

**ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS**

*Administration Building
April 8, 2008*

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Nancy Kalchbrenner at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Nancy Kalchbrenner, Vice President Michael J. Williams
Secretary David L. Kelley, Mr. Robert J. Evans, Mr. Harmon
Mitchell, Mrs. Alice Saudargas (arrived 5:10 p.m.), Mrs. Jeannē K.
Westholder (arrived 5:30 p.m.)

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Kelley, **seconded** by Mrs. Kalchbrenner, that the Board hold a Closed Session in Room #403 to consider the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees; the discipline of students; pending or imminent litigation; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Approved unanimously on roll call.

The Board was in closed session from 5:05 p.m. until 7:26 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Mr. Williams, **seconded** by Mrs. Saudargas, that the Board reconvene in Open Session.

Approved on voice vote.

*Following the closed session, President Kalchbrenner made the following statement:
The Board in closed session considered the appointment, compensation, discipline,
performance or dismissal of employees; the discipline of students; pending or imminent litigation; or
other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act. Action will be taken on
twenty-two items in open session.*

RECESS

Motion by Mr. Williams, **seconded** by Mrs. Saudargas, that the meeting be recessed at 7:26 p.m. until 7:35 p.m.

Approved on voice vote.

CALL TO ORDER

President Nancy Kalchbrenner called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:40 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Nancy Kalchbrenner, Vice President Michael J. Williams (arrived at 7:42 p.m.), Secretary David L. Kelley (arrived at 7:43 p.m.), Mr. Robert J. Evans, Mr. Harmon Mitchell, Mrs. Alice Saudargas (arrived 7:48 p.m.), Mrs. Jeannē K. Westholder (arrived at 7:48 p.m.)

Mrs. Kalchbrenner introduced Auburn High School students Charles Doby, Christopher Johnson, Alvin Gibson, Jason Birch, and Delrashawn Boykins. On behalf of the entire Board, she thanked them for their assistance in operating the camera and sound equipment in order to telecast this Board meeting.

RECOGNITION

A. Auburn High School Scholastic Bowl Team

Mrs. Kalchbrenner presented Certificates of Achievement to the following members of the Auburn High School Scholastic Bowl team who claimed the championship in the IHSA Class AA State Scholastic Bowl Tournament on March 14:

John Brown, Co-Captain	Siva Sundaram, Co-Captain
Matt Hargrove	Danielle Long
Zahed Haseeb	Dayne Rogers
Vritti Gupta	Robert Westfall
Michael Jiang	

The team's coach, Linda Greene, presented a metal to Superintendent Hernandez.

B. King Gifted School Chess Team

Mrs. Kalchbrenner presented Certificates of Achievement to the members of the following chess teams from King School who placed in three different age group categories at the Illinois State Scholastic Chess Championship.

Kindergarten and 1st grade team - Placed 9th:

Vincent Do	Jack Sweet
Jonathan Oelkers	Nathaniel Turner
Charlie Shriver	Greydon Westin

Second and third grade team - Placed 5th:

Steven Do	Kirkland Shun
Grant Germano	McKinley Torre
Chandan Puri	Lucas Turner
Cassie Shriver	

Four and fifth grade team - Placed 14th:

Douglas Chan	David Oelkers
Joshua Day	Sam Rinaldo
Tiffany Ding	Austin Stadelman
Brad Foster	Garret Wood
Asia Keomanivong	

PROCLAMATION

A. National Autism Awareness Month

Mrs. Kalchbrenner read the Proclamation (copy attached) into the record and asked for a vote of approval.

Motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Saudargas, to adopt the Proclamation declaring the month of April 2008, as National Autism Awareness Month.

Approved unanimously on roll call.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner presented the Proclamation to Mr. Jon Malone, Special Education Supervisor.

B. National Library Week

Mrs. Kalchbrenner read the Proclamation (copy attached) into the record and asked for a vote of approval.

