

Community Unit School District #4

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Unity High School Band Room
December 14, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Truth-in-Taxation Hearing (5:45 p.m.)
 - 3.1 Review of FY21 Tax Levy Proposal
 - 3.2 Public Comment on FY21 Tax Levy
 4. Public Participation – Visitor and Comments (3 min. limit)
 - 4.1 Special Recognition
 - 4.2 Visitors
 - 4.3 Correspondence
-

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 an 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 deliberation 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 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) attorney/client privilege; 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

5. Consent Agenda
 - 5.1 Approve November 17, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
 - 5.2 Approve Bills and Activity Fund Reports
 - 5.3 Approve Bills Payable
 - 5.4 Approve Fund Balances
 - 5.5 Approve End of Month Report for Previous Month
6. Administrative and Committee Reports
 - 6.1 Principal Reports
 - 6.2 Business Manager Report
 - 6.3 Special Education Coordinator
 - 6.4 Curriculum, Assessment and Technology Director
 - 6.5 Superintendent Report
 - 6.6 Board Committee Reports

7. Action Items

- 7.1 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
- 7.2 Consider and take action on the Resolution for the 2021 Tax Levy
- 7.3 Consider and take action on renewal of membership in The Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools
- 7.4 Consider and take action on boiler system
- 7.5 Consider and take action on current guidance for mitigation strategies

8. Information Items

- 8.1 Strategic Plan Review - Goal Area: Build the Capacity of Staff and Program
- 8.2 Learning Partnership Team Positive Communication Plan
- 8.3 Board of Education members: Mandated Reporters

9. Adjournment

- 9.1 Adjournment
- 9.2 Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, in the Unity High School Band Room 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 December 14, 2021**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District #4 met in regular session on December 14, 2021, in the Unity High School Band Room. The meeting was called to order by President Farmer at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler and Shaffer. Administrators Arnsman, Klusmeyer and Sheffler were present. Superintendent Riddle was present. No visitors were present.

<p>MOTION: Fler “to approve agenda items as presented.” SECOND: Duke ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler and Shaffer. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Agenda Items</p>
<p>MOTION: Shaffer “to approve of the Consent Agenda items.” SECOND: Fler ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler and Shaffer. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Consent Agenda</p>
<p>MOTION: Duke “to approve the 2021 Tax Levy as presented.” SECOND: Fler ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler and Shaffer. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Approve the 2021 Tax Levy</p>
<p>MOTION: Duke “to approve to renew the membership in the AIRSS.” SECOND: Shaffer ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler and Shaffer. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Approve renewal of AIRSS membership</p>
<p>MOTION: Shaffer “to approve Superintendent authorization to take action on boiler system if needed.” SECOND: Fler ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler and Shaffer. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Approve Superintendent authorization</p>
<p>MOTION: Duke “to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.” SECOND: Fler ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Duke, Farmer, Fler and Shaffer. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting will be a Regular Board Meeting, January 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unity High School Band Room.</p>	
<p>President _____ Secretary _____</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">January 19, 2022</p>

Community Unit School District #4

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Unity High School Band Room

December 14, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance

BOE members Arnsman - Duke - Farmer - Fler - Shaffer (Janssen & Humke absent)
Supt. Riddle Admins Arnsman-Sheffler Bus. Mngr. Whelan
C.A.T. Coordinator - Klusmeyer Spec. Ed Coordinator - Stegner

2. Approval of Agenda Motion: Fler 2nd: Duke Vote: 5-0

3. Truth-in-Taxation Hearing (5:45 p.m.)

3.1 Review of FY21 Tax Levy Proposal

Maintain the current \$4.68 rate.

3.2 Public Comment on FY21 Tax Levy

No public comments were made and no public comments were sent electronically.

