



School District #428
Board of Education
Minutes of a Regular Meeting Conducted
August 25, 2009
10:00 a.m.

A regular meeting of the School District #428 Board of Education was conducted on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Conference Room of the Black Hawk College Community Education Center located at 404 East 3rd Street, Kewanee, Illinois 61443.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:10 a.m., by Director Kurt C. Friedenauer, Board President. Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Director Kurt C. Friedenauer, Dr. Paul Swanstrom, Tom Hott, and Dr. Walter Milton. Others present: Dr. Lanée Walls, School District #428 Superintendent; Dave Tracy, Attorney for IDJJ; and Diana Shreck, Executive Secretary III at IYC Kewanee. Ms. Shreck served as the Recording Secretary.

Director Friedenauer welcomed the new board member, Dr. Walter Milton.

Minutes – Director Friedenauer entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2009 meeting. Dr. Swanstrom moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Hott. There was no discussion. All ayes, with an abstention from Dr. Milton, as he had not been present at the June 23 meeting.

Public Comment – There was no one present from the general public.

President's Report – Director Friedenauer noted the most pressing matter was the uncertainty of the department budget, which is projected to have a \$5.8 million deficit. If this deficit is not restored, we will have no choice but to look at closing facilities. He noted that these decisions have not yet been finalized and even if they are, will be subject to the State Facilities Closure Act, which is overseen by COGFA (Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability). He noted that we are not like other agencies which have much greater latitude in this type of situation.

Funding issues were discussed. Director Friedenauer noted that there are federal stimulus dollars that are still ear-marked for IDJJ, and their proposed use is to hire staff for an after-care system based in Cook County. Projected implementation date is early 2010; however, these dollars are one-time, so future funding to continue the after-care system once it is implemented would have to come from general revenue, which is a concern.

Director Friedenauer reported that due to pending layoffs with IDOC, a hiring freeze has been imposed due to that fact that many staff are within the same job classifications & bargaining units, such as teachers. He noted that AFSCME has filed an injunction in Johnson County against the layoffs.

Director Friedenauer announced that a new Chief Legal Advisor for IDJJ is expected to be starting in the next 3-4 weeks. He expressed his appreciation to Dave Tracy for serving our Department and asked for his continued assistance during the transition. Dr. Swanstrom inquired about our priority on budget cuts. Director Friedenauer said that the governor has imposed 12 furlough days to be taken by all non-bargaining unit staff by the end of the fiscal year, which affects 50+ employees in IDJJ. However, this issue must be negotiated with the unions before it can be implemented with those employees who are in bargaining units, and some of the employees would be exempt if their cost of overtime would exceed their furlough savings. Director Friedenauer noted that IDJJ was opened in an under-staffed situation, and every scenario has been discussed. The facility closure process was discussed. Dr. Swanstrom inquired about funding from ISBE, as other school districts receive. Dr. Walls reported that there has been no progress on this issue, as ISBE does not view our school district like others, because we are within a state agency. Mr. Hott inquired about the bumping process. Director Friedenauer explained that it is a complicated process which involved going to arbitration, where a deal was made with DOC to treat all AFSCME employees the same whether they were within DOC or DJJ for layoff purposes.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Walls reported that on June 30, the Southern District Institute was held. Dr. Saunders was in attendance, and addressed the staff. She reminded the board members of the invitation to the John Howard meeting on September 17, from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and that she still had two tickets available. Writings from our youth will be featured at this event. She also invited all board members to attend any of the statewide parent/teacher conferences that will be held at the facilities on September 30, 2009.

The job descriptions for our principals have been revised to make them more administrative in nature; however, it appears they will be included in a union, despite management being vehemently opposed to this. The Labor Board has ruled that principals are not 'supervisors.' Director Friedenauer noted this was an ongoing trend with labor decisions. Mr. Hott mused that if principals are not supervisors, then who would be considered a supervisor. Dr. Milton inquired about their credentials, which Dr. Walls responded they must hold the proper certificate, the same as other school principals. Dr. Walls reported that due to many factors, many of the SD#428 principals have viewed themselves on a lateral relationship with educators, and truly did not function as principals have done in other school districts. Becoming members of a bargaining unit reverses the district's move toward increased accountability to students.