Motion by Mrs. Saudargas, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adopt the Proclamation declaring the week of April 13-19, 2008, as National Library Week.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner presented the Proclamation to Ms. Deb Bailey, Library/Media Coordinator.

C. School Library Media Month

Mrs. Kalchbrenner read the Proclamation (copy attached) into the record and asked for a vote of approval.

Motion by Mrs. Saudargas, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adopt the Proclamation declaring the month of April 2008, as School Library Media Month.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner presented the Proclamation to Ms. Deb Bailey, Library/Media Coordinator.

D. Week of the Young Child

Mrs. Kalchbrenner read the Proclamation (copy attached) into the record and asked for a vote of approval.

Motion by Mrs. Saudargas, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adopt the Proclamation declaring the week of April 13-19, 2008, as the Week of the Young Child.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner presented the Proclamation to Ms. Marcia Blascoe, Director of Early Childhood.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Tim Hughes, 1020 N. Main St., Rockford, IL, spoke about Art Johnson, who he felt was the last successful superintendent in the district. He was successful because Rockford was his home, "not a rung on the career ladder." He felt that repeated changes in superintendents disrupted the district and resulted in lower student achievement levels. He asked that common sense be used and to promote from within.*
- 2. Angela Hite-Carter, 9236/978 Haskell Ave., Rockford, IL, spoke of the improved educational services under the current school leadership. She advocated for consistency in the superintendent and Board members, stating*

- that students and parents want and need consistency within the educational system.*
3. *Linell Lasswell, 3207 Fawnridge Dr., Rockford, IL, an educator for 35 years, formerly serving in this district. She asked that the Board reconsider whether a national superintendent search was necessary. She believed that the current superintendent and administration are instructionally-focused and have provided continuity in literacy initiatives, professional development and support, data teams, and improvement in math instruction. She felt that student achievement should and is the primary concern of every administrator. She encouraged the Board to keep the momentum and the continuity by retaining the current superintendent and administration.*
 4. *Yahcolyah Muhammad, 1317 Garrison Ave., Rockford, IL, spoke in support of Dr. Jackson and expressed disappointment with the Board's decision to remove him. He felt that the actions of the Board have not changed since 1994 when the Board was found guilty of discrimination, and every accusation against Dr. Jackson has been proven untrue. The action against him is a personal vendetta of the superintendent. If the Board does not remove the superintendent, he suggested everyone be removed because of their actions relating to black males.*
 5. *Mary Fisher, 201 So. Madison St., Rockford, IL, Health Services Supervisor, spoke in support of the current administration. She stated that the superintendent has provided support and encouragement, and over the years, has worked with their staff through changes in many areas.*
 6. *Richard Gravenstein, 703 8th St., Rockford, IL, student at Skyview, asked that the Board reconsider discontinuing the program at Skyview. He felt that Skyview has been the only place that could help him and many others.*
 7. *Theresa Harvey, 2502 Whitmire Dr., Rockford, IL, administrator at RPS, urged the Board to extend the superintendent's contract. This superintendent carried on when the former superintendent left so quickly just before the school year started. She stated the district needed a superintendent who was vested in the community, cares about the staff and students, and who will bring continuity to the district.*
 8. *Shirley Chrestman, 938 Lincoln Hwy., Rockford, IL, Special Education administrator, spoke in support of the current superintendent and urged the Board to give her the opportunity to continue in her position. She added that the district has continued to be successful and move forward under her leadership, and she brings stability and focus to the district.*
 9. *Theresa Montalbano Owen, 1291 Divine Cl., Rockford, IL, asked the Board to continue the current superintendent's contract. She felt the superintendent understood the district, is honest, has integrity and is focused on the positive growth of our district and community.*
 10. *Davita McWilliams, 408 W. Horsman St., Rockford, IL, spoke about the length of time it took for the administration to "get their paperwork together and inform her of her rights and options" regarding the expulsion of her son. She felt the district's actions were unethical, unfair and prejudiced. She*

