

UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Joan C. Sergent Instructional Resource Center
14201 Canal Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
May 23, 2011

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

1.-2. Meeting call to order

Dr. Klenow called the meeting to order followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Minutes

Motion by Meyers, supported by Prybys, to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

4A. Utica Community Schools Chess Club

Mr. Robert Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, introduced the Utica Community Schools Chess Club. Chess is a life-long learning endeavor which teaches important skills of problem-solving, logic, and decision-making skills.

The Board of Education recognized students who earned honors at the Michigan Elementary Team Scholastic Chess Championships, the Michigan Junior High Team Chess Championships and the 16th annual UCS Chess Tournament. At the elementary level, the Board honored nine Roberts Elementary students for earning honors at the state competition. At the Junior High School level, the Board honored one student from Eppler Junior High School and five students from Roberts Elementary for earning gold, silver or bronze medals at the state tournament. From the annual 16th annual UCS tournament, 15 students were honored for first, second or third place finishes. The students were from Schuchard, Switzer, Roberts, Malow, Eppler, Utica Academy for International Studies, and Stevenson High School.

Comments from the Board of Education were entertained.

4B. Math Olympiad

Mr. Van Camp introduced the Math Olympiad recognition.

Students were honored from this year's UCS Math Olympiad, held April 27 at Havel Elementary. Students from Messmore, Beck and Plumbrook were recognized as overall tournament champions. The Board honored team event winners from Beck, Crissman and Messmore. More than 30 UCS students were also honored for individual awards.

Comments from the Board of Education were entertained.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Christine M. Johns provided an overview of a number of district successes from the previous two weeks. She began with the third annual Arts and Idols Gala. More than 750 community members came together at the scholarship event to raise funds for UCS students. This year, 17 UCS seniors received \$1,000 scholarships through the program.

She continued by recognizing a Stevenson junior who recently became the state champion of the Oratorical Speech Contest sponsored by Optimists International. His speech was particularly unique because it centered on his experiences as a person with autism.

She next reported that Graebner Elementary special education teacher Kristina Cottrell received the "Making a Difference" award sponsored by the Macomb Intermediate School District. She was recommended for this award by parent Shelliah Mathis, who spoke about the difference Mrs. Cottrell made in the life of her son with autism.

Dr. Johns stated that the AdvancePath Academy for alternative education students has tripled the percentage of high school graduates from its program this year. In addition, 100 percent of these graduates are committed to continuing their education at community college or through a certificate program.

She acknowledged the success of district schools in the Science Olympiad. At the Macomb County tournament, 10 of the top 11 teams were from Utica Community Schools. This performance demonstrates the district's leadership in promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Dr. Johns stated that while the district continues to demonstrate success, the State of Michigan continues to reduce funding for local public schools. She introduced Ms. Eagen to update the community on the district's current financial position.

Ms. Eagen presented an overview of the district's financial position as a result of state budget cuts and increasing costs. She stated that the Utica Community Schools Foundation allowance in 2008-2009 was \$7,807 and current funding is less than the 2005-2006 Foundation allowance of \$7,414.

She reviewed key 2012 budget factors that included expenditure assumptions of the mandatory retirement cost increase estimated at 22.78%, a 10.3% increase from 20.66% and an estimated at 3.6 million increase healthcare costs.

An overview of the presentation is available on the district Web site at:
<http://www.uticak12.org/downloads/budget/1011/FinancialUpdate52311.pdf>

Dr. Johns thanked Ms. Eagen for the update and stated that while the district continues to work with state lawmakers, the district is at a point where difficult decisions need to be made. With the state reductions nearly in place, it is clear that UCS will have to make significant additional changes to reduce expenditures. The district will continue to demonstrate the UCS tradition of fiscal responsibility that our community expects.

She said we are Utica Community Schools – a demonstrated leader in public education. The alternative to not addressing our fiscal responsibility is an emergency financial manager who could make decisions without consideration of the community's input, values or needs.

Dr. Johns concluded her report by saying that the challenges we face are the same ones that face our municipalities, our neighborhoods and our families. The staff and parents that make up Utica Community Schools have a history of working together. As we have so many times in the past, we are going to put aside our frustration with the school funding process and continue to focus on our students within the constraints of fiscal realities and, as always, we will provide the stability our students need in the face of uncertainty.

6. Community Correspondence

No community correspondence was acknowledged.

7. Public Communication

No requests for public communication were presented.

8A. Macomb Intermediate Biennial Election Resolution Designating Electoral Representative

Board of Education president Dr. Carol Klenow reviewed the Macomb Intermediate Biennial Election Resolution Designating Electoral Representative and stated that on May 10, 2011 Carmella Sabaugh, Macomb County Clerk, determined John Bozymowski, Max McCullough and Jason Davidson as eligible candidates for the two (2) vacancies on the MISD Board of Education.

