

Community Unit School District #4

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

~~Unity High School Art Room~~

March, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

Guests may join via zoom by contacting the district office

1. Call To Order

Members: Steven Arnsman-Peggy Duesterhaus-Julie Duke-Jim Farmer-Danielle Fleer-Jessica Humke-Louis Janssen

Admin. Josh Arnsman-Jerry Ellerman Curr Dir. Seth Klusmeyer

Supt. Scott Riddle Bus. Mngr. Gina Whelan

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Public Participation – Visitor and Comments (3 min. limit)

3.1 Special Recognition

1.1.1 Cooper Thompson - Student of the Month is son of Mark and Lisa Thompson

3.2 Visitors

3.2.1 Tim Bealor and Tom Shaffer - Foundation/Friends presentation

3.3 Correspondence

3.3.1

Closed Session – The Board will enter Closed Session to discuss: A) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the School District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on complaint lodged against and employee, a specific individual who serves, as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District.; B) collective negotiating matters between the School District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; C) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District; D) the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District; E) the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts; F) emergency security procedures; G) student disciplinary cases; H) the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; I) pending, probable, or imminent litigation; J) evaluation of attorney; K) approval of certain closed session minutes for distribution to the public; or other matters appropriate for a closed meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. An additional Closed Session may be necessary if all discussions are not concluded prior to returning to Open Session.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve February 17, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

4.2 Approve Bills and Activity Fund Reports

4.3 Approve Bills Payable

4.4 Approve Fund Balances

4.5 Approve End of Month Report for Previous Month

5. Administrative and Committee Reports

5.1 Principal Reports

5.2 Business Manager Report (Financial Dashboard)

5.3 Special Education Coordinator

5.4 Superintendent Report

5.5 Building and Grounds Committee

5.6 Curriculum Committee

- 5.7 Finance Committee
- 5.8 Policy Committee
- 5.9 Technology Committee
- 5.10 Transportation Committee
- 5.11 Public Relations Committee

6. Action Items

- 6.1 Approve any matter discussed in Executive Session as necessary, and limited to those matters authorized for discussion in Executive Session by motion of the Board and/or Personnel List
- 6.2 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for First-Year Non-Tenured Teachers
- 6.3 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for Second-Year Non-Tenured Teachers
- 6.4 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for Third-Year Non-Tenured Teachers
- 6.5 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for Fourth-Year Non-Tenured Teachers
- 6.6 Consider and take action on the bus bid proposals
- 6.7 Consider and take action on the Revised Guidance Part 4

7. Information Items

- 7.1 Update on science lab designs and elementary punchlist

8. Adjournment

- 8.1 Adjournment
- 8.2 Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the
Community Unit School District #4 Board of Education
Adams and Hancock Counties, Illinois
Held on March 17, 2021**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District #4 met in regular session on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, in the Unity High School Library. The meeting was called to order by President Farmer at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke, and Janssen. Principals Arnsman and Ellerman were present. Superintendent Riddle was present. Three visitors were present.

<p>MOTION: Fler “to approve agenda items with the following changes.” Steve Smith – Custodian SECOND: Duke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke, and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Agenda Items
<p>MOTION: Janssen “to approve of the Consent Agenda items.” SECOND: Humke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Consent Agenda
<p>MOTION: Duke “to approve contract renewal first year non-tenured.” SECOND: Humke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Approve 1st year non-tenured
<p>MOTION: Duke “to approve contract renewal second year non-tenured.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Approve 2nd year non-tenured
<p>MOTION: Fler “to approve contract renewal third year non-tenured.” SECOND: Duke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Approve 3rd year non-tenured
<p>MOTION: Humke “to approve to grant tenure to Fourth year non-tenured.” SECOND: Duke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Approve tenure to 4th year non-tenured
<p>MOTION: Fler “to approve Midwest bus sales bid as proposed.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Approve Midwest bus sales
<p>MOTION: Janssen “to approve revised guidance part 4 as presented.” SECOND: Humke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Approve revised guidance
<p>MOTION: Fler “to move to closed session at 7:45 p.m.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke, and Janssen. Motion carried.</p>	Closed Session
<p>MOTION: Fler “to return to open session at 8:43.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler, Humke, and</p>	Open Session

Janssen. Motion carried.	
MOTION: Janssen “to approve minutes of the March 17, 2021 closed session.” SECOND: Humke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fleer, Humke, and Janssen. Motion carried.	Closed Session Minutes
MOTION: Duke “to approve matters discussed in closed session.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fleer, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.	Approve matters discussed in closed session
MOTION: Janssen “to adjourn.” SECOND: Arnsman ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fleer, Humke and Janssen. Motion carried.	Adjourn
<p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting will be a Regular Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unity High School Art Room.</p>	
President _____ Secretary _____	April 21, 2021