- demanded an explanation as to why other disciplinary options were not exercised.*
11. *Bess Bloyer, 3133 Brook Harbour, Rockford, IL, retired teacher, spoke in support of the present superintendent's continuance for the next two years. This superintendent has raised her family in Rockford and is vested in the community and its future. She felt that the continued service of the present superintendent offers stability and is crucial to the health of the district.*
 12. *Becky Miller, 3526 Montrose, Rockford, IL, stated that she has questions and would like answers as to why the students at Skyview are being moved to the Fresh Start Program. She saw no advantages to leaving a program that has been successful and felt they could not thrive in the Fresh Start Program. Since day placement centers do not have to accept Skyview students, she asked what was their alternative.*
 13. *Ashley Holland, 1604 Foxglove Ave., Rockford, IL, spoke on behalf the Skyview students. She stated that they have been told they would no longer participate in the Skyview curriculum and go to the Fresh Start Program. Regular schools do not help Skyview students, and these students say they will not go to Fresh Start and have nowhere else to go.*
 14. *George Richardson, 3076 Carriage Lane, Rockford, IL, spoke in support of the current superintendent, who has come up through the ranks. He spoke of her accomplishments and leadership in the district. To keep the present superintendent, would send a powerful message to the staff and students that hard work and dedication will lead to success. It also tells parents that Rockford is not only capable of producing excellent teachers but great leaders as well. A superintendent from within the district offers the advantage of knowledge of the Board and procedures, school district and system, keeps the moment, provides a sense of loyalty and commitment and saves the district the expense of moving a new superintendent to Rockford.*
 15. *Giles Jefferson, Rockford, IL, stated that the actions against Dr. Jackson are short of a modern day version of a lynch mob. The allegations against him are not substantiated by fact and are the result of persecution. Dr. Jackson's actions and credentials have been misrepresented by the public and Board, thereby inhibiting his ability to perform his duties as a principal. This is an attempt to discredit Dr. Jackson and incite anger.*
 16. *Jesse Hill, 2229 15th Ave., Rockford, IL, student at Skyview, strongly recommended that the Board reconsider their decision to close Skyview. The result will lead to an increase in truancy and high school dropouts. Skyview offers a safe alternative learning environment for many students with behavioral issues. Because of Skyview, he now enjoys going to school.*
 17. *Flossie Hoarde, 701 Miriam Ave., Rockford, IL, reminded the Board of the 1989 "People Who Care" lawsuit, which charged discrimination against the district and stated that the same pattern of behavior is happening today. She asked the community to stand up for the dream of Martin Luther King.*
 18. *Dina Siporia, 5590 White Plains Way, Rockford, IL, expressed her support of Barbour Language Academy and King Gifted School, and added that she*

was encouraged to see the positive steps taken by the current cabinet and Board to ensure these students receive an excellent education.

19. *Monica Primm, White Dove Ln., Rockford, IL, stated that change for the sake of change was not always the best solution. She suggested the Board take from lessons learned and value of the history of the current administration. The issues within the district have not happened over night and cannot be fixed over night. Starting a national superintendent search at this time would be a distraction from the current and pressing issues and cause the district to lose ground on the progress made.*
20. *Charles Sensel, 3624 Belvoir, Rockford, IL, stated that we are all failures in failing to see the racism among us. The Board should be more interested in educating children rather than in their legacies and careers, and he gave examples of racism in today's politics and movies.*
21. *Lisa Heipp, 305 E. College Ave., Rockford, IL, stated that the current administration understands what will best help students succeed. Freshman Foundation is a program that illustrates the district's commitment to students, and initial results show greater success within the 9th grade population. Consistency in administration is needed for these programs to grow and flourish.*
22. *Toni Thomas, 123 Holland, Rockford, IL, spoke of the district's blatant racism. She stated that the Board has allowed administration to mistreat staff and students for years. She added that the information told about Dr. Jackson is 99.9% inaccurate. The Board will be held accountable for their decision regarding Dr. Jackson and promised another class action lawsuit.*