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

4.1 Special Recognition

4.1.1 Girls 8th Grade Basketball Team

4.1.2 Clayton Blunier with Supt. Riddle submitted a grant for the MORE for Agriculture Grant through Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America Board of Trustees and were awarded a \$50,000 grant to be used to improve the welding venting, electrical re-wiring, and dust collection system for the agriculture shop.

4.1.3 Condolences and prayers for Bonnie Hannel and the family of Rodger Hannel on his recent passing after a hard fought battle with cancer. Mr. Hannel was an interim superintendent for Unity. He was a very good man and will be missed.

4.2 Visitors

Tiffany Haistings

4.3 Correspondence

Various holiday cards

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 an 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 deliberation 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 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) attorney/client privilege; 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*

5. Consent Agenda Motion: Shaffer 2nd: Fler Vote: 5-0

5.1 Approve November 17, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

5.2 Approve Bills and Activity Fund Reports

5.3 Approve Bills Payable

5.4 Approve Fund Balances

5.5 Approve End of Month Report for Previous Month

6. Administrative and Committee Reports

6.1 Principal Reports

Mr. Arnsman shared the recent Student Council Food Drive was a success with the students collecting a great deal of food which was donated. Both the boys and girls basketball teams are in full swing. The HS/MS have been dressing up for their annual "12 Days of Christmas" and have been really enjoying it and with many students participating. Finals are this week and our students are busy studying for their exams. Finally, the 8th grade girls basketball team will be playing for 3rd place in the IESA State Tournament this Thursday in Havana.

Mrs. Sheffler happily echoed the excitement of the season for her students and staff as they have been doing many activities including dress up days, making gingerbread houses, reading Christmas stories, and generally being in the spirit of the season. Mrs. Sheffler gave a shout out to Melissa Maynard and Brandy Schlieper for organizing and running the Avenue of Lights Toys for Tots donation night. They were very happy with the turnout and the amount of donations. She also thanked the high school cheerleaders for their donations of toys though selling out uniforms and collecting donations. Finally, she reminded everyone that the elementary school music program would be tomorrow night and thanked the Board for rescheduling their meeting to allow everyone to attend.

6.2 Business Manager Report

Mrs. Whelan stated we are 42% through the year and have expended 41% of our expenses. She shared the Supt. Riddle had discussed with her the increased costs we are seeing for food, fuel, and energy and what we can do going forward to deal with the impact.

6.3 Special Education Coordinator

Mrs. Stegner shared she has been busy working with the special education staff on IEP work and coordinating meetings with parents. She gave a brief overview of the current programming and numbers of students receiving special education services.

6.4 Curriculum, Assessment and Technology Director

Mr. Klusmeyer informed the board of meetings the elementary and middle school staff have been having for ILMTSS as part of their school improvement plan. He also explained some of the professional development staff will be doing in January on the student growth component for their evaluation process.

6.5 Superintendent Report

Our covid numbers are currently at 0.4% for the district. We were at one point at 2.1% following the Thanksgiving holiday. The Illinois State Board of Education has school districts without COVID-19 mask mandates on its naughty list. ISBE's most recent update of school recognition status this week lists seven private schools as recommended for nonrecognition after weeks of being on probation. Hutsonville CUSD #1, the only public school listed, is still on probation.

"ISBE will continue to take swift action to ensure compliance with the public health requirements that are in place to protect the health and safety of students and educators and to ensure students can continue to learn safely in-person," a spokesperson for ISBE said via email. Supt. Riddle shared he has been working with the administration and the District Leadership Team on the student performance levels for our district. This has been an ongoing process initiated when he first began with the district. He pointed to the efforts the staff have been working on to improve the scores. This included mapping out the curriculum, reviewing the use of technology, updating curriculum materials and programs, and reviewing the student growth aspect of the evaluation process. Admittedly the pandemic has hampered the districts progress introducing many unforeseen variables which have impacted student performance. Supt. Riddle indicated the restructuring of the leadership team which included moving of Mr. Klusmeyer into the role of curriculum, assessment, and technology coordinator and the hiring of Mrs. Sheffler with her extensive background in curriculum has helped move the district forward.

