

**NORTH CLAY COMMUNITY UNIT #25 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2009**

A special meeting was called by President of the North Clay Board of Education, Darren Bailey, to be held at the North Clay CUSD #25 Unit Office, Louisville, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of:

1. Call to Order by the President
2. Roll Call
3. Closed session for the purpose of:  
The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, security, or dismissal of specific employees of the district 5 *ILCS 120/2© (1)*.
4. Strategic Planning
5. Open
6. Adjournment

President Bailey called the meeting of the North Clay CUSD #25 Board of Education to order on Friday, January 30, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. in the North Clay Unit Office.

Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Troy Britton, Cecil Cochran, Christine Erwin, Tony Smith, Mike Worthey, and Darren Bailey.

Members absent: Sherry Porter

Others present were: Superintendent, Monty Aldrich, principals, Mrs. Carolyn Grahn, Mrs. Julie Healy, Assistant Principal, Terry Irvin, and Sp. Ed. Coordinator, Jakie Walker.

A motion was made by Worthey, seconded by Smith to enter closed session for  
a.. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, security, or dismissal of specific employees of the district 5 *ILCS 120/2© (1)*.


Ayes: Cochran, Erwin, Smith, Worthey, Britton, and Bailey. Nays: None. The motion carried.

The board met in closed session from 6:58 P.M. – 11:31 P.M.

A motion was made by Britton, seconded by Worthey, to enter open session. Ayes: Erwin, Smith, Worthey, Britton, Cochran, and Bailey. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Strategic Planning was not addressed as the closed session was lengthy. No motions were made after entering open session

President Bailey adjourned the meeting at 11:31 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**NORTH CLAY COMMUNITY UNIT #25 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2009**

The following Press Release was given after the Special Board Meeting on Friday, January 30, 2009:

**PRESS RELEASE**

The specific reason for the special board meeting was to prepare for upcoming budget reductions needed as the state has not come through with necessary and expected funding. The board needs to prepare for immediate reductions through the end of the 2008-09 fiscal year, and prepare and protect the district in the event funding continues not to be extended for the 2009-10 school year. THIS IS A STATE PROBLEM, NOT A DISTRICT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEM. Many school districts are in this situation, and many are in worse financial condition than we are. The state is still 3-4 months behind in sending us promised funding in several areas. There is no guarantee that we will see any of this money before the fiscal year ends. The financial woes of the state will continue to increase and it could be likely that we will end up without.

Numerous possibilities were discussed as far as reductions, including possibilities of increased certified and non-certified staff reductions until the district finds out whether funding will come through, a necessary revamping of transportation including possibilities of rerouting, limiting the number of bus stops, eliminating the midday Pre-K routes, reducing field trips, reducing athletic trips, and eliminating other trips unless entirely self-funded. There was also discussion on how to approach upcoming salary schedules and negotiations and how salary increases would be hampered by this lack of funding. With staff reductions, there are several scenarios to be considered. With some retirements and other unbalanced schedules, there are options of combining positions, balancing schedules, and possibly increasing some class sizes. Again, all of these are possibilities but nothing has been decided. Staff would appropriately be notified and be released at the proper time as needed by the district.

Athletics was discussed in great detail, including possibilities of eliminating athletics totally until funding returns. This could create a situation where athletics would have to be funded in another way to keep the programs. To fund what we currently have, it is around \$100,000 per year. There was also discussion on reducing all athletic schedules, eliminating some of the sports and activities that we currently have, and possibly charging individual activity fees for each participant to recoup some of the costs incurred. Immediate action will be to reduce the amount of athletic contests this spring in each sport.

NORTH CLAY COMMUNITY UNIT #25 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2009

The board directed the superintendent to allow all previously approved academic field trips, but to suspend any new requests. Any other field trips taken would have to be self-funded either by fundraising or by charging fees. This would include reimbursing the district for any substitute costs, bus driver costs, fuel, mileage, etc.

The state is currently not fully funding the Birth to 3 Grant and the Early Childhood (Pre-K) Grant. These grants combined total over \$150,000 and so far, the district has received around \$19,000. There was discussion about not renewing these grants if funding is not provided for the remainder of this year. This would cause a reduction in staff and would not provide Pre-K for district students. Other options and considerations included not providing the midday Pre-K routes. This would mean that if a child was in the morning class, a regular bus route could bring the child to school, but the student would have to be picked up by family to be transported home. The opposite scenario would apply in the afternoon. A third option was to continue the program but not provide any transportation.

Other grants involved include Title I and Title II funding, as well as other federal funding such as Special Education, Medicaid, etc. There is uncertainty until June as to whether adequate funding is provided in these programs. Therefore, it would be necessary to possibly honorably release staff until funded is secured.

There were numerous other considerations for financial reductions, and some of those items are currently being implemented. The board will meet again at the regular February 12 monthly board meeting to continue discussions. If any decisions are made in the future, appropriate staff will be notified before any other information is released. Again, these are all considerations and possibilities that are being discussed. Please understand this as it is, and not to be as decisions that have already been made.