

UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Joan C. Sergent Instructional Resource Center
14201 Canal Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
September 13, 2010

Attending: C. Klenow, G. Klida, M. Templeton, D. Meyers, J. Prybys, R. Ross, C. Territo

1.-2. Meeting Call to Order

Dr. Klenow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Minutes

Motion by Klida, supported by Meyers, to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Christine M. Johns reported that from the moment students walked through school doors on opening day, our teachers went right to work and there was active instruction taking place in classrooms.

Dr. Johns reported that open houses have provided many opportunities to discuss the changes being made to further parent involvement and that one of the key messages at open houses this year is how parents play a direct role in student success and promoting our college culture. To enhance this role, the district is introducing more tools parents can use to support their children's academic performance. She stated that one of the more visible tools being introduced is the online Power School program. This system allows parents 24/7 access to information about their children. Parents can log into a secure site to view attendance as well as grades on recent quizzes, tests and assignments. The Power School program is available to all of our secondary parents. Through the course of the school year, the program will then be introduced at all of our elementary schools. Power School is offered to parents through a cooperative effort with the Macomb Intermediate School District and is a clear example of the consolidation efforts that the public is expecting from its schools.

Dr. Johns went on to report that digital media is another powerful parent communications tool the district has implemented to support student success. This can be seen on the district Web site which now has daily updates and links to new Utica Community Schools social media sites. The district use will these tools to not only discuss issues and celebrate successes, but to give parents tips and information on how to support student achievement at home. There will be a significant expansion in how these sites will be used to enhance learning over the next few weeks. The district will soon begin using a district-wide e-mail system to share tips, links, scholarship opportunities and important timelines that will be critical for parents to have an active role in promoting a college culture. New pages on the district Web site will allow parents to learn more about our expectations for students and to personally share stories and tips through a UCS Parent Blog. Dr. Johns stated that with the implementations of these efforts, the district is closer to realizing the third goal of the

district Indicators of Excellence that parent, business and community partnerships will be an integral part of student learning.

Dr. Johns stated that at the September 27th Board of Education meeting, the district will celebrate another community partnership, the annual Kiwanis backpack program . This fall the Sterling Heights Kiwanis donated approximately 450 backpacks to elementary schools in the district, demonstrating outstanding community support. The Kiwanis program shows the community's commitment that students have what they need to be successful.

Another example of this commitment is our school breakfast program, which was recently listed on the Michigan School Breakfast Challenge honor roll. This listing was in recognition of the district's efforts to make sure students begin each day ready to learn. She added that the district will receive recognition for these efforts at this month's Michigan Association of Schools Administrators' conference.

Dr. Johns asked Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, to appraise the Board of Education of recent action by the Michigan legislature. Ms. Eagen reported that the state transferred \$208 million from the School Aid Fund to community colleges. The transfer to community colleges was a budget "surplus" created when the state cut K-12 school funding by \$165 per-pupil in 2009 and \$154 per-pupil in 2010. Ms. Eagen said the K-12 cuts resulted in a loss to Utica Community Schools of \$4.3 million that will not be replaced.

Ms. Eagen added that if the proposed federal Edujobs bill (Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act) passes the Senate, it would provide the state with another round of one-time funding for its schools, as was the case with the 2009 American Recovery and Readjustment Act (ARRA). While the Edujobs funding would be helpful for the 2010-2011 school year, she said, it would push the structural deficit in school funding into 2012.

Dr. Johns reminded the Board of Education and community of the UEA Run and Fitness Walk being held on Sunday, September 19 at 9:30 a.m. at Stony Creek Metro Park and the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Excellence golf outing being held on Monday, September 20.

Dr. Johns concluded her report by reiterating that the revenue the state is calling a surplus exists only because of the legislature's cuts to K-12 education the last two years. She thanked the Board of Education, district staff and administration for their work to balance the district's 2010-2011 budget and stated that the district will need to remain fiscally conservative in 2010 as there are no changes at the state level to correct the school funding law. She stated that as long as there are no additional reductions by the state, the district should be fiscally "okay" this year.

5. Community Correspondence

Community Correspondence from Ms. Debbi Ringle was acknowledged.

6. Public Communication

There were no request for public communication.

7A. Community Education School Age Child Care License Waiver

Mr. Robert Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, reviewed information on the Community Education School Age Child Care Public Act 696 of 2002 which amended the Child Care Act to allow programs for school age children operated in and by a public school to request an exemption from the regulatory requirements of the Act. Mr. Van Camp reported that 25 elementary school buildings in Utica Community Schools provide School Age Child Care for children before and after school hours. The Department of Human Services – Office of Child and Adult Licensing has regulated these programs through the process of Child Care Licensing. To be eligible for an exemption, programs must meet the following criteria; be currently licensed or approved; have been in operation and licensed for a minimum of four years; not have been in substantial violation of the Act or Administrative rules during the past four years; have a resolution adopted by the Board of Education supporting the application for exemption.