Supt. Riddle shared we are still looking for a social worker/counselor to help support the social-emotional needs of our students. As with almost every field of employment right now there are little to no candidates for the position. He did share with the board he may have a

potential candidate but would share more later. They continue to reach out to local universities and the hospitals for potential candidates.

Supt. Riddle shared a "Chain of Communication" or chain of command with the board and let them know it is available online to help parents and community members know better who to reach out to with questions or concerns.

We have had some more issues with the elementary kitchen equipment and Supt. Riddle informed the board he is working with Klingners and with Maas construction on resolving the problems. He also shared there was some leaking in one of the second grade classrooms ceilings and that is also being addressed.

Supt. Riddle reminded the board they are mandated reporters and there is training available for them from DCFS.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency has a new program and free resources available to help improve school safety in Illinois. It is Safe2Help Illinois, and we have it on our district web page. Information obtained by Safe2Help Illinois will remain confidential to ensure student privacy and to protect the integrity of the program. This program is not intended to suspend, expel or punish students; rather, the goal is to encourage students to "Seek Help Before Harm." Safe2Help Illinois is a free, voluntary program offered to public and private schools with grades K through 12 in Illinois.

Supt. Riddle shared he will be attending the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) board meeting this month to represent CUSD#4 in the "Make it Local" campaign trying to retain local control from the myriad of mandates the state imposes on school districts.

Finally, Supt. Riddle thanked the board for their service these past few months. He acknowledged the time and effort all of them have been putting in as well as the additional stress they have been under trying to navigate the best path for the students and staff during these tumultuous times.

6.6 Board Committee Reports

7. Action Items

- 7.1 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

Recognize resignation of Billy Nicks - MS girls basketball coach due to personal reasons.

- 7.2 Consider the Resolution for the 2021 Tax Levy

Motion: Duke 2nd: Flear Vote: 5-0 approved

School Board members discussed the 2021 Tax Levy sharing it would maintain the current \$4.68 rate. A brief summary of its features are summarized below:

- Based on an estimated EAV of \$97,692,838
- Reduces the IMRF/Soc Sec funding and will cause the need for use of existing fund balances

After official Board approval, the tax levy will be submitted to the County Clerk' office(s) by the final Tuesday in December (12.28.21).

- 7.3 Consider and take action on renewal of membership in The Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools

Motion: Duke 2nd: Shaffer Vote: 5-0 approved

The association is an advocate and voice for rural schools and has had interactions with the governor which is beneficial for us as a small rural school. The yearly cost is \$400 per district.

- 7.4 Consider and take action on boiler system

Motion: Duke 2nd: Flear Vote: 5-0 approved

The board gave authorization for the superintendent to take action as necessary to deal with the ongoing boiler issues.

- 7.5 Consider and take action on current guidance for mitigation strategies
No action taken

8. Information Items

- 8.1 **Strategic Plan Review - Goal Area: Build the Capacity of Staff and Program**
Supt. Riddle shared different initiatives the district has undertaken to achieve the goals for this area. These include: Salary increases above the graduated rate set by the state, extra pay stipend, signing bonus, additional teaching staff, curriculum coordinator, student tutoring program, on demand professional development, instructional coaches through the SIP grant, Tuition free waiver for staff children, Mustang Pride Coin recognition program, and measuring post graduation success. He went on to explain they wanted to continue to work on focused professional development for the different grade levels as well as establish an actual mentor program for staff.
- 8.2 **Learning Partnership Team Positive Communication Plan**
Supt. Riddle shared the administrative suggestions and indicated they would be working with the board in implementing a process.
- 8.3 **Board of Education members: Mandated Reporters**

9. Adjournment

- 9.1 **Adjournment**
- 9.2 **Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, in the Unity High School Band Room at 6:00 p.m.**