

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Session ~ Intergovernmental Meeting**  
**October 30, 2006**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, hosted an intergovernmental meeting on October 30, 2006, at approximately 7:00 p.m. at Grove Elementary School, 1101 N. Airport Road, Normal, Illinois.

**1.0 Roll Call**

Unit 5 board members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Meta Mickens-Baker, John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, and Board Vice President Scott Lay. Members absent: Martin O'Connor and Steve Whittington.

City of Bloomington officials: Mayor Steve Stockton, Alderman Skip Crawford, Alderman Jim Finnegan, Alderman Allen Gibson, Alderman John Hanson, Alderman Kevin Huette, Alderman Mike Matjeka, Alderman Steven Purcell, Alderwoman Karen Schmidt, Deputy City Manager Brian Brakebill, Deputy City Manager Barb Adkins, Police Chief Roger Aiken, and Corporation Council Todd Greenburg.

Town of Normal officials present: Mayor Chris Koos, Councilman Jason Chambers, Councilman Jeff Fritzen, Councilman Parker Lawlis, Councilman Adam Nielsen, Councilwoman Sonja Reece, City Manager Mark Peterson, Assistant City Manager Pam Reece, and Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Fruin.

Village of Towanda officials present: Mayor Jim Arteman and Trustee Bryan Hodgson.

McLean County Board officials present: Diane Bostic, George Gordon, Bette Rackauskas, Matt Sorenson, and Mike Sweeney.

Others present: Superintendent Alan Chapman, Assistant Superintendent of Operations/Human Resources John Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, John Lutes, Meghan Leiseberg, