

Board of Education
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 94
11/13/2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Community High School
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, Illinois

OPENING ACTIVITIES

1. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Kevin Kotche led the Board and meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Ruben Campos read the Mission Statement:
“Community High School strives to promote and provide growth experiences in Learning, Leadership and Living.”
4. Roll Call – Present were: Mr. Campos, Ms. Doremus, Mr. Gunderson, Mr. Kotche, Mr. Molinaro, Mr. Nagel, and Mr. Saake.
5. Additions to Agenda:
None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Valerie Cook spoke to the Board on behalf of the Support Staff of Community High School. She stated that November 14, 2012, is Education Support Professional Day and people around the country are using this as an opportunity to campaign for a living wage for all school support staff. Ms. Cook said that national organizations are calling for a minimum starting salary of \$28,000 for education support staff; one third of CHS Support Staff employees currently fall below the federal poverty threshold of \$23,050 for a family of 4. She said that Support Staff employees’ salaries have remained nearly constant over the last twelve years, but that, in the last four years, they had taken on a greater portion of the cost of their health insurance while also taking on additional duties and responsibilities without further compensation. Ms. Cook said Support Staff is asking the Board to reconsider their approach to negotiations so a fair agreement could be settled.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

1. Project Lead the Way (Att. §B - pp. 1 – 14)
Mr. Steve Clark from the Technology Center of DuPage gave a Power Point presentation to the Board on Project Lead the Way. Mr. Clark explained that Project Lead the Way is a pre-engineering program which is designed to prepare students in high-tech fields. He said that there is a growing shortage of engineers/technicians and 10,000 skilled workers will be needed by 2020.
Mr. Clark said the typical Project Lead the Way student must be performing at grade level in mathematics, should enjoy computers, have an aptitude for design, enjoy hands-on learning, and have little desire to sit behind a desk.
Mr. Clark stated that everything at TCD is tied closely to labor market projections. Two entry level courses students can take are:
 - Introduction to Engineering
 - Principals of Engineering
 Both of these classes are semester long.

Specialty Courses include:

- Digital Electronics
- Aerospace Engineering
- Civil Engineering & Architecture
- Computer Integrated Manufacturing
- Engineering Design & Development

Mr. Clark remarked that Project Lead the Way curriculum is tied into dual credit with universities across the nation. He said that students could graduate with 16 college credits if they took TCD's entire sequence of classes. Dual credit is offered with Northern Illinois University and Bradley University, but is not offered with the University of Illinois. He told the Board this program was designed for students who wished to get into a two or four year college after graduation.

Mr. Molinaro asked for an explanation of digital electronics and Mr. Clark explained that it was a program which fed off old electronics programs where students learned about micro-processors. With the new program, the focus is specifically on the digital aspect.

Mr. Clark said the two entry level courses can be taken by students who are juniors, and then students could take two of the specialty courses as seniors. After high school graduation, students could progress to the College of DuPage and receive college credit for the courses taken in high school. He stated that TCD's fastest growing relationship was with Northern Illinois University where students could enroll in their engineering program, or enroll in their industrial technology program which does not require as much math, and receive a bachelor's degree.

Mr. Clark said that teachers of Project Lead the Way courses must undergo an intensive 2 week training in the summer to go through the entire curriculum packet with a master teacher.

Mr. Gunderson asked if TCD had come in to the high school to present this program to students. Ms. Bridges said TCD had been in during Open Houses, and that over 100 students had been sent to TCD last week to see programs.

Mr. Nagel asked how TCD's classes compare with similar classes at COD. Mr. Clark said these classes are affiliated with COD, so dual credit is offered.

Mr. Kotche asked if other colleges were affiliated with Project Lead the Way and Mr. Clark said there were several others and that he would send a list of those.

Mr. Nagel asked if Project Lead the Way was a consortium and Mr. Clark said it was a private foundation that was started 10 years ago by a philanthropist who wanted to help the United States address the labor market.

Mr. Clark said that TCD had become a certified school in Project Lead the Way.

Ms. Doremus asked if Board members could e-mail further questions to Mr. Clark and he said they could.

2. Budget Reports/Preliminary Tax Levy (Att. §B - pp. 15 – 18)

Mr. Cole said the Tax Levy must be adopted by the Board by the third Tuesday in December. He said he would share the fundamentals of the levy and then look to the Board for direction. He said the Tax Levy would be brought back to the Board for adoption at the November 27th or December 4th Board meeting.