U Community Unit School District #4 U

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Unity High School Art Room

March, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

Guests may join via zoom by contacting the district office

1. Call To Order

Members: Steven Arnsman-Peggy Duesterhaus (absent) -Julie Duke-Jim Farmer-Danielle Fleer-Jessica Humke-Louis Janssen

Admin. Josh Arnsman-Jerry Ellerman Curr Dir. Seth Klusmeyer (absent)

Supt. Scott Riddle Bus. Mngr. Gina Whelan

2. Approval of Agenda (Approved 6-0)

Addition of custodial position - Steve Smith

3. Public Participation – Visitor and Comments (3 min. limit)

3.1 Special Recognition

1.1.1 Cooper Thompson - Student of the Month is son of Mark and Lisa Thompson

3.2 Visitors

3.2.1 Tim Bealor and Tom Shaffer - Foundation/Friends presentation on availability of funds and encouragement of staff and board to utilize both organizations for additional needs or enhancements not otherwise funded by the district.

3.3 Correspondence

3.3.1

Closed Session – The Board will enter Closed Session to discuss: A) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the School District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on complaint lodged against and employee, a specific individual who serves, as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District.; B) collective negotiating matters between the School District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; C) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District; D) the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District; E) the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts; F) emergency security procedures; G) student disciplinary cases; H) the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; I) pending, probable, or imminent litigation; J) evaluation of attorney; K) approval of certain closed session minutes for distribution to the public; or other matters appropriate for a closed meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. An additional Closed Session may be necessary if all discussions are not concluded prior to returning to Open Session.

4. Consent Agenda (Approved 6-0)

4.1 Approve February 17, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

4.2 Approve Bills and Activity Fund Reports

4.3 Approve Bills Payable

4.4 Approve Fund Balances

4.5 Approve End of Month Report for Previous Month

5. Administrative and Committee Reports

5.1 Principal Reports

Mr. Ellerman shared the frustration of students not completing work and poor attendance which is causing the potential of student retention. The staff is working hard to combat this continuing to reach out to the parents and working with these students.

Mr. Arnsmann echoed the same frustration with lack of work completion and poor attendance of students. Many of these students are remote learners. He indicated the seniors that are in danger of not graduating due to these factors. He and the MS/HS staff have developed contracts with at risk students in the hopes they can turn around the poor performance.

5.2 Business Manager Report (Financial Dashboard)

Mrs. Whelan stated the district is 67% through the year and has received 88% of its expected revenue. The district is doing well financially even with the reduced revenue.

5.3 Superintendent Report

Supt. Riddle shared our enrollment has maintained a steady trend even through the pandemic remaining at approximately 660 students. The challenges the district has seen during the pandemic is more centered around student attendance and work completion, particularly with remote learners as referenced by our administrators. This has been pervasive not just for CUSD#4 but for all Illinois districts. This is in part some of the reasoning behind the recent guidance changes from the CDC/IDPH/ISBE.

As part of the effort to increase student performance and accountability as well as provide more direct support for students, the district has stated they will follow the new guidelines which are consistent with the updated guidance from the CDC, families of students who are at increased risk of severe illness (including those with special health care needs) or who live with people at increased risk will only be given the option of remote instructions. Those families must supply a medical note stating the need for remote instruction. All other students must return to in-person instruction by March 29, 2021 unless they have provided a medical note by Friday, March 26, 2021. The building administrators or their designee will be contacting the families of the remote learners informing them to provide time to transition back to in-person by Monday, March 29, 2021.

Supt. Riddle shared the need for custodial help for the district. The district is looking to replace two full-time custodial positions. The staff has been very helpful in pitching in and helping out during this time being short handed. The district has considered looking into using a cleaning service to help supplement the current staff. He also mentioned the need for substitute paraprofessionals (aides), as well as substitute teachers. If anyone is interested they should contact the district office:

Supt. Riddle said he has been working with Klingners on designs for the science lab renovations and has been waiting on the plans to share with the science teaching staff. He indicated that they just received some initial designs and the staff is reviewing them. It is the goal of the district to complete these renovations during the summer.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, CUSD#4 received their Financial Profile Designation of 3.8/4.0 Recognition status which is the highest level. Supt. Riddle stated the outstanding bond debt incurred from the newly constructed elementary school addition was the only downgrade in our profile as it impacted the district bonding capacity.

