

Community Unit School District #4

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Unity High School Band Room

December 20, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Truth-in-Taxation Hearing 5:45 p.m.

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance

BOE members Arnsman - Fleer - Garmer - Janssen - McClelland - Rolando - Shaffer
Supt. Riddle Admins Arnsman-Sheffler Bus. Mngr. Whelan
C.A.T. Coordinator - Klusmeyer

2. Approval of Agenda Motion: 2nd: Vote:

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

3.1 Review of FY23 Tax Levy Proposal

A presentation was given by Supt. Riddle and Bus. Manager Whelan on the current fund balances and the uses for these funds. It was also discussed what proposed needs would be for these funds. Some priorities mentioned were new windows on the MS/HS campus, replacing aging exterior doors, and continued replacement of HVAC units. The board set the new reduced levy rate at \$4.43 a \$0.18 reduction from the set rate last year. (Actual rate was \$4.55 so it will be a \$0.12 actual reduction). All fund balances at this point are good.

3.2 Public Comment on FY23 Tax Levy

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

4.1 Special Recognition

4.2 Visitors

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 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) 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

5. Consent Agenda Motion: 2nd: Vote:

5.1 Approve November 15, 2023 and December 6, 2023 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 Motion: 2nd: Vote:

Recognize the resignation of:

Lisa Robbins - Cheer coach

Jordan Zeitler - Director of Maintenance and Operations

**** Kathy Hoener - middle school teacher (She is attending meeting to speak with you all)*

- 7.2 Consider the Resolution for the 2023 Tax Levy Motion: 2nd: Vote:

School Board members discussed the 2023 Tax Levy sharing it would reduce the previous \$4.61 rate to \$4.43.. A brief summary of its features are summarized below:

- *Based on an estimated EAV of \$114,883,044 (approx. 8.57892% increase)*
- *Previous year EAV \$105,984,971*
- *Still potential for decrease in funding over the next 2-5 years anywhere from \$800 million to \$1.5 billion according to projections by the state board CFO.*

After official Board approval, the tax levy will be submitted to the County Clerk' office(s) by the final Tuesday in December (12.26.23).

- 7.3 Consider and take action on the Unity Elementary School SIP 2023-2024

Motion: 2nd: Vote:

See attached plan

- 7.4 Consider and take action on the Unity Middle School SIP 2023-2024

Motion: 2nd: Vote:

See attached plan

- 7.5 Consider and take action on door bids

Motion: 2nd: Vote:

The door bid was put out and we had one company reach out but not submit a bid and we had Doors-N-More submit a bid at this time. They have previously installed two exterior doors and an interior door.

- 7.6 Consider and take action on bus bids

Motion: 2nd: Vote:

We have bids from Central State Bus Sales and Midwest Bus Sales. We have previously gone with Midwest Bus Sales because they carry the type and style of buses that we prefer. They also have given better trade in values for our buses.

8. Information Items

9. Adjournment

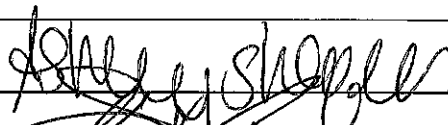

- 9.1 Adjournment

- 9.2 Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 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 20, 2023**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District #4 met in regular session on December 20, 2023, in the Unity High School Band Room. The meeting was called to order by President Shaffer at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Arnsman, Fler, Garmer, Janssen, McClelland, Rolando and Shaffer. Administrators Arnsman and Sheffler were present. Superintendent Riddle was present. No visitors were present.