Mr. Cole stated this was the 2012 Tax Levy, based on the assessed valuation of 2012, the Consumer Price Index of 2011, collected in 2013 and is for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Cole then shared a Power Point presentation regarding the levy which included:

- Breakdown of all revenue sources in District 94. Nearly 80 % of the total revenue comes from local property tax payers. District 94 is well above the state average in what the local taxes provide.
- General tax rate is based on assessed valuation. The DuPage County Clerk's Office is anticipating at least one more year of reduction in assessed valuation.
- The tax levy is based on a component of the CPI plus new growth. There has been a dramatic change from 2005, 2006 and 2007. The current estimate for Winfield Township is just over \$5,000,000. Mr. Cole said he does not have a current number from Wayne Township, but that last year Wayne Township was less than \$500,000.
- Consumer Price Index from December 2011. The long-term average is a little over 2% for the last 15 years.
- Tax Levy broken down into various funds, with Education being the largest then Operations and Maintenance.
- Progression of levy over time. Debt service is not included because it is a separate and distinct levy.

Mr. Cole then asked the Board for direction. He said the CPI factor that was used for the calculation was 3%; the assessed valuation is \$1,066,000,000 and estimated new growth is \$5,500,000 which would generate \$738,000 in additional tax revenues. He said that a balloon is typically added in order to capture all that is available. 1% has been used the last few years. The 1% balloon would generate an additional \$216,000.

Mr. Cole asked the Board if they wanted to use the full 3% calculation and what the balloon level should be.

Mr. Saake said that a balloon of .5% would be sufficient. He stated that another issue was whether to use the full 3%. Mr. Saake said one way of avoiding the 3% was to abate one of the non-cap funds and asked the Board if they wished to pursue this. He said he would like to bring the CPI down to 1.5%, which would generate a little less than \$400,000, with additional funds coming from the State catching up in payments.

Mr. Saake explained that abating one of the non-cap funds was basically a way of buying down the levy.

Mr. Cole said the County Clerk sends the District a statement in early March which shows preliminary numbers. The District can request an abatement at that time.

Mr. Molinaro said he was in favor of telling the community the school would not be taking the full 3%. Mr. Kotche and Mr. Gunderson said they were in favor of exploring this option.

Mr. Cole said he would go ahead with 3% and a .5% balloon and update the chart. He said he would also put together samples using 1.5% instead of 3% and the impact of the decrease on homes of varying values.

3. Principal's Report

Dr. Cheng shared with Board members that Community High School was featured in the latest edition of "Social Education". He said there were very positive remarks about what the school has done to get students involved in the election process.

Dr. Cheng said parent teacher conferences had been successfully completed with the most conferences scheduled in the past 10 years. The new format of holding conferences in the morning of the second day appeared to be beneficial. Mr. Kotche said he had also received input that the new format worked well.

Dr. Cheng then shared with the Board that the recommendation of the Upstate Eight Conference's ad hoc committee would be to recommend that West Chicago become a member of the Upstate Eight Conference for school 2013-2014 in the Valley Division.

He said that in subsequent years Community High School's division will be based upon a realignment of schools according to competitiveness, geography, etc.

4. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Chambers updated the Board on the Transparency Initiative. She said that the Illinois Policy Institute uses a 100 point scale to rate transparency and that District 94 is currently at 82.5 points. She reported she had created language for the District's landing page, and that she would meet with Mr. Glowaty to talk about formatting the information and putting it on the website. Dr. Chambers said the goal is to have everything completed in December so the IPI could be invited to do an audit.

Dr. Chambers reported that she is continuing to work with Mr. Kotche and Mr. Nagel on the Strategic Plan, and that they were close to a final draft.

Ms. Doremus asked Dr. Chambers to update the Board on negotiations with Support Staff. Dr. Chambers reported the Support Staff and Board negotiations teams have been meeting since February; each team has provided the other team with 6 financial proposals. She stated the Board presented its last financial counterproposal on September 10th, and that the teams met last on September 27th. Dr. Chambers then stated the Support Staff Association notified the Board on October 24th that they were requesting the assistance of a federal mediator; they also told the Board they were issuing a press release to that effect. The Board team also issued a press release. Dr. Chambers reported the Board received an e-mail from a reporter on November 7th, asking for a comment on the joint WCHSSSA/WCHSTA press release which had been sent on November 6th. She said the Daily Herald ran an article on November 7th, and that the Board team prepared and issued a press release on November 8th. Dr. Chambers said the Support Staff and Board negotiations teams will meet with the federal mediator on November 26th.

5. Student Attendance and Discipline Report (Att. §B - pp. 19 – 21)

Mr. Ponce reported that student attendance for October, 2012, was slightly lower than the last 5 years, but that the number of students suspended in October, 2012, was less than the number suspended in October, 2011. Mr. Saake asked if there had been any changes to student discipline policies, and Dr. Cheng said that changes had been made last year to address some of the tardy issues.