Dr. Klenow made the recommendation that the Board of Education approve the resolution designating Mr. Carl Territo as the electoral representative of the Board for the MISD Biennial Election Meeting and electoral body, and that the designated representative is directed to cast a vote on the first ballot on behalf of this Board for John Bozymowski and Max McCullough as eligible candidates for the two (2) vacancies on the MISD Board of Education. Dr. Robert Ross was appointed as an alternate.

Motion by Klida, supported by Ross, that the Utica Community Schools Board of Education adopt the Resolution to Designate an Electoral Representative for the June 6, 2011 MISD Biennial Election.

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

Motion carried.

9A1. English Language Arts Units

Mr. Van Camp reviewed the proposal from the Teaching and Learning Department on the MISD Units for Secondary English Language Arts Teaching and Learning Department.

The Michigan Board of Education has published content expectations for High School English Language Arts. There are ninety-one expectations in four strands: Writing, Speaking, and expressing; Reading, Listening, and Viewing; Literature and Culture; and Language. In addition, simultaneously, we are also responsible for the Common Core Standards in ELA; the first state assessment is scheduled for 2014.

The Common Core Standards include a content area-specific section for ELA grades 6–12. Within this section are 32 Career and College Readiness Anchor Standards in four strands: Reading (Literature and Informational Text), Writing (Argumentative, Explanatory, and Narrative), Language (Conventions and Vocabulary), and Speaking and Listening. These standards are further defined in grade-specific standards which detail end of the year expectations for each grade.

Motion by Meyers, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approves the English Language Arts MISD Units proposals for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion carried.

9A2. Math, Science and Technology (MST) Discrete Math Course

Mr. Van Camp reviewed the proposal from the Teaching and Learning Department on the year long course proposal for MST Intro to Discrete Math.

Freshmen students entering UCMST have not all completed the same mathematics courses. Some students entering UCMST have completed their requirements of Algebra I and Accelerated Geometry. Others have

completed only Algebra I. Those students who have completed Accelerated Geometry prior to entering UCMST need a course of study beyond the scope and sequence of the state required mathematics courses. This course of study would allow students who have already completed Geometry to continue with the objectives of Algebra II and also experience a branch of mathematics which contains material that is not a prerequisite for Analysis or Calculus yet contains rigorous topics in mathematics.

Students, who have already completed Algebra I and Accelerated Geometry prior to entering UCMST, will have an opportunity to have a challenging mathematics experience beyond the traditional topics found within Algebra II and Precalculus.

The field study, UCMST Discrete Math course has concluded. The request is that the proposed math course will be officially adopted and implemented during the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approve the Math, Science and Technology (MST) Discrete Math Course for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion carried.

9A3. Foundations of Calculus Course

Mr. Van Camp reviewed the proposal from the Teaching and Learning Department for a one semester course proposal for Foundations of Calculus.

Sophomores at UCMST have successfully completed the requirements of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. In addition, pre-calculus topics have been studied. Juniors at UCMST currently study all of the content found in the current course description for the year long course, Foundations of Calculus, in one semester rather than one year. However, a one semester course covering all of the content is not offered in the Course Curriculum Guide. Rather than have the transcript indicate that a student has completed semester A of a full year course, the request is to create a one semester course. This will more accurately indicate that all of the content has been covered in one semester rather than half of the content during a semester. By offering a semester course (1/2 credits), time is made available to take Advanced Placement Statistics during the second semester. This combination will position students for success in AP Calculus BC and will help to diversify the curriculum by allowing time to study Advanced Placement Statistics.

The field study, Foundations of Calculus, a one semester course, has concluded. The request is that the proposed math course will be officially adopted and implemented during the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion by Klida, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education approves the Foundation of Calculus Course for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion carried.

9A4. Advanced Placement Statistics Course

Mr. Van Camp reviewed the proposal from the Teaching and Learning Department on a one semester course proposal for Advanced Placement Statistics.

Currently, juniors at UCMST study all of the content, Foundations of Calculus, during one semester rather than one year. During second semester UCMST juniors study topics addressed in AP Calculus AB. The students do not prepare for the AP Exam and do not have the potential to receive college credit for the AP Calculus AB course. In their senior year all UCMST students take AP Calculus BC. Under the existing plan, students study Calculus for two full years. AP Calculus AB (Calculus 1) is not a prerequisite for AP Calculus BC (Calculus 1 and 2).