Dr. Walls reported on upcoming dates for professional development and noted that she has a conflict with the October meeting due to the annual Superintendent's Conference in October. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Dr. Walls reported on the District's priorities. She noted that ISBE still shows all of the IDOC locations included with IDJJ, even though our school district was legislated into IDJJ. This gives the appearance that we have various noncompliance issues even though these locations are no longer technically or legally within SD#428. Apparently, these IDOC locations are being kept within our district in order to track them. Dr. Swanstrom suggested the IDOC sites be moved to adult education within the community college system. In response to Mr. Hott's inquiry regarding who sponsored the original IDJJ legislation, Director Friedenauer said it was Rep. Collins and Rep. Cullerton, and noted it was broad-based legislation that was developed in a short period of time, and does not have many needed details. Mr. Hott suggested we get information to them to help them understand our needs. Director agreed and indicated he would like to speak with the legislators this fall and provide them with a general framework for our top 2-3 legislative priorities. Dr. Swanstrom inquired about Prairie State testing for accountability purposes. Dr. Walls responded we are not required to offer this assessment at this time. Dr. Milton inquired about the percentage of special education students we serve. Dr. Walls responded that approximately 40% of our students are in special education. Director Friedenauer noted the IDJJ population is approximately 3300, including those on parole; and we have approximately 1250 youth in our custody. Of those 1250 youth, there are 850-900 in school, with an average age of 16.9 years. The average age of a youth on parole is 18 years. The youth in the Illinois system are much older than in other states. At this time, post-secondary education programs are offered only at IYC Harrisburg.

Among the good news, Dr. Walls reported that the IYC Chicago baseball team received free tickets to attend a Chicago White Sox baseball game. The youth baseball team was recently featured in a positive news article about the IYC Chicago facility.

Consent Agenda - None

Old Business – Director Friedenauer reported that Ms. Lourdes Montegudo is no longer a member of the board. We have one board member vacancy, and we are looking for diversity on this Board. He asked that members contact Dr. Walls with any recommendations.

New Business – As introduced at the beginning of the meeting, Director Friedenauer formally welcomed Dr. Milton as a member of the School District #428 Board of Education. Dr. Milton currently serves as the Superintendent of Springfield Schools.

Dr. Walls reported on the response received from the Illinois Association of School Boards to assist with our policy development, who indicated that annual membership dues are \$3,800. Dr. Walls has let them know that we could not afford this cost and has inquired about other arrangements since we are part of a state agency.

Dr. Walls reported that she has not received any further response from ISBE since we submitted our response to the audit. Members have been given copies of the audit response as part of today's meeting packet.

There was a discussion regarding the October meeting date conflict which led into a discussion regarding legislative issues and the fact that the fall veto session would be in progress by then. Director Friedenauer suggested canceling the October meeting and to conduct a special meeting in September. There was consensus among the members present to conduct a special

meeting at Springfield IDJJ central offices on Thursday, September 24, at 10:00 a.m. regarding specific legislative strategies. Director Friedenauer noted that he may invite members of the Juvenile Advisory Board to this meeting. Director Friedenauer and Dr. Walls will be meeting prior to September 24 to address the specifics for this meeting. A notice will be sent to all board members.

Regarding policy development, Dr. Walls noted that we have based our policies on the ISBE policies, as they most closely follow our situation, being a state agency. Mr. Hott also suggested we review other public school policies. Dr. Swanstrom indicated that their school policies are available at www.jths.org. Dr. Milton suggested talking with Larry Dirks at ISBE. There was consensus to move forward in this regard.

Director Friedenauer noted there was no need for a closed session at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, Director Friedenauer asked for a motion to adjourn the open session. Members of the board were invited to tour the IYC Kewanee facility immediately following adjournment. On a motion by Mr. Hott, seconded by Dr. Swanstrom, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lanée Walls
District #428 Superintendent