MOTION: Fler “to approve agenda items with the following changes: hire Sunshine Dralle as a para.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Agenda Items
MOTION: Rolando “to approve of the Consent Agenda items.” SECOND: McClelland ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Garmer and McClelland. Abstained Rolando Motion carried.	Consent Agenda
MOTION: Fler “to approve hiring of Sunshine Dralle as a para.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Approve a para
MOTION: Fler “to approve 2023 Tax Levy as presented.” SECOND: Rolando ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Approve 2023 Tax Levy
MOTION: Janssen “to approve Unity Elementary SIP 2023-24.” SECOND: Rolando ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Approve UE SIP 23-24
MOTION: Rolando “to approve Unity Middle School SIP 2023-24.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Approve UMS SIP 23-24
MOTION: Fler “to approve door bids as presented from Doors N More.” SECOND: Garmer ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Approve door bids
MOTION: Janssen “to approve bus bids from Midwest Bus Sales – 3 busses.” SECOND: Rolando ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Approve bus bids
MOTION: Rolando “to move to closed session at 7:21 p.m.” SECOND: Janssen ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	Closed Session
MOTION: Janssen “to return to open session at 8:32 p.m.” SECOND: Fler ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fler, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando,	Open Session

Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.		
MOTION:	Janssen “to approve minutes of the 12/20/23 closed session.”	Closed Session Minutes
SECOND:	Rolando	
ACTION:	Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fleer, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	
MOTION:	Fleer “to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.”	Adjourn
SECOND:	Arnsman	
ACTION:	Roll Call Vote: Aye – Arnsman, Fleer, Janssen, Shaffer, Rolando, Garmer and McClelland. Motion carried.	
Next meeting will be a Regular Board Meeting, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unity High School Band Room.		
President		January 17, 2024
Secretary		

Community Unit School District #4

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Unity High School Band Room

December 20, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Truth-in-Taxation Hearing 5:45 p.m.

1. **Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance**

BOE members Arnsman - Fleer - Garmer - Janssen - McClelland - Rolando - Shaffer
Supt. Riddle Admins Arnsman-Sheffler Bus. Mngr. Whelan

2. **Approval of Agenda** Motion: Fleer 2nd: Janssen Vote: 7-0 approved

Addition to agenda: Hiring para position

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

3.1 **Review of FY23 Tax Levy Proposal**

A presentation was given by Supt. Riddle and Bus. Manager Whelan on the current fund balances and the uses for these funds. It was also discussed what proposed needs would be for these funds. Some priorities mentioned were new windows on the MS/HS campus, replacing aging exterior doors, and continued replacement of HVAC units. The board set the new reduced levy rate at \$4.43 a \$0.18 reduction from the set rate last year. Mrs. Whelan reviewed the current fund balances for everyone present.

3.2 **Public Comment on FY23 Tax Levy**

No public comments

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

4.1 **Special Recognition**

Thank you to the staff from Supt. Riddle for a great first semester.

4.2 **Visitors**

Mrs. Kathy Hoener and her husband addressed the board thanking them for being able to be a part of CUSD for over 30 years. She thanked Supt. Riddle for his continued support and Mr. Arnsman for all he does. She then submitted her letter of resignation. Supt. Riddle and the board wished her the best and thanked her for her years of service to the students at Unity.

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 Enter 7:21 PM Return to Open 8:32 PM

5. **Consent Agenda** Motion: Rolando 2nd: McClelland Vote: 6-0 Rolando abstaining

5.1 **Approve November 15, 2023 and December 6, 2023 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**

Mrs. Sheffler shared that she and Mrs. Humke had attended the Kindergarten conference and were able to bring back some good things to share with the other teachers. Mrs. Sheffler complimented the elementary teachers for a wonderful Christmas music program. She thanked Mrs. Knox for all her work in helping to organize it and for MCing the program.

Mrs. Sheffler informed the board that she and Supt. Riddle had worked on submitting an Notice of Intent to Apply for the 0-3 Initiative Program. This is a state program that may be able to fund para educators for families.

Mr. Arnsman let the board know that the Open Campus rewards program has been going very well. Bros BBQ was a hit with students, staff and the community. He indicated that this has impacted the "bubble" students raising their grades. Finals have finished and students and staff are ready for break.

