

**School District #428
Board of Education
Minutes of a Special Meeting Conducted
Wednesday, October 29, 2008
10:00 a.m.**

On Wednesday, October 29, 2008 a Special Meeting of the School District #428 Board of Education was conducted at the central offices of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice at Springfield, Illinois. The primary purpose of the meeting was to provide an orientation session for the newly formed Board.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by Director Kurt C. Friedenauer, Board President. The following members were present: Paul Swanstrom, Ph.D; Christina Meyer; and Tom Hott. Theresa Saunders attended via teleconference. Ex Officio members present: Dr. Lan ée Walls, School District #428 Superintendent; David Tracy, IDJJ Legal Counsel; Acting Deputy Director of Operations Ron Smith; Acting Deputy Director of Programs Janice Shallcross; John Platt, Consultant; and Diana K. Shreck, Executive Secretary III from IYC Kewanee. Director Friedenauer noted that as DJJ Legal Counsel, Mr. Tracy will be present at the Board meetings. Ms. Shreck will be serving as the Recording Secretary.

Director Friedenauer welcomed everyone and introduced the rest of the staff of the IDJJ central office: Wanda Kieft-Flood, Jeff Hooker, April Green, and Billie Greer. After introductions these staff were excused from the meeting.

Director Friedenauer explained the structure of the Board: There are six appointed positions: Four are appointed by the Illinois State Board of Education and two are appointed by the Director. The Director serves as Board President. At this time we have one Board member, Brian Ali, whom we have been unable to contact and will continue to pursue this. The sixth member is pending final approval. He explained that this is new to IDJJ and this is a very unique situation to have a public school board that presides within a state agency. Confidentiality issues were addressed. It was noted that being cognizant of the Board members' busy schedules, their time will be respected and schedule accommodations will be made wherever possible.

The Director reviewed a history of the Department, with details provided in a power point presentation. The former Juvenile Division had been a part of the Department of Corrections since 1973 and had become a mirror-image of DOC. Recidivism was high; aftercare became non-existent; programs were de-emphasized and the overall mission of the Juvenile Division was eroded. The efforts of many resulted in our new agency being signed into law by the Governor, effective July 1, 2006. Copies of this Act were provided to the Board. As a result of this legislation, School District #428, which had been a part of DOC, was made a part of the new Department of Juvenile Justice. A strategic plan was developed and we continue to make progress, albeit economic restraints. Director Friedenauer explained the process of juveniles accepted by the Department. It was noted that compared to most states our youth are older, higher-risk, and have significant

treatment needs. Mr. Platt explained the court process and emphasized the need for aftercare. There was a general discussion regarding the need for earlier intervention.

Dr. Walls reviewed the current SD#428 structure and services provided. The inclusion of the school district into DJJ gave the opportunity for a fresh start, and thus, it is a work-in-progress. The Director noted that two exhaustive nation-wide searches were conducted, resulting in hiring Dr. Walls earlier this year. SD#428 is responsible for providing educational services to incarcerated youth until age 21; thus we also serve those youth who have transferred to the Department of Corrections, but who have not yet received their high school diploma or GED.

Funding issues were discussed. Although SD#428 is a public school district it has not historically received funding like other school districts in the state. There is hope for new funding streams.

Staffing and hiring process limitations were reviewed. Dr. Walls noted that educators for SD#428 are subject to the hiring policies and practices through Central Management Services agency.

Dr. Walls reviewed the Superintendent's Goals with the Board, which was given as a hand-out. She recently developed and received approval from the ISBE to implement the first SD#428 school calendar. Dr. Walls has met with many outside entities to help form working partnerships and increase visibility of SD#428. It was observed that although SD#428 has high recognition within DOC & DJJ, it is largely unknown to outside entities. There was a discussion regarding the importance of enhancing our relationships with outside entities to improve funding streams.

Regarding Board organization and appointment of members, Director Friedenauer noted the need to appoint a Board Secretary among the members and suggested that this be done with the full board present, to take place at the first regular board meeting, in accordance with state statute. Dr. Walls distributed copies of the State Code of SD#428 for review.

In response to Dr. Swanstrom's question regarding the availability of a research body to support our efforts, Director Friedenauer affirmed this, and noted that the agency is solidly grounded on best practices and solid research. As deemed appropriate, this information will be disseminated to the Board.

A discussion was held regarding future meeting dates. A schedule will be sent to all board members for review. Although the next Board meeting will be held again at the central offices of DJJ, there may be future meetings held at other locations, and the option of possibly using video conference.

Dr. Walls asked that each Board member complete and turn in the 'Board Member Contact Information' sheet that was provided in their packet. This information will then be compiled and each member will receive a Board Contact list in the near future.

Ms. Kelso presented information regarding travel & expense reimbursement. Any questions in this regard may be directed to her.

Ms. Kelso presented Board members with information regarding the State Ethics Act. All Board members will be required to take the Ethics Training on an annual basis.

Director Friedenauer asked the Board to be thinking of the types of information they will want to receive. He noted that this Board will not be addressing issues such as staff discipline or labor issues; however, they may receive updates regarding personnel matters as well as many other confidential matters. He noted this Board will act primarily on policy. The Open Meetings Act was discussed. Mr. Tracy commented regarding the unique concept that this school board is considered a public body, yet all youth information, records, etc., must be kept confidential.

Dr. Walls reported that she will be holding a Principals' Meeting at this location on November 12 and invited the Board to meet them.

Deputy Shallcross answered questions regarding the programs offered for our expectant and young mothers.

Director Friedenauer thanked all Board members for their willingness to serve. Dr. Swanstrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Hott; all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lanéé T. Walls, Ed.D.
District #428 Superintendent

LTW/dks