

UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Switzer Elementary
53200 Shelby Road
Shelby Township, MI 48316
February, 14, 2011

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

Absent: C. Klenow, G. Klida

1.-2. Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Territo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance recited by Switzer first grade students.

3. Minutes

Motion by Meyers, supported by Ross, that the minutes be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

4. Switzer Elementary Student and Staff Presentation

Dr. Christine Johns thanked the Switzer first graders and welcomed the Switzer community. She extended her appreciation to Mr. Jake Palmer and staff for the opportunity to visit classrooms.

Mr. Robert Monroe, Executive Administrator of Schools, began the program by introducing Mr. Jake Palmer, Principal of Switzer Elementary School. The Switzer Staff and Students demonstrated how Switzer Elementary is delivering an exemplary educational program for all students, which clearly reflects Utica Community Schools goal, "Every Child Achieves."

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Christine Johns, Superintendent, stated that Utica Community Schools is recognized for setting a standard of excellence at national and state levels. She remarked that this recognition crosses all levels of this organization, from our exemplary programs, to our outstanding students and staff, to the level of services we provide our community. She announced that the district's most recent national recognition is one that deals with the area of fiscal accountability. The Center for American Progress, a non-partisan research group, issued a report that found our community is receiving a positive return on its educational investment. The center spent a year studying testing data and expenditure information to determine educational productivity in the nation's schools. The center concluded that our district attains a high level of student achievement in relation to the amount of dollars spent on education.

The center study judged educational productivity in three ways, based on a six-step scale from lowest Return on Investment to highest Return on Investment. UCS was found to be at the highest levels among all Michigan schools. Despite the strong ratings, the measure did confirm the need to intensify efforts on the academic performance of English language learners, special education and low income students. Our goal has been and will continue to be to prepare all students for post secondary education. The center's report comes on the heels of two independent reports that cited strong fiscal practices in Utica Community Schools: a double A credit rating for our recent bond sale and the 2009-2010 fiscal audit.

She continued by stating that earlier this year, UCS was awarded a double A credit rating by Standard and Poor's as part of its successful \$14.2 million bond sale to fund construction projects. The credit rating reflected strong fiscal practices by UCS during a struggling economy. Plante Moran auditors earlier this year gave the district high marks for its strong fiscal practices at a time of increased scrutiny and standards. The audit also cited the high percentage of the district's fiscal budget dedicated to instruction and instructional support - 76 percent - as being among the highest for Michigan districts. In other words, district dollars are spent in the classroom.

Dr. Johns said that in preparation of the announcement of his state budget plan, the governor has been speaking about fiscal standards for state government. It is important for this community to know that these standards are met by its school district. For instance, a major concern of the governor's is that many local municipalities or school districts do not currently have 10 percent of their budgets in a fund equity – or emergency undesignated fund. Dr. Johns said that thanks to the hard work of this Board of Education, the district met this standard of fiscal responsibility. This work was also cited as a major factor for our double A credit rating.

Dr. Johns continued her report by stating that the UCS community has a tradition of supporting its schools with the expectation that we are an effective and efficient organization. It is a trust the district takes very seriously and it also makes the type of recognition the district receives for its fiscal practices that much more important. It is this type of support that helps prepare our graduates for success throughout their lives.

Dr. Johns next spoke about the Super Bowl, where UCS graduates performed on the nation's biggest stage. Nick McDonald and Frank Zombo were both members of the national champions Green Bay Packers. Dr. Johns said that it is her guess not many school districts can claim two NFL champions at the same time.

Dr. Johns stated that while it is impressive to watch our students on a national stage, it is even more impressive when our graduates perform at levels that are literally out of this world. Phil Hohnstadt, a 2008 graduate, is a member on the Michigan Technological University team that designed a satellite that will be launched into space. His team was handpicked by Air Force Research Laboratory to compete against 11 other universities nationwide for this honor.

The level of success our graduates attain all starts here; Nick and Frank developed their skills on our athletic fields. Phil developed his skills in the district's outstanding Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs.