6.2 Business Manager Report

Mrs. Whelan reported that we are 42% through the year and have expended 32% of our revenue. We do have some large projects that will be completed in the second half of the year. She also shared that approximately 30% of lunch payments now are online.

6.3 Superintendent Report

We have had so many activities this month. Our elementary school has had fieldtrips, class parties, movie days; our middle school had their dress-up days, annual Quincy fieldtrip, and class activities as well; and our high school has had a staff/student contest, dress-up days, and finals! We have also had some exciting sporting events as of late. Both the boys and girls HS teams have had some great games. The middle school boys also have had some nice performances. We have had the return of music concerts for the elementary, middle school and high school which was very nice. Thank you to our staff for their efforts and work to make all of these activities enjoyable and educational for our students.

Many of you have seen our new scoreboard in the HS gym. Thank you to Friends of Unit 4 for the purchase and installation of the new upgrade for our facility. We are extremely grateful for the continued support from our community.

We have received applications for our Director of Maintenance and Operations. We will be scheduling interviews in the early part of January and hope to have a candidate to be approved by the January board meeting.

As part of our continued efforts to provide a safe environment our intercom system has been updated on both campuses. The final settings and zones will be done the first week of January.

The concession stand sink will be installed Dec 21 & 22 for the middle school concessions.

We received a nice donation for some of our students in need from the Zion Church of Ursa. Their donations were focused on students with lunch debt. Thank you to them for their generosity.

Our library received an \$850 School District Library Grant.

Supt Riddle reiterated the State Board is projecting cuts to education due to a potential \$800 million to \$1.5 billion shortfall for Illinois over the next 1-5 years. This would impact mandated categoricals like Title I, Special Ed, Transportation, etc. This is also the same time we are seeing possible legislation aimed at again increasing the minimum teacher salaries (\$50K) and minimum wage (\$20/hr). We are also looking at the end of the federal ESSER funds. We have done very well being fiscally responsible but the upcoming years may prove to be very challenging financially if we see the continued economic uncertainties.

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 Motion: Fleer 2nd: Janssen Vote: 7-0 approved

Hire: Sunshine Dralle - paraprofessional

Recognize the resignation of:

Lisa Robbins - Cheer coach

Jordan Zeitler - Director of Maintenance and Operations

Kathy Hoener - middle school teacher

7.2 Consider the Resolution for the 2023 Tax Levy Motion: Fleer 2nd: Roland Vote: 7-0 approved

School Board members discussed the 2023 Tax Levy sharing it would reduce the previous \$4.61 rate to \$4.43. A brief summary of its features are summarized below:

- Based on an estimated EAV of \$114,883,044 (approx. 8.57892% increase)
- Previous year EAV \$105,984,971
- A concern still remains for the potential for decrease in funding over the next 2-5 years anywhere from \$800 million to \$1.5 billion according to projections by the state board CFO.

7.3 Consider and take action on the Unity Elementary School SIP 2023-2024

Motion: Janssen 2nd: Rolando Vote: 7-0 approved

7.4 Consider and take action on the Unity Middle School SIP 2023-2024

Motion: Rolando 2nd: Janseen Vote: 7-0 approved

7.5 Consider and take action on door bids

Motion: Fleer 2nd: Garmer Vote: 7-0 approved

The door bid from DoorsNMore which was the only submitted bid was accepted. The board discussed looking at a second layer for the middle school entry way as well as the addition of locking mechanisms for the high school second layer.

7.6 Consider and take action on bus bids

Motion: Janssen 2nd: Rolando Vote: 7-0

The board approved the bid from Midwest for 3 buses to trade and purchase.

8. Information Items

The board discussed the use of Clarity School Based Behavioral Health Services based upon grant funding for student SEL needs. The service will be available in the second semester.

9. Adjournment

9.1 Adjournment 8:35 pm

9.2 Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, in the Unity High School Band Room at 6:00 p.m.