6. School Report Card (Att. §B - pp. 22 – 42)

Mr. Ponce directed the Board's attention to the School Report Card 2012 which will be posted on the school's website.

7. Assessment/Comparability Report (Att. §B - pp. 43 – 56)

Dr. Cheng gave a Power Point presentation on Adequate Yearly Progress and Predictability, Class of 2013, which he said looks at the predictability of cohorts of students by assessments given yearly. The presentation included:

- An explanation of assessments used.
- A chart which represents incoming Explore Scores of cohorts from 2012 through 2016. Dr. Cheng said these scores are relatively stable, and that the most reliable use of assessment is by looking at composite score.
- Scores for Class of 2013. These are EXPLORE scores for this year's seniors when they took the assessment in the 8th grade. Dr. Cheng explained that this is used for

the course selection and placement process, and is also used to predict where students will be.

- Distribution of EXPLORE composite score. The red lines are approximations of the 50th and 90th percentile fall.
- Class of 2013 when they took the PLAN assessment in 9th grade.
- Retired ACT distribution of scores, which is given in 10th grade. ACT is a junior level assessment which Community High School administers a year early.
- Actual ACT distribution of scores. Dr. Cheng explained that this is relative to the EPAS for the purpose of predictability.
- Progression of EPAS system. Dr. Cheng stated that the expected growth from EXPLORE to ACT is a 5 point growth.
- EPAS Expected Growth by National Percentile Groups.
- Mean Incoming Composite Explore Score vs. PSAE Level. Dr. Cheng reported there was much more variability in the results.
- Average Incoming EXPLORE Scores by Demographic Group. Dr. Cheng stated it is very hard to find a pattern or any measure of predictability between the EPAS assessments and PSAE.
- Class of 2013 – Reading Incoming EXPLORE vs. PSAE Results. Dr. Cheng explained the last two pages are scatter plots of students' EXPLORE scores and the predictability of how they will do on PSAE testing.

8. Curriculum Donation (Att. §B - pp. 57 – 58)

Mr. Ponce reported that a graduate of Community High School, Mr. Austin Utterback had left \$100,000 to District 94 to be used for academic curriculum, as determined by the Board. He said the Board then charged administration to bring forth recommendations for its use. Mr. Ponce then directed the Board's attention to the Curriculum Funds Donation in the packet.

Mr. Saake asked if the ACT Support and Preparation was a one-time use, and Dr. Cheng said it could be reused. Mr. Kotche asked if the Test Scoring portion would provide feedback to students. Dr. Cheng responded that it is a score report for each student who took the EXPLORE, PLAN, and Retired ACT.

Mr. Molinaro asked what document cameras were. Dr. Cheng explained that they are known as Elmos, and they are projection machines.

Mr. Saake asked administration if there was something they were particularly interested in for the iPad Pilot Project. Mr. Bodwell stated the trend of the future is more tablets in schools. Mr. Saake shared his concern with the cost of iPads and asked if the use of less expensive tablets had been explored. Mr. Bodwell said the school's Network Engineer had recommended iPads as the best tool to use as they have the most educational applications and are the leader in the market.

Mr. Ponce reported this would be brought back to a subsequent Board meeting with recommended purchases.

Open Comment

Mr. Nagel stated he had attended a seminar where one of the topics was Continuous Improvement. He said one of the strategies of Continuous Improvement was to identify a problem, strip it down to its root cause and solve the problem. He suggested that each strategic goal area identify a problem; the Board could strip it down and resolve the problem, working on continuous improvement.

Ms. Doremus said this could be brought back for further discussion.

Ms. Doremus reminded Board members that Open Meetings Act training is due. Ms. Doremus also mentioned that the Social Studies Department was featured in a national webinar hosted by the National School Board Association. She acknowledged the continued accolades that the school's Social Studies Department receives.

CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call)

Action items considered routine and/or which have been previously discussed by the Board will be enacted under one roll call motion unless removed for separate action upon Board request. They are enumerated under the heading "Recommended Action".