The only Advanced Placement Statistics course that is offered in the UCS Course Curriculum Guide is a full year course. All of the topics in the full year course Advanced Placement Statistics can be addressed in a one semester course (1/2 credit). Students will prepare for the Advanced Placement Statistics Exam and have the opportunity to earn up to four college credits.

The plan of taking Foundations of Calculus during the first semester and Advanced Placement Statistics during the second semester will position students for success in AP Calculus BC and will help to diversify the mathematics experience and allow students to study topics that are rigorous and relevant.

The field study, Advanced Placement Statistics, was held during the second semester of the 2010-2011 school year. The request is that the proposed one semester AP Statistic math course will be officially adopted and implemented during the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion by Klida, supported by Templeton, that the Board of Education approve the Advanced Placement Statistics Course for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion carried.

9B. Announcement of Public Hearing -Budget and School Breakfast Program

Ms. Eagen stated that each school district must hold a public hearing on its budget before it may be adopted by the Board of Education. Prior notice of the hearing must be published six or more days before the public hearing.

The Tax Limitation Amendment (Headlee) requires that if the total value of existing taxable property in the school district increases faster than the General Price Index from one year to the next, the maximum authorized operating tax rate must be reduced by a Millage Reduction Fraction, unless reversed by a vote of the electorate. The calculation excludes additions and losses from the tax rolls for that year. For 2011-2012 the district is not affected, however, the effects of 2005-2006 will continue to influence the revenue. This item will be addressed at the Budget Hearing.

The authorizing resolutions adopting the budget for 2011-2012 and the property tax millage rate to support the budget must be adopted within ten days after the hearing.

These resolutions will be presented at the regular Board of Education meeting on June 13, 2011.

The school code was amended by Public Act 335 to include language mandating that all public K-12 school districts operate a school breakfast program. The law provides relief from this mandate for those school districts that have a percentage lower than 20% of its students classified as needy in each school.

The district will need to operate a breakfast program in 26 schools in fiscal year 2011-2012 since they will meet the this requirement. The hearing provides a forum concerning the interest and need for breakfast programs at any of the other Utica Community Schools.

Motion by Klida, supported by Ross, that the Board of Education publish a Notice of a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, June 13, 2011 at the Joan C. Sergent Instructional Resource Center at 6:30 p.m. on the following topics:

BUDGET 2011-2012

General Operating, Debt Service, School Service and Capital Projects Funds and the millage rate to support the budget.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

In accord with Public Act 335 the Breakfast Mandate, comments from parents and students will be solicited regarding Utica Community Schools participation in the Breakfast Program.

Motion carried.

10A. Changes in Certified Personnel

Ms. Eagen presented the changes in certified personnel since the May 9, 2011 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.

10B. Reduction in Teaching Staff – Hand Carry

Ms. Eagen stated that the State has continued to experience financial difficulty; this is exacerbated by the transfer of K-12 education funding from the State School Aid Fund to community colleges and universities. The result is a significant reduction in per pupil funding. This combined with other cost pressures such as the state mandated retirement rate have contributed to an operating deficit.

Though there may be some relief in the per pupil funding reduction as the State budget is finalized, it does not appear to be enough to generate sufficient revenue to meet the estimated district expenditures. In order to develop a budget leading to compliance with the uniform budgeting and accounting act, and given the risk to the community as a result of the new emergency financial manager act, it is necessary for the expenditures to be reduced.

As a means of reducing costs, a recommendation is presented to reduce teaching personnel for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion by Ross, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approves the attached resolution as submitted.

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

Additional information on the reductions was provided on this link:
http://www.uticak12.org/districtinfo/di_business.asp?tabid=1

Motion carried.

10C. Reduction in Administrative and Central Office Staff – Hand Carry

Ms. Eagen stated that consistent with the overall cost reduction strategy to bring spending in line with available revenue, permanent reductions are recommended in the administrative and central office support services for the 2011 – 2012 school year. These reductions will be incorporated into the 2011-2012 budget.

Motion by Meyers, supported by Templeton, that the Board of Education approve the recommendations as presented.

Motion carried.

11A. Financial Report - Part II

Ms. Eagen reviewed with the Board Part II of the Financial Report for Utica Community Schools as of April 30, 2011.

Part II reports on the financial status of the Capital Projects, Enrichment, Trust and Agency and Internal Service.

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

11B. Schedule of Bills Report

Ms. Eagen reviewed the schedule of bills for the General Fund.

GENERAL FUND (05/11/11).....	\$ 758,494.38
GENERAL FUND (05/18/11).....	\$ 436,073.85
General Fund Total	\$ 1,194,568.23

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

11C1. Math, Science and Technology Discrete Math Textbook

Mr. Van Camp stated that the Teaching and Learning Department is presenting a year long course proposal for MST Introduction to Discrete Math.