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Westholder read a prepared statement in which she spoke to the selection of a permanent superintendent. In August 2007, the Board agreed to begin that fall with a nation-wide search for a superintendent. On November 13, 2007, she asked that this issue be discussed; however, such discussion was denied upon vote to suspend the rules. She stated that she brought this to Mrs. Kalchbrenner's attention again in late February or early March but a meeting date could not found for all Board members. Now some individuals say it is too late for a timely nation-wide search, but she felt it would be arrogant not to conduct a search, knowing a leader is needed to help the district improve the school system. She could not accept that a decision would not be made to support the Board's mission for high-quality schools in a rapidly-changing work world. She reminded everyone that excellent schools are more than NCLB test scores.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner thanked Kennedy Middle School for inviting her to participate in their morning KMS news program. One of the questions they asked of her was about the truancy issue; wherein, she pointed out that the KMS program was exactly the kind of things that reduces truancy by engaging students.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner congratulated Michaela Frossard, senior at Jefferson High School, for winning Rockford Register Star's MoneySmart Essay Contest for her essay on plans for college and money management.

Mr. Williams expressed his concern regarding the comments made tonight that indicate the community is polarized and felt the purpose of the district is off course. He called for the district and community to reach beyond the personal attacks and orchestrated presentations and get back to the business of educating children. He stated that the district needed to replicate what works and move away from the focus on individual administrators. The Board has to focus on educating children and appointing leaders who will run the district.

Mr. Williams asked for clarification on administration's plan relative to curriculum and staffing for the transfer of Skyview students and the Skyview and Fresh Start program.

Mrs. Hernandez made clear there was absolutely no plan to change the curriculum at Skyview. The students and teachers will share the same building as Fresh Start, with the benefit of additional resources for all the students in the Skyview and Fresh Start programs. She assured everyone that she would go to Skyview the next day to speak with the students and answer any questions. No decision was ever made to remove Skyview's teachers or terminate that program.

Mr. Evans stated that the proposal for Skyview was presented to the Education Committee, and that committee added two recommendations to the proposal, which was adopted by the Board:

1. Add a professional psychologist to the staff, thereby increasing available staff.
2. Establish a liaison with social agencies within the community to augment the staff.

He reiterated that the intent was to provide a better education for these students and not to abandon them.

Mrs. Westholder added to her previous stated that after a search is made for a superintendent, if a current or former administrator within the district is judged to be the best of all applicants, the community would then have more trust in that superintendent. She stated that this was not personal but was to re-clarify her earlier position.

Mrs. Westholder stated that she was unclear about her earlier understanding when voting to move Skyview. Her understanding was that the programs would move together to Page Park School and remain as two separate entities sharing personnel resources. However, somehow the staffs at both schools do not have that understanding.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that Mrs. Westholder's understanding was exactly right in that Skyview and Fresh Start would be moved to Page Park as two separate entities. One wing of the building will be for Skyview and the other for Fresh Start. The students will be together for some of the resources, which is done in all schools by state mandate. Only three people were surplus because new job descriptions are being written, and the same people may apply for those positions. There will be more input from the community, more counselors and personnel from areas social service agencies. If anything, there will be additional staff. All of this was thoroughly discussed in Education Committee, and we believe we are giving the students more resources.

Mr. Williams stated it was his understanding that the integrity of both programs would be maintained within the same building with additional resources. Essentially, everything would remain the same, with the exception of providing additional resources. Obviously, there has been a communications breakdown.

Mrs. Hernandez cautioned that whenever there is any change, there will be people who get upset. She reassured everyone that she would speak with the staffs and students at both Skyview and Fresh Start.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner stated that while she respectfully disagreed about the decisions or actions of the Board last fall, many things have occurred such as losing one Board member who resigned and another was absent due to surgery. The superintendency is a critical issue for all Board members.