Supt. Riddle informed the board the Leadership Team has been discussing the learning loss of some of our students due to the pandemic and remote learning limitations. The district is considering options for possible summer school offerings to help combat the learning loss. The calendar committee has been working on next year's 2021-2022 school calendar and should have a proposal for the board at the next board meeting. Supt. Riddle did want to share the district's last student attendance day is May 25th, 2021 and a Teacher Institute Day, May 26, 2021. This is a change of one day due to changes by ISBE on allowable attendance days during the pandemic.

Supt. Riddle reminded everyone that School Board elections are this April 6, 2021. We have three candidates who are running for election. Two of the three candidates are write-in candidates which require those voting for them to fill in the bubble for the write-in candidate and put in the candidates name. The third candidate will be listed on the ballot.

5.4 Building and Grounds Committee

5.5 Curriculum Committee

5.6 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met March 4 and discussed financial issues facing the district and the upcoming negotiations with the local teachers union. The committee stated the difficulty of planning without an approved state budget. This has been an ongoing issue with the state of Illinois and has caused undue challenges for both the district and the union to productively discuss a contract.

5.7 Policy Committee

5.8 Technology Committee

5.9 Transportation Committee

5.10 Public Relations Committee

6. Action Items

6.1 Approve any matter discussed in Executive Session as necessary, and limited to those matters authorized for discussion in Executive Session by motion of the Board and/or Personnel List

(Approved 6-0)

Recommended Hires:

Brey Genenbacher - HS Science and Seth Klusmeyer - VB Head Coach

Steve Smith - custodian

Resignations:

Jason Turner and Jason Shaffer-Custodian and Rich Meyer - VB Head Coach

Maternity Leaves:

Megan Gabriel

6.2 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for First-Year Non-Tenured Teachers

(Approved 6-0)

Second-year probationary status granted to Christy Hibbert, Heather Johnson, Julie Logan, and Denise Presser and their teaching contract renewed for the 2021-22 school year.

6.3 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for Second-Year Non-Tenured Teachers

(Approved 6-0)

Third-year probationary status granted to Angie Altenhein, Kalinda Humke, Matina McClelland, Tony Grawe, Tylere Husted, and Amanda Vogel and their teaching contract renewed for the 2021-22 school year.

6.4 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for Third-Year Non-Tenured Teachers

(Approved 6-0)

Fourth-year probationary status granted to Kaci Beal, Grace Crowcraft, Emily Heemeyer, and Tyler McAllister and their teaching contract renewed for the 2021-22 school year.

6.5 Consider and take action on Contract Renewal for Fourth-Year Non-Tenured Teachers

(Approved 6-0)

Tenure granted to Mercedee Russell, Brandy Zanger, and Conner McLaughlin and their teaching contract renewed for the 2021-22 school year.

6.6 Consider and take action on the bus bid proposals (Approved 6-0)
Midwest bus sales was the recommended bid from Rob Simmons, Transportation Director and was approved by the board.

6.7 Consider and take action on the Revised Guidance Part 4 (Approved 6-0)
As part of the effort to increase student performance and accountability as well as provide more direct support for students, the district has stated they will follow the new guidelines which are consistent with the updated guidance from the CDC, families of students who are at increased risk of severe illness (including those with special health care needs) or who live with people at increased risk will only be given the option of remote instructions. Those families must supply a medical note stating the need for remote instruction. All other students must return to in-person instruction by March 29, 2021 unless they have provided a medical note by Friday, March 26, 2021. The building administrators or their designee will be contacting the families of the remote learners informing them to provide time to transition back to in-person by Monday, March 29, 2021. The other areas to be addressed are prom, graduation and senior trip. Prom and graduation are allowable but must be done with the required health guidelines for schools (social distancing, washing hands, masks, etc.) Senior trips and field trips are still not recommended as non-essential travel should be avoided.

The district has decided not to change direction on both Prom and Senior Trip which have been parent-led activities due to the uncertainty of guidelines and allowances for the district. Both will be left to the parents discretion on how they will be done since planning has already been done. Field trips and senior trips are still not allowable school directed activities at this point.

Due to the changes allowed in the guidance to outdoor activities, the board has agreed to allow the JFL and Mini Cheer camp to use the facilities as long as they follow the required guidelines for such activities.

7. Information Items

7.1 Update on science lab designs and elementary punchlist
Supt. Riddle shared earlier on the progress of the science lab updating. As for the elementary punchlist, the district is still working with Maas Construction on completing punch list items and any issues which have arisen since the substantial completion of the addition.

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

8.2 Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.