Neal Thompson  
GHS – Dee Heck and Sharon Gonzalez  
GEA – Isaac Triplett

The committee is recommending a proposed 2008-2009 school calendar for Board approval. (Insert proposed Calendar) It was moved by Member Swanson and seconded by Member Nelson to approve the calendar for the 2008-2009 school year as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Nelson, Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #10

Administrative Reports—Paul Woehlke stated that early indications from Springfield in regards to State funding is that there will be no increase in the foundation level for the next fiscal year budget.

Comments by Board of Education

Comments were made by Members Swanson, Nelson, Lindstrom, Panther, Strauch, Harrison.

Closed Session – It was moved by Member Swanson and seconded by Member Osborn to go into closed session for the purpose of personnel, negotiations and pending litigation. No action will be taken.—8:15 PM Roll Call #11

Adjournment

It was moved by Member Osborn and seconded by Member Harrison that the meeting be adjourned –9:07 PM. On roll call the following members voted AYE: Nelson, Osborn, Panther, Strauch, Swanson, Harrison, Lindstrom (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #12

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Michael D. Panther, President

ATTEST:

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Mike Nelson, Secretary