The district School Age Child Care programs will follow the Department of Human Services Licensing Rules for Child Care Centers and the Model Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs in Michigan, as approved by the State of Michigan Board of Education.

Motion by Klida, supported by Ross, that the Board of Education adopts the participating resolution to allow our School Age Child Care programs to continue to be licensed with a waiver.

Mrs. Templeton called the roll.

All yeas: Klida, Ross, Territo, Prybys, Meyers, Klenow, Templeton.

Motion carried.

7B. Resolution Authorizing Issuance of 2010 Refunding Bonds

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, reviewed the 2010 Refunding Bonds and stated a portion of the 1999 and 2001 School Building and Site Bonds are eligible for refunding. The resolution was prepared by Miller Canfield, Bond Counsel, with parameters established by Stauder, Barch & Associates, Financial Advisors, to authorize the refunding in an amount not to exceed \$17,250,000. The purpose of this transaction is to achieve interest savings resulting in an overall savings to the Utica Community Schools taxpayers.

She stated that the delegating resolution authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance to complete the refunding once parameters are met, allowing for flexibility as market timing is critical.

Motion by Territo, supported by Ross, that the Board of Education approve the attached Resolution Authorizing Issuance of 2010 Refunding Bonds.

Ms. Amanda Van Dusen of Miller Canfield clarified for the Board of Education and community that the refunding of bonds is due to the market being volatile and the amount of debt to be paid. The resolution allows the delegation to get the best savings for the district.

Mrs. Templeton called the roll: All yeas: Territo, Ross, Prybys, Meyers, Klenow, Klida, Templeton

Motion carried.

8A. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Education YES!

Dr. Mary Johnston, Executive Director of Innovations, Federal and State Programs and Curriculum presented the report reflecting the current status of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Ed YES! grades issued by the Michigan Department of Education for Utica Community Schools for 2009-2010.

No Child Left Behind requires that AYP be calculated for all public schools and for each school district. Schools must reach the target achievement goal based on the MEAP or the MME in English language arts and mathematics. This past year (2009-2010) the targets were:

Elementary	Math 65%	English Language Arts 69%
Junior High	Math 54%	English Language Arts 66%
High School	Math 55%	English Language Arts 71%

Dr. Johnston stated that these targets must be met by the general population of students as well as any subgroups that emerge for the building. Subgroups are defined as 30 or more students in any of these groupings: students with disabilities, English language learners, ethnicity and economically disadvantaged. If a school does not make the target, they can still make AYP through safe harbor. Safe harbor means that the school has reduced the percentage of students in the nonproficient category of achievement by 10 percent. She reported that all UCS schools met AYP status. As a district, Utica Community Schools met AYP although at the high school level we did not make the benchmark in the subgroup students with disabilities in math and reading.

Dr. Johnston continued her report on Education YES! and stated that grades are calculated on reading, mathematics, science and social studies scores for the past three years on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) or Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The Indicators of School Performance, which is a school's self-assessment of current performance is also given a score and included in the calculation of a grade.

She reported that in terms of a composite grade, Utica Community Schools had 36 grades of an A, four grades of a B and one grade of C. All of our elementary schools received an A grade. At the secondary level, Stevenson High School, Davis Junior High, Jeannette Junior High and Utica High School received B's and Utica Center for Applied Learning received a C grade. All the rest of the secondary buildings received composite grades of an A.

Comments from the Board of Education were entertained. The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

8B. Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

Dr. Mary Johnston, Executive Director of Innovation, Federal and State Programs and Curriculum, presented the Michigan Merit Exam Spring 2010 Results. This was the fourth year the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) was administered. The MME contains the ACT, Work Keys and Michigan developed components. It assesses students in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. All high school juniors were assessed in March 2010.

The report highlighted Utica Community Schools assessment results and comparisons to state and county averages. Since this is the fourth year for test administration, reports are able to reflect trend data and comparisons to state and county results. Subgroup data for students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students is also included.

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

9A. Changes in Certified Personnel

Mr. David Rilley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented the changes in certified personnel since the August 23 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approves the changes in certified personnel as presented.

Motion carried.

10A. Schedule of Bills Report

Mrs. Jill Tomyn, Budget Director, reviewed the schedule of bills for the General Fund.