1. Items Removed from Consent Agenda for Separate Action: None
2. Consent Agenda Action for All Items Except those listed in 1. Above.
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board approve all items on the Consent Agenda which have not been specifically removed for separate action as shown on line 1. immediately above.
MOTION: Mr. Campos
SECOND: Mr. Saake
VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 7 - 0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. **Approval of Minutes — (Att. §C – pp. 1 - 9)**
 Board of Education Meeting October 23, 2012
 Closed Session Board of Education Meeting October 23, 2012
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the meetings of October 23, 2012, as listed above.
2. **Filing of Minutes – (Att. §C - pp. 10– 12)**
 Finance Committee Meeting - October 10, 2012
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve for filing of the above minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Personnel Reports – (Roll Call)**
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the Personnel and Supplemental Contract reports as presented in the packet and at table. (Att. §D – pp. 1 - 2).
MOTION: Mr. Campos
SECOND: Mr. Saake
VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 7 – 0
2. **Board Policy 4204 – Medication in School and 4207 - Allergens – (Roll Call)**
 Public Act 97-0361 allows schools to voluntarily maintain a supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) for students who have forgotten their EpiPen at home or who do not have a known allergy. A school nurse may administer an EpiPen to any student that he or she, in good faith, professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction and who does not have an Emergency Action Plan in place. Children with life-threatening allergies must have immediate access to emergency

epinephrine when anaphylaxis occurs. Epinephrine can save a child's life by opening his or her airways until emergency personnel arrive. Administration is recommending the adoption of revised policy 4207 to allow the school registered nurse to administer an EpiPen to a student in the event of an allergic reaction even if the student has not been previously diagnosed with an allergy. Board policy 4204 will be revised to allow the District to assert the protection from liability afforded by the school code when a school district maintains a supply of EpiPens.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy 4207 – Medication in School and 4204 – Allergens on first reading as shown on (Att. §B - pp. 59 – 62).

MOTION: Mr. Molinaro

SECOND: Mr. Gunderson

Mr. Nagel suggested several changes to Board Policy 4204. Ms. Doremus suggested that this item be tabled until the next meeting. She said that Mr. Nagel should send suggested changes to the Board members, and this item would be brought back to the next Board meeting. Mr. Gunderson said he did not want to wait to get the EpiPens, and Mr. Saake agreed. Mr. Gunderson and Mr. Saake suggested passing this on first reading, then making changes to the Policy before bringing it back to the Board for second reading.

VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 7 – 0

3. Electricity Rates – (Roll Call)

The District's electricity supply contract expires at the end of this calendar year. We have received quotes from 7 suppliers as of Nov. 1, 2012. The lowest rate is from Ameren with a total charge of \$0.04812 per Kwh. Our current rate is \$0.05865. Based on current usage this will result in a savings of just over \$50,000 per year. Pricing is set on a daily basis so it may change slightly between now and November 13, 2012. Administration recommends accepting the bid from Ameren with a charge of \$0.04812 per Kwh.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the bid from Ameren as shown at table.

MOTION: Mr. Saake

SECOND: Mr. Campos

Mr. Molinaro asked why the contract was only for two years. Mr. Cole responded that Ameren was not willing to have a longer contract.

VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 7 – 0

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Sandra Wilson stated she was a teacher at Community High School. She said she was here on behalf of the Support Staff and asked the Board to come up with a fair agreement. Ms. Wilson said that, as a teacher, she needed the Support Staff. Ms. Wilson stated that she often needed to contact Support Staff for support with PowerSchool. She said that she has class sizes of have 26 students, 14 of which are in Special Education. Ms. Wilson said that, without Program Assistants in her classroom, there would not be much learning going on. She asked the Board to avoid a mediator. Ms. Wilson shared with the Board that she lives in Geneva and would like to see CHS avoid the process Geneva had just gone through. She

asked the Board to think “big picture” and about the implications and negative impact this will have on students.

Ms. Rachel Fisher addressed the Board and said she was a Personal Care Assistant at Community High School. Ms. Fisher said she wanted to bring a face to the Support Staff. She said Support Staff supports students. Ms. Fisher stated that the students were her children. She said she works in Special Education and some of her duties include watching students’ special diets and keeping them healthy. She said she also “bathrooms” students, sometimes has her hair pulled, and gets hit and bitten. She stated that they come back and love and care about the students. Ms. Fisher said that the students she is in charge of do not necessarily have typical friends; the Personal Care and Program Assistants are their friends. She said she thought parents felt confident their students were with a good person 8 hours of the day. She said that Support Staff also needs to be able to support themselves. Ms. Fisher said one of her coworkers may lose her home because she is a single parent and the position she has with the high school does not support her. She told the Board that Support Staff is not just a blank face in the background. Ms. Fisher said Support Staff is at the school 8 hours a day, making sure students are happy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Education hold a

Closed Session at 8:59 p.m. for the purpose of collective negotiating matters.

MOTION: Mr. Saake

SECOND: Mr. Campos

VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 7 – 0

ACTION AFTER RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Education meeting be

adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Saake

SECOND: Mr. Campos

VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 7 – 0

Katherine M. Doremus, President

ATTEST:

Ruben Campos, Secretary