Hearing no objections, Mrs. Kalchbrenner suspended the rules to move Other Business Item A. Process for Selection of Permanent Superintendent to this point on the Agenda.

Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Evans, to direct the Board President to develop a process for selection of a search firm in order to begin seeking a new superintendent for the 2009-2010 school year.

Mr. Williams agreed that this is not a prime time to find a superintendent for the fall, but he did not want to have to rush the selection. This will give the Board plenty of time to interact with the consulting firm and for the community to become involved. He stressed that this was not a motion against the present superintendent and thanked Mrs. Hernandez for stepping in at a very difficult time.

Mr. Mitchell agreed that this was the time to start the search. He thought it interesting to hear there have been four (sic) superintendents over the last eight years; however, he did read that the average tenure for top notch superintendents is approximately one and one-half years. He expressed his hope that the procedure laid out by the Board will be well-delineated about how to find the right search firm.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner stated that it was important to bring the Board together on this decision; however, the ability “to grow our own” is extremely important. There is reason to be cautious in bringing in someone from the outside. Many tough decisions have been made by administration and the Board over the last several years, and there will be positive results from those decisions. She understood the desire for the Board and the community to go through the process. She called attention to the article about “Rock Star Cowboy” superintendents who are on the hunt and stated that loyalty is an extremely valuable commodity.

Mrs. Saudargas agreed and stated that she hoped Mrs. Hernandez will apply for this position as it may be found that in the long run, she is the best candidate.

Approved unanimously on roll call.

Hearing no objections, Mrs. Kalchbrenner suspended the rules to consider the extension of the present superintendent’s contract for the 2008-2009 school year.

Motion by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to direct the preparation of a contract extending the superintendent contract for the 2008-2009 school year.

Approved unanimously on roll call.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Evans, **seconded** by Mr. Kelley, that the Board approve the following consent items:

- A. Approval of Minutes –March 14 & 18, 2008
- B. Personnel plus Addendum
- C. Payroll
- D. Accounts Payable Checks
- E. Purchase Orders
- F. Contracts \$10,000 & Under
- G. Airfare
- H. Bid Recommendations
- I. **Recurring Contracts:**
FY09 Northwestern Illinois Association (NIA) Contract
- J. **Acceptance of Grants**
FY08 Grants for School Libraries
- L. **Closed Session Items:**
Administrative Appointments:
Theresa Harvey, Principal, Lewis Lemon Global Studies Academy
Jill Faber, Principal, Washington Gifted Program
Don Rundall, Principal, Jefferson High School
Todd France, Principal, Flinn Middle School
Pamela Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Charo Chaney, Assistant Principal, Ellis Arts Academy
- M. **Other Consent Items:**
Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of a Principal Not on Contractual Continued Service
Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers
Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers – Reduction in Force
Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Temporary Administrators
Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Temporary Teachers
Resolution Authorizing Reclassification of a Certified District Administrator to another Administrative Position
Resolution Authorizing Reclassification of Certified District Administrators District Wide Title I Plan

Items pulled for further clarification:

- Item K. **Closed Session Items:** by Mrs. Westholder
- (i)- (xxi) Student Discipline
CF#1, TG#2, MB#3, RW#4, LW#5,
SH#6, TM#7, NW#8, JG#9, JW#10,
KM#11, DM#12, TL#13, RA#14,
NF#15, JC#16, SC#17,
KF#18, JB#19, KW#20, KMU#21

Approved unanimously on roll call.