GENERAL FUND – SPECIAL – August	\$14,204,326.38
GENERAL FUND (08/25/09)	\$611,427.47
GENERAL FUND (09/01/09)	\$280,213.75
GENERAL FUND (09/08/09)	\$1,978,799.58
	\$17,074,767.18

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

10B1. Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP)/MSU Contract

Mr. Robert Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, reviewed the Foreign Language Assistance Program grant that the Utica Community Schools received from the U.S. Department of Education. The school district has partnered with the Confucius Institute at Michigan State University. In addition to providing a Mandarin Chinese teacher, the Confucius Institute provides products and services related to the Mandarin Chinese program taught at Oakbrook Elementary School. Mr. Van Camp stated that the contract describes the range of services provided, including teacher recruitment and placement, professional development, and curricular materials essential for the successful operation of our Mandarin Chinese program and fulfills one of the goals of the Foreign Language Assistance Program grant.

Motion by Klida, supported by Templeton, that the Board of Education approve the Michigan State University/Confucius Institute contract effective September 14, 2010 through August 30, 2011.

Motion carried.

10B2. Voluntary Public School Choice Program Renewal (Metis)

Mr. Robert Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, reviewed the Letter of Agreement with Metis Associates, Inc. The contract sets forth the provisions for Metis to provide external evaluation services to Utica Community Schools as the fiscal agent for the tri-district consortium (Armada, Mount Clemens and Utica Community Schools). This partnership in the Voluntary Public Schools of Choice Grant proposes to retain Metis Associates, Inc. to conduct an evaluation for the fourth and fifth year of the grant. The term of the contract with Metis Associates will begin in September 2010 for the fourth year through August 2011 and September 2011 for the fifth year through August 2012.

Motion by Territo, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approves the contract beginning in September 2010 for the fourth year through August 2011 and September 2011 for the fifth, and final year, through August 2012 of the Voluntary Public Schools of Choice Grant with Metis Associates for the amounts of \$130,467 and \$133,328 respectively.

Motion carried.

10B3. Reliance Communication, Incorporated

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, stated that Utica Community Schools has utilized a notification system to inform parents of building closures, important events, and to deliver other messages via phone for the last two years. Due to the contract expiration for the previous service, competitive services were reviewed.

Ms. Eagen reviewed the bid submitted by the SchoolMessenger service from Reliance Communications Inc., which provides features and functionality that were not available from the previous vendor. The district was also able to obtain discounted pricing from Reliance Communications Inc., to provide the service at a lower total cost than the current

vendor. The cost of the service will be based on a per-pupil cost. The district has negotiated a five-year contract with no price increases over the life of the contract, while retaining the flexibility to cancel the contract at the end of each school year.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education approve the award of Notification Services to Reliance Communications Inc. at the quoted per-pupil cost of \$1.90 per student and authorize district administration to enter into a five (5) year contract with Reliance Communications Inc. through June 30, 2015.

It was stated by Ms. Eagen that the district will see a savings of \$50,000.

Motion carried.

10B4. Musical Instrument Replacement

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, reviewed competitive bids received from five vendors for the purchase of replacement band instruments to service the students participating in the secondary instrumental music program.

The instruments to be purchased were determined based on the needs at the buildings. The purchase of these items will be made from the district's general fund.

Motion by Klida, supported by Territo, that the Board of Education accept the bids submitted in the amounts indicated.

VENDOR	AMOUNT
A & G Central Music	\$3,365.00
Marshall Music Company	\$26,565.00
Hewitt's Music, Inc.	\$14,171.21
TOTAL AWARD	<u>\$44,101.21</u>
LESS: TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE	\$1,560.00
NET OVERALL AWARD	<u>\$42,541.21</u>

Motion carried.

10B5. Workers Compensation - Claims Service Provider

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, stated the claims service administration has been provided by Broadspire for 46 years and at this time it is necessary to renew the Broadspire contract for a two-year period for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 years. The service fee for the two-year period is \$36,942 per year. This fee represents an overall savings from the previous contract due to a decrease in the claims counts.

Motion by Territo, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approves Broadspire the claims service provider for two years beginning September 2010 and ending in August 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$36,942 per year.

Motion carried.

10B6. Workers Compensation - Excess Insurance Coverage

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, stated that Utica Community Schools has been self-insured in the area of Worker's Compensation for more than 46 and a component of being self-insured is obtaining excess insurance coverage to cover significant work related injury claims.

She reported that quotations were requested by the claims service provider, Broadspire, for the excess coverage portion of our workers' compensation program. Midwest Employers Casualty Company submitted the lowest quote. Midwest is the current carrier for excess insurance coverage and has been the district's carrier for the past 13 years. The cost of the recommended excess coverage at the \$400,000 retention level per occurrence is an annual cost of 3.8% of the estimated normal premium, calculated to be \$45,378 per year. This will commence for the 2010-2011 school year and will remain the same for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approves Midwest Employers Casualty Company as the Excess Insurance carrier for two years beginning September 2010 and ending August 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed 3.8% of the estimated normal premium at \$400,000 retention level per occurrence.

Motion carried.

11. Board items

No Board items were presented.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Territo, supported by Klida, that the meeting adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Michele Templeton, Secretary
Utica Community Schools Board of Education