



**Pat Quinn**  
Governor

**Kurt C. Friedenauer**  
Director

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**School District #428**  
**Board of Education**  
**Minutes of a Regular Meeting Conducted**  
**Monday, April 27, 2009**  
**3:00 p.m.**

On Monday, April 27, 2009 a Regular Meeting of the School District #428 Board of Education was conducted in the Conference Room of the Marion Parole Office located at 2309 West Main, Suite 128, Marion, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:10 p.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. Also present were: Acting Deputy Director of Program Services Janice Shallcross; IYC Kewanee Superintendent Lisa Nordstrom; Special Education Program Supervisor Azalea McEwen; Melva Clarida, IYC Harrisburg EFA; and Mary Neurohr, IYC Murphysboro EFA.

A motion was made by Dr. Saunders to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2009 Board Meeting, and seconded by Mr. Hott. All ayes. Motion carried.

No one from the general public was present and no public comments were made.

President's Report - Director Friedenauer gave his President's Report. He reported that last week's House & Senate hearings went relatively well, with no contentious issues. However, the FY10 proposed budget is bleak, with an expected reduction of 3% from last year. The proposed budget does not include any enhancements, such as aftercare program dollars; however, we do have an increased headcount allotment of 24, of which 16 are educators. Overall, we are well short of the staffing numbers needed.

Regarding the stimulus funds, which will flow through the Criminal Justice Information Authority (CJIA), there will be a statewide pot of \$58 million, of which the Corrections, Human Services, State Police and Juvenile Justice agencies are expected to be eligible for up to \$5 million. Director Friedenauer cautioned that these are one-time funds that can be spread over a period of up to four years or can be used all in one year. Our priority is to use these funds for after-care. Currently the amount of funds to be received is unknown; however, it is hoped we will know this information by the next board meeting in June.

Director Friedenauer reported on the Governor's budget recommendation to close IYC Pere Marquette. He noted a very costly annual operating budget, plus an even larger amount that is needed for repair & maintenance projects. IYC Pere Marquette is also located on a flood plain and there was a time during last year's flooding when the only access to the facility was by boat. In better economic times we would not recommend closing this facility; however, we are in severe economic constraints, and we can fairly easily absorb this program into Warrenville. Director Friedenauer stated that the State Facilities Closure Act governs this action, which is overseen by COGFA (Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability). An economic study is being done and a public hearing will be scheduled, probably in early summer. He reported that they have already met with AFSCME regarding layoff/bumping of staff, and our intention is to provide positions for these staff. Dr. Saunders inquired whether moving expenses were allowed; this is not part of the contract.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Walls gave the Superintendent's report. She announced that the CTEI Waiver has been approved by ISBE for 2010-2011. The CTEI grant has been approved for 2008-09, in the amount of \$120,000 which must be expended by 8/31/09. Dr. Walls reported they are in the process of finalizing the Career & Technical Education Director position.

Dr. Walls reported that the policy writer on loan from the Governor's office has left that position, but we are continuing with the development of Board policies, using ISBE bylaws as our model. Dave Tracy explained the process of development of policies within the agency, as allowed by state statute.

There was discussion regarding Local Professional Development Committees. There does not appear to be a signed agreement for SD#428 regarding LPDCs, so we are hopeful we may move forward to disband having LPDCs for SD#428. Mr. Hott commented that these used to be required by ISBE but now individuals have to maintain their own certification as it became cumbersome. Mr. Tracy stated this is a labor issue. Director Friedenauer will follow up with Labor Relations on this subject. It was recommended that a letter be drafted to recommend disbanding these committees.

Dr. Walls reported she just received her annual performance review. She explained to the Board members that she is not a contractual employee, like most school superintendents. She serves at the will of the Director. CMS requires an annual evaluation be conducted, which is done by the Director. Her title is in a broadband class of Senior Public Service Administrators. The Director explained that his position is as a Constitutional Officer and he is paid from the Director's budget. Director Friedenauer reported he is extremely pleased with the performance of Dr. Walls and her accomplishments made in one year.

Dr. Walls reported that 42 additional teaching positions are needed (including vocational); we are expecting to post 24 positions in the near future. Dr. Walls noted that we have only two school secretaries for eight facilities. Mr. Hott inquired whether hiring practices can be changed. The Director responded that it would require significant change to remove the education system from the civil service process. Ms. Meyer inquired whether substitute teachers are used. The response was we do not have substitute teachers. Mr. Hott suggested the Board members help write proposed legislation to fix this problem. He suggested approaching ISBE with our concerns and asking for their assistance. The Director noted there have been many issues with hiring educators and was hopeful that the School Board could have an influence in making changes. Mr. Hott asked that this subject be on the June agenda.

Dr. Walls thanked Mr. Hott for his assistance with the development of the new Career & Technical Director position, which needs CMS approval, then goes to the Independent Commission and then the position would be established. We are hoping to post this position in early summer.

Dr. Walls reported on New Dimensions virtual visual learning curriculum. It is not internet-based. She met with their company representatives and they assisted with writing a proposal for use of stimulus funds to purchase the software, servers and technical support. Assessment tools were discussed. EFA Melva Clarida reported that IYC Harrisburg has successfully used their products. Ms. Clarida noted that videos are integrated with the lessons.

Dr. Walls distributed the ISBE audit findings and said they would be reviewed at the June Board meeting. She asked the Board to review them and provide their comments and suggestions.

A schedule of tentative board dates was distributed. Dr. Walls asked that Board members review these dates and let Diana know of any conflicts.

Board Policy - The board policy that would allow attendance by other means was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that this policy was patterned after the ISBE by-laws, with slight changes to some wording to fit IDJJ. It was also noted that this policy would minimize potential future quorum issues, and that if needed, the board may amend this policy in the future. A motion was made by Tom Hott to accept the board policy presented that would allow attendance by other means. This motion was seconded by Christina Meyer. There was no further discussion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Director Friedenauer noted there was no apparent need for the Board to go into Closed Session at this time and entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Saunders, seconded by Tom Hott. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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