ITEM K. Closed Session Items: (i)-(xxi) Student Discipline

Motion by Mrs. Saudargas, seconded by Mr. Kelley, to approve Item K. Closed Session Items:

- (i) Student Discipline
CF#1

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

- (ii) Student Discipline
TG#2

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

- (iii) Student Discipline
MB#3

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

- (iv) Student Discipline
RW#4

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

- (v) Student Discipline
LW#5

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year and first semester of the 2008-2009 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

- (vi) Student Discipline
SH#6

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year and first semester of the 2008-2009 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(vii) Student Discipline
TM#7

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year and first semester of the 2008-2009 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(viii) Student Discipline
NW#8

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year and first semester of the 2008-2009 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(ix) Student Discipline
JG#9

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(x) Student Discipline
JW#10

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xi) Student Discipline
KM#11

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xii) Student Discipline
DM#12

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xiii) Student Discipline
TL#13

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the

prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xiv) Student Discipline
RA#14

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year and the entire 2008-2009 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xv) Student Discipline
NF#15

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xvi) Student Discipline
JC#16

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be suspended ten (10) days out-of-school.

(xvii) Student Discipline
SC#17

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be suspended ten (10) days out-of-school.

(xviii) Student Discipline
KB#18

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be suspended ten (10) days out-of-school.

(xix) Student Discipline
JB#19

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xx) Student Discipline
KW#20

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

(xxi) **Student Discipline**
KMU#21

That the student whose case was heard in closed session be expelled from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with recommendation for alternative placement, and the ten (10) day suspension is affirmed.

Ayes: Mr. Evans, Mrs. Kalchbrenner, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Mitchell,
Mrs. Saudargas, Mr. Williams

Nays: (None)

Abstain: Mrs. Westholder

Approved 6-0 (1 abstention).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Hernandez reminded everyone of the following upcoming events:

State of the County Luncheon

Cliffbreakers

Thursday, April 17 @ 11:30 a.m.

Those Who Excel Banquet

Tebala Temple

Thursday, April 24 / Social hour: 5:30 p.m. / Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Golden Apple Awards Banquet

Radisson Hotel

Friday, April 25 / Reception: 5:30 p.m. / Dinner & Awards Program: 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Hernandez also reminded all parents of seniors to call their counselor or teacher to make sure their child has passed the Constitution Test. There are a few more opportunities to take it, and all students must pass this test in order to graduate.

Superintendent Hernandez announced that a few seats are still available in the Academic Career Education High School. If interested, please call Michael Cermak at 966-5354.

B. Annual Review of Library Program

Ms. Bailey, Library/Media Coordinator, stated that in conjunction with the FY08 Grants for School Libraries, the district is required to review this program annually. The essential components of this program is divided into three parts: 1) Learning & Teaching [7 standards], 2) Information Access [4 standards], 3) Program Administration [9 standards].

Libraries are rated as "Basic," "Proficient," or "Exemplary." Component #3 under Learning & Teaching states:

The library media program models and promotes collaborative planning and teaching within a school climate conducive to and supportive of collaborative learning.

This collaboration takes place between the library and classroom teachers for the purpose of exemplary learning to enable students to continue their lifelong learning. All of the district libraries meet the following “Basic” criteria:

The library media specialist and other teachers promote a collaborative climate by consulting occasionally with each other concerning available resources for lessons and the curriculum.

Many of the elementary libraries do not meet the following criteria in order to rank “Proficient.” Schools with full-time library media specialists rank the highest.

The library media specialist and other teachers demonstrate a collaborative culture through collaboratively planned curricular units and shared responsibility for teaching and resource selection and use. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively.

None of the district’s schools meet the “Exemplary” criteria on a regular basis:

The library media specialist and other teachers, working in a collaborative school culture, meet on a regularly scheduled, ongoing basis to collaborate on upcoming projects. They agree on project goals and objectives, design lesson strategies, and determine needed resources. Students work collaboratively on projects. Evaluation criteria are established so that both the teacher and library media specialist(s) may assess the learning process which students use as well as the final product.

In conclusion, Ms. Bailey urged the district should not be content with being basic but strive to be at least proficient in every library.

