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Governor

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**School District #428  
Board of Education  
Minutes of a Regular Meeting Conducted  
Tuesday, February 24, 2009  
10:00 a.m.**

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009 a Regular Meeting of the School District #428 Board of Education was conducted at the Special Education Office of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice at Joliet, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m., by Director Kurt C. Friedenauer, Board President. Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Director Kurt C. Friedenauer, President; Ms. Christina Meyer, Dr. Theresa Saunders, and Thomas Hott. Absent: Dr. Paul Swanstrom and Lourdes Monteagudo. Others present for the Board: Dr. Lanée Walls, School District #428 Superintendent; David Tracy, IDJJ Legal Counsel; and Diana K. Shreck, Executive Secretary III at IYC Kewanee. Ms. Shreck served as the Recording Secretary.

Director Friedenauer welcomed everyone and introduced IYC Joliet Superintendent John Rita and Assistant Superintendent Muhammad Sales, and then excused them from the meeting. The rest of those present introduced themselves: Acting Deputy Director Ron Smith, Acting Deputy Director Janice Shallcross, Azalea McEwen, Director of Special Education; Barbara J. Carter, Vocational Administrator – IYC Joliet; and Melvin Berry, Education Facility Administrator – IYC Joliet; and John Mitchell, Educator - IYC Joliet. There were no others present at the meeting.

On a motion by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Ms. Meyer, the minutes of the special meeting conducted December 2, 2008 were approved as written. There was no discussion regarding the minutes. All ayes.

Public Hearing - A Public Hearing was conducted regarding the proposed Waiver of State Board Rules. Dr. Walls explained the proposed waiver and rationale. Dr. Walls is seeking a waiver of the portion of ISBE rules for parts 1.705 and 254.310. If the waiver is approved, it would allow the Superintendent of Schools for the IDJJ School District #428 to serve as Interim System Director for Education For Employment (EFE) #570 until a qualified vocational administrator is employed by the district. Dr. Walls reported that this is a lengthy process and she has been working on it since April, 2008. The approval of the Board is the last step in the process prior to submitting the waiver application to ISBE. It is expected we will request the waiver for a period of two years due to the current hiring freeze. Dr. Saunders inquired whether any contacts with legislators had been made regarding this issue. Dr. Walls responded that state senators and representatives who cover the territory of each of the eight schools were sent advance written

notification of today's public hearing. Dr. Walls also stated that if approved by ISBE the waiver would become effective July 1, 2009. A motion was made by Mr. Hott to proceed with the application process for the waiver of the ISBE rules as presented by Dr. Walls; it was seconded by Ms. Meyer. Mr. Hott commented that this would enable Dr. Walls to be in the loop with those in Career/Tech while allowing her to share the IDJJ perspective with those in Career/Tech, and this would be beneficial to all. There was some discussion among members of the great need for career & technical programs for our youth. Director Friedenauer then asked for comments from the four (4) general public participants who were present. There were no members of the public present who expressed a desire to make comments. No written comments regarding this public hearing had been received prior to or during this public hearing. The motion was taken to vote: All ayes.

President's Report - Director Friedenauer then gave the President's Report. He remarked that since our last meeting there has been a transition period with the new administration, and he felt optimistic regarding their philosophy & focus. He reported the House & Senate have extended the time period for one month to allow the new administration to submit the new budget. He reported that the screening of potential DJJ Interns continue. However, vacant positions cannot be filled until the issue with Pontiac has been resolved.

Director Friedenauer reported he has continued to meet with the Juvenile Advisory Board and their next meeting is in March, at St. Charles. All Board members are welcome to attend the Juvenile Advisory Board meetings and at some point a joint meeting of the two Boards will be held.

Director Friedenauer reported that approval has been received of a \$408,000 grant from the Juvenile Justice Commission, which will be used to fund a Clinician/Programs position for our Juvenile Assessment & Intervention System. Another grant approval is pending.

Dr. Saunders inquired about the stimulus package funding. Director Friedenauer responded that the exact funding strategies are not known yet; although due to the fact that we serve a 'special needs' population we are hopeful for funding which is expected to be received through the Criminal Justice Information Authority (CJIA). The CJIA is the state agency for the management and distribution of federal funding, and establishing funding priorities. Director Friedenauer reported that he and Dr. Walls would be meeting with the ISBE next week on the audit findings, but will discuss the stimulus for our district at that time.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Walls gave the Superintendent's Report, summarizing activity since the December 2, 2008 Board Meeting. She reported the CPS referral/reentry process was begun in January.