Dr. Johns also pleased to report the results of another successful effort that prepares families for post-secondary options – the district's fourth annual Academic Blitz. In addition to Mr. Territo, Mrs. Klida and Mrs. Templeton attending, it's estimated that more than 1,000 parents and students attended on February 3rd. The Blitz helps our parents put together a game plan for success in our exemplary schools and after graduation. She thanked Mrs. Gonser, who coordinated the event, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee, the district administrative committee and Lisa McDill and Steven Beyer from Henry Ford II High School for hosting the event. She also recognized the many families who attended to learn more about how the decisions they are making today will ensure their children's future academic success. She was pleased to see the large number of sixth grade parents that filled the media center to learn more about our advanced math

offerings. She stated that this type of community interest shows why UCS continues to be a leader in STEM education.

Superintendent Johns concluded her report by saying the district will now focus on the Career Expo scheduled for Tuesday, March 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Eisenhower High School. The expo is an opportunity for parents to meet with more than 100 career professionals and discover how to use our high school offerings to support their student's interests.

6. Community Correspondence

No community correspondence was acknowledged.

7. Public Communication

There were no requests for public communication presented.

8A. Resolution - Principals Week

Dr. Johns, Superintendent, acknowledged that the week of February 14, 2011 has been declared Principals Week in Michigan. Principals Week is dedicated to acknowledging the contributions and dedication of Michigan school principals. Utica Community Schools is grateful to its dedicated group of principals for their ongoing work to educate the district's nearly 30,000 students. Utica Community Schools principals are instructional leaders who directly affect the performance of our teachers to provide quality educational experiences and guidance for students. They are committed to exemplary teaching and learning in order for our students to be prepared for success in the 21st Century. They help achieve this commitment by engaging the entire community to focus on each child's achievement, with the expectation that every student will pursue some type of post-high school educational endeavor.

Motion by Meyers, supported by Ross, that the Board of Education approve a resolution proclaiming the week of February 14, 2011 Principals Week in Utica Community Schools.

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

Motion carried.

8B. Resolution - Schools of Choice

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, presented the Schools of Choice Resolution. During the most recent Demographic and Enrollment update, held November 8, 2010, a review of the district's enrollment patterns over the past seven years was presented. The district has been able to offset some of the decline in residential enrollment through the School of Choice program with an enrollment of more than 1,000 students. Based on the November 8th report, it is recommended that we continue our Schools of Choice program for the 2011-2012 school year.

The Schools of Choice Resolution will allow students within the Macomb Intermediate School District in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade the opportunity to attend the Utica Community Schools, where seats are available, during the 2011-2012 school year. Once enrolled, these children may continue with the Utica Community Schools through graduation. The School of Choice enrollment period will be from April 29th through May 13, 2011.

Motion by Ross, supported by Templeton, that the Board of Education approve the Schools of Choice Resolution for the 2011-2012 school year.

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

Motion carried.

8C1-C3. 2010-2011 Budget Adjustment I

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance presented the Budget Adjustment I information developed by the Business Department and reviewed in detail by the Finance Committee. The adjustments presented were the administration's estimate of anticipated revenues and expenditures for 2010-2011.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education approve Budget Adjustment I Resolution for 2010-2011 for the General, Special Revenue, Debt Service, and Capital Projects Funds as submitted to take effect on February 14, 2011.

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

Motion carried.

9A. World Language Pathways

Mr. Robert Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning presented the World Language Pathways. Part of the Michigan Merit Curriculum that was enacted in 2006 requires a two-credit experience in a single World Language in order to graduate from high school. This requirement goes into effect for all students in the Class of 2016 [current 7th graders] and beyond. Within the requirement, there are new Credit/Experience Guidelines that all World Language programs must meet. The proposed World Language Pathways meet or exceed these specific guidelines and provide many means for all students to meet the coming graduation requirement.

Ms. Joyce Arbaugh, Director of Secondary Programs, reviewed the World Language Pathways document and publicly acknowledged all of the UCS foreign language teachers, and system-wide co-chairs. She stated the pathways document, the end of course common assessments, and the various parent and student communication strategies are all due to their hard work.

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

9B. Change in Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Mr. Carl Territo made the recommendation that the February 28, 2011, Board of Education meeting be canceled due to the mid-winter break.

Motion by Ross, supported by Prybys, that the Board of Education cancels the Monday, February 28, 2011 regularly scheduled meeting.

Motion carried.

10A1. Utica Education Association – Teachers

Dr. Johns made the recommendation that the committee listed below be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and to enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Administrative Bargaining Committee:

Bill Weber	Consultant, Spokesperson
Stephanie Eagen	Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance
Robert Monroe	Executive Administrator of Schools
Michael Sturm	Executive Director of Human Resources
Steven Pfannes	Principal
Sharon Coil	Principal

Resource Personnel:

Diane Szrafranski	Benefits
Bob Lusk	Attorney, Lusk & Albertson

Motion by Templeton, supported by Ross, that the Administrative Bargaining Committee, as presented, be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Motion carried.

10A2. Utica Skilled Trades Association

Dr. Johns made the recommendation that the committee listed below be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and to enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Administrative Bargaining Committee:

Michael Sturm	Executive Director of Human Resources, Spokesperson
Mark Davey	Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services
John Goike	Director of Maintenance
Jill Tomyn	Budget Director

Resource Personnel:

Administrative resource personnel will be contacted as needed.

Motion by Meyer, supported by Ross, that the Administrative Bargaining Committee, as presented, be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Motion carried.

10A3. Utica Federation of Teachers

Dr. Johns made the recommendation that the committee listed below be by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and to enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Administrative Bargaining Committee:

Michael Sturm	Executive Director of Human Resources, Spokesperson
Denise Mennucci	Director of Community Education
Evelyn Bihl	Controller
Christina Makarov	Supervisor of Utica Learning Academy

Resource Personnel:

Administrative resource personnel will be contacted as needed.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Ross, that the Administrative Bargaining Committee, as presented, be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Motion carried.

10A4. Transportation-AFSCME Local 1664

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, made the recommendation that the committee listed below be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and to enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Administrative Bargaining Committee:

Bob Lusk	Attorney, Lusk & Albertson, Spokesperson
Stephanie Eagen	Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance
Mark Davey	Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services
Michael Sturm	Executive Director of Human Resources
Jan Delboy	Director of Transportation

Resource Personnel:

Administrative resource personnel, will be contacted as needed.

Motion by Ross, supported by Meyers, that the Administrative Bargaining Committee, as presented, be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Motion carried.

10A5. Utica Paraprofessional Association

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, made the recommendation that the committee listed below be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and to enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Administrative Bargaining Committee:

Michael Sturm	Executive Director of Human Resources, Spokesperson
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Evelyn Bihl
Pat McKinnon
Sally Klatt

Controller
Executive Director of Special Services
Principal

Resource Personnel:

Administrative resource personnel will be contacted as needed.

Motion by Ross, supported by Meyers, that the Administrative Bargaining Committee, as presented, be appointed by the Board of Education and empowered to bargain, submit proposals, counter proposals and enter into a Tentative Agreement with this employee group.

Motion carried.

10B. Changes in Certified Personnel

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, reviewed the changes in certified personnel.

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

Motion carried.

11A. Financial Report - Part I

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, reviewed the schedule of bills in the General Fund Financial Report as of January 31, 2011.

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

11B. Schedule of Bills Report

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, reviewed the schedule of bills for the General Fund.

GENERAL FUND - SPECIAL	\$ 17,914,969.82
GENERAL FUND (01/26/11)	\$ 605,114.01
GENERAL FUND (02/02/11)	\$ 2,267,586.99
GENERAL FUND (02/09/11)	\$ 532,940.96
General Fund	\$ 21,320,611.78

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

12. Board Items - Executive Session

Motion by Meyers, supported by Ross, to move into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations.

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

No action was taken in Executive Session. Mr. Territo resumed the regular board of education meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Mr. Territo stated during the recent Federal Relations Network Conference, he attended sessions regarding legislation, reauthorizing No Child Left Behind and had the opportunity to meet in the offices of Senator Levin, Senator Stabenow and Congresswoman Miller.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was the keynote speaker at the Federal Relations Network Conference, where he told attendees that he will do everything in his power to ensure that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is reauthorized by next school year. Other priorities mentioned by Secretary Duncan included the creation of better labor-management relations, raising academic standards and giving every child a well-rounded education.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Territo, supported by Ross, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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