Students, who have already completed Algebra I and Accelerated Geometry prior to entering UCSMST, will have an opportunity to have a challenging mathematics experience beyond the traditional topics found within Algebra II and Precalculus.

A committee of the system wide co-chairs and MST teachers have examined and evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of each text. Teachers piloted both textbooks and have agreed that the textbook for Introduction to Discrete Mathematics: Finite Mathematics: An Applied Approach, 11th edition by Michael Sullivan, published by Wiley Publishing was more rigorous and references real-world application problems. The level of rigor is appropriate for students attending UCMST.

Motion by Klida, supported by Templeton, that the Board of Education approve the adoption of Finite Mathematics: An Applied Approach textbook for Math, Science and Technology (MST) Discrete Math in the amount of \$10,778.91.

Motion carried.

11C2. English Language Novels

Mr. Van Camp reviewed competitive bids received from seven vendors for English Language Arts Novels. The Michigan Board of Education has published content expectations for High School English Language Arts. There are ninety-one expectations in four strands: Writing, Speaking, and Expressing; Reading, Listening, and Viewing; Literature and Culture; and Language. Rather than dividing the ninety-one expectations among the four years of high school, every year students would work on increasingly advanced levels of the same expectations. The state recommends that each year the students use literature to achieve a particular ‘disposition’ or perspective. In addition, we must consider the Common Core Standards include a content area-specific section for ELA grades 6–12. Within this section are 32 Career and College Readiness Anchor Standards in four strands: Reading (Literature and Informational Text), Writing (Argumentative, Explanatory, and Narrative), Language (Conventions and Vocabulary) and Speaking and Listening. These standards are further defined in grade-specific standards which detail end of the year expectations for each grade.

The novel list completes the need for novel purchases for grades 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12. These novels meet part of the reading requirements of the English ELA High School Content Expectations and Common Core State Standards.

Motion by Klida, supported by Prybys, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of English Arts Novels in the unit prices as attached.

Motion carried.

11C3. Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Contract

Mr. Van Camp presented the recommendation for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) contract and stated AVID is a college readiness system designed to increase the number of students who will enroll in four-year college or post secondary institutions. AVID targets students in the academic middle who have the desire to go to college and willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. AVID students are enrolled in the toughest classes, such as Advanced Placement or Honors classes, and receive support in an academic elective class called AVID which is taught within the school day by a trained AVID teacher. In the accelerated elective class, AVID students receive support through a rigorous curriculum and ongoing, structured tutorials. AVID elective teachers support these students by providing academic training, managing their tutorials, working with other faculty and parents, and helping students develop long-range academic and personal plans.

The funding for this proposal will be from two grants, Section 31A of the State School Aid Act and Title 2A of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Motion by Klida, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education approves the AVID contract for \$37,014.65 from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Motion carried.

11C4. Food Service Equipment

Mr. Mark, Davey, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, reviewed competitive bids received from five vendors for the purchase of snack line equipment to be used at Eisenhower and Ford II High Schools. This equipment will replace original equipment at these buildings and will improve efficiencies for both students and food service staff. The serving line will feature self-serve equipment with improved storage capacity, better lighting and a more contemporary design.

This purchase will be paid for using Food Service Funds. The district has purchased equipment from the recommended vendor in the past.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Ross, that the Board of Education award the purchase of snack line equipment to Stafford-Smith in the amount of \$98,000.00.

Motion carried.

C5. Playground Soft Surface Material

Mr. Davey reviewed competitive bids received from three vendors for the purchase of Soft Surface Material. This product will be ordered in bulk quantities and shipped to the Auxiliary Services Facility and will be delivered to the buildings to replenish existing soft surface material as needed.

Motion by Ross, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education award the purchase of Playground Soft Surface Material to Michigan Bark Products, Inc. based on the unit price of \$14.04 per yard through June 30, 2012.

Mr. Davey explained this is a general fund expenditure and the wood chips are a safety item around playground equipment.

Motion carried.

11D. Construction Bid - Training and Development Center Renovations

Mr. Davey stated that at the regular Board of Education Meeting on May 9, 2011 the Board of Education approved bids for renovation work at the Training and Development Center. At that time, the General Trades category was still being reviewed. The evaluation of the General Trades category has now been completed.

Motion by Ross, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education accept the bid from A.F. Bellisario, Inc for the General Trades category in the amount of \$48,965.00, for renovation work at the Training and Development Center site.

Motion carried.

12A. Executive Session - Negotiations

Motion by Meyers, supported by Klida to go into executive session at 8:21 p.m.

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

Dr. Klenow resumed the regular Board of Education meeting at 8:48 p.m. No action was taken in executive session.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Meyers, supported by Klida, to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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