The ISBE Audit meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 10 a.m., and is open to all members of the Board. Dr. Walls reviewed the audit areas with the Board and discussed the challenges we face in each area. Dr. Walls noted that with the recent establishment of this school board, we have begun the development of board policies. Dr. Walls remarked on that our hiring procedures/practices hinder our ability to quickly hire candidates. Dr. Walls noted we have librarians at only three of our facilities. Dr. Saunders commented that maintaining certification is an issue and it is difficult to find certified teachers; changes are needed regarding the certification process. Dr. Walls indicated that we must either make sure that Physical Education is offered or a waiver will be required. Regarding Special Education, she noted that we now have a Special Education Director, Azalea McEwen, and she is working on revising our special education policies and procedures. Since we only have three diagnosticians statewide, we had been searching for screening tools that could be used by our teachers. Dr.

Walls thanked Ms. Meyers for providing screening tools; these are currently under review by our school psychologists.

Dr. Walls reported that a new position was being submitted to CMS for a Vocational Director. Mr. Hott suggested the position title be called Coordinator for Career & Technical Programming to keep in the same nomenclature as the current Career/Tech groups. Director Friedenauer stated that he was confident that the new position would be approved by CMS, after which it would need to be submitted for Civil Service agreement. This would be a non-bargaining unit position. GED testing would be one of the many responsibilities of this position.

Dr. Walls reported that our current curriculum is outdated. Ms. McEwen reported the last update was made in 2001 or 2002. Dr. Walls reported we initially worked with APEX Online but do not have the technological capabilities to support their fully virtual curriculum, and Pathways in Education (California). Pathways sent us a paper-based curriculum that would allow youth to still take required courses such as Advanced Literature toward graduation. They are working on a cost estimate for curricular materials and we are working with the ISBE textbook loan program for complimentary textbooks. Following Mr. Hott's inquiry, Dr. Walls shared their curriculum listing.

Dr. Walls reported on the staff attending a webinar in January via our video conference system. The district is looking at using video-conferencing as a means for professional development. At issue is being able to interact using this method. The district is also planning use of the video conference system for committee work.

Dr. Walls reported on attending a job fair, which was well attended. She noted that most people don't know we exist, and emphasized the need for us to publicize our career opportunities and create an awareness of our district. She handed out copies of a recent recruitment flyer for Board members to share.

Board Member Status - Director Friedenauer reported that the Board member vacancy is in the approval process, and hopes to have this finalized in the near future.

Board Policy – Dr. Walls reported that Jaime Willis is on loan to our agency from the Governor's Office to assist with Board Policy development. Preliminary sections of the policies had been provided to the Board members. She asked the Board to review these and provide her with input. We will then plan to vote on these at the next meeting. Per Dr. Saunders' inquiry Mr. Tracy will research to ensure there is no requirement for additional readings of the policy before the Board takes action on them.

Dr. Saunders inquired whether there was a timeline to comply with the audit findings. Dr. Walls reported that no timeline has been given and ISBE is working with us.

Director Friedenauer reported there was no need to go into closed session at this time. Following adjournment, the members would be provided a tour of IYC Joliet and attend a program at 12:30 p.m. Director Friedenauer gave a brief overview of IYC Joliet and noted it is a maximum security facility. He said the Board would get a first-hand view of some of the challenges they face and asked them for their assistance as they are able to provide. He reported that unique to Joliet is that we still have the youthful prison atmosphere to some degree. We have some offenders who are repeat offenders with adult charges. He noted that some of these young people would normally have been located at Cook County while awaiting determination of whether they are convicted; however, approximately two years ago when the Consent Degree came into effect, someone determined that this applied to the Department of Juvenile Justice. This resulted in

giving us an even older population with more serious charges, resulting in an older, higher-risk, more sophisticated population, who will be sent to serve their terms in adult DOC if they are convicted of the new charges. This creates a tremendous burden on us regarding transportation, staff, and overtime. We are looking at a contingency plan to provide separate housing of these youth but this has not yet been resolved. We are also looking at legislative initiatives to assist with this. Director Friedenauer also commented that these youth are not consistent with the mission and philosophies of this agency.

On a motion by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Mr. Hott, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

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

LTW/dks