C. Extended Learning Opportunities

Ms. Strothoff stated that Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) is one of the components of the Freshman Foundation program. The benefits of this program for students are:

- Provides personalized instruction for students who have achieved limited mastery of the standards
- Engages students in activities focused on academic success
- Helps students stay on track for graduation

The eligibility elements for ELO are:

- Failing grade between 40% and 59% at the end of an academic quarter
- Regularly attend and participate in class
- Has the ability to attain proficiency during the 10 days of ELO

1st Quarter Summary of Success

- 183 students were invited to participate
- 104 students returned contracts
- 81 students participated daily as required
- 66 students successfully changed failing grades to passing grades

2nd Quarter Summary of Success

- 287 students were invited to participate
- 165 students returned contracts
- 128 students participated daily as required
- 97 students successfully changed failing grades to passing grades.

Implications for the Future

- Increase ELO staff
- Intensive professional development related to algebra instruction
- Expand the ELO program to 10th grade
- Standards Achievement Opportunity for seniors

Questions

Mr. Williams: Do we have unified grading and curriculum in every class?

Answer: Every school follows the same curriculum; however, it is doubtful that every teacher grades the same. But the district is working toward that.

Mr. Williams: Could these figures vary every year based how the teacher grades?

Answer: In analyzing these figures paralleling the district, it says that the Freshman Foundation piece is successful.

Mr. Williams: What is the standard profile of the student?

Answer: It differs from student-to-student, but this is about whether ELO is successful.

Mrs. Hernandez: The teacher who gives a grade is the only person who can change a grade.

Answer: The teacher has information about which standards a student does not meet, and the student only works on those standards.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Williams reported that the Education Committee last met on Tuesday, April 1.

The Committee received an update on the Truancy Initiative. Administration clarified that a concerted effort was being made to collaborate with the city to address truancy.

The Committee discussed Middle School Social Studies Articulation, Grades 5-8. The revision will focus students learning American Studies. The Committee recommended a course be added at the high school level to make sure that any material revised out of the middle school curriculum be added back into a high school course. It was also recommended that the Constitution Test be sooner in the year to give students plenty of time to pass the test.

He added that Mr. Evans and he were asked to testify in a public hearing on the state budget, and that occurred on March 25.

The Education Committee will not meet next Tuesday, April 15 in order to attend a meeting held by the Chamber on charter schools at 5:30 p.m. at Rockford College.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Mr. Kelley reported that the Operations Committee last met on Monday, April 7. The notes of the March 10 Committee meeting were approved as corrected.

There was discussion regarding an economic development opportunity with a ten-year tax abatement. The Committee recommended this be approved without disclosure of the requesting company.

A presentation was made on the Proposed FY09 Student Fees. The fees are approximately \$5, with the exception of middle and high school text books which are proposed to increase from \$25 to \$50 and the high school drivers education fee to increase from \$250 to \$300.

There also was discussion regarding what secondary course offerings might be dropped for the upcoming school year.

The next Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 14.

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Mrs. Saudargas left the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.
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Mr. Evans left the meeting at approximately 9:35 p.m.
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ACTION ITEMS

A. Economic Development Opportunity

Mr. Hoffman stated that this was presented at the last Board meeting with direction from the Board to come back with the name of company. No disclosure of names has yet been made.

Motion by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Williams, to postpone Action Item A. Economic Development Opportunity to the April 22 Board meeting.

Approved unanimously on roll call.

B. “From Good to Great: Three Year Academic Plan, 2007-2010”

Mrs. Hernandez stated that this was presented last July 2007 but was not brought back for approval when the superintendent left.

Motion by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve “From Good to Great: Three Year Academic Plan, 2007-2010.”

Approved unanimously on roll call.

OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Process for Selection of Permanent Superintendent

(This item had been moved to Board Member Comments.)

B. Freedom of Information Act Log

Mr. Williams stated that the district will develop an RFP to seek a Human Resource management consultant.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner reminded the Board that attempts are being made to schedule additional special Board meetings to address Elementary Zones.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Westholder, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Approved on voice vote.

PRESIDENT _____ *Nancy Kalchbrenner /S/*
Nancy Kalchbrenner

SECRETARY _____ *David L. Kelley /S/*
David L. Kelley

APPROVED _____ **5-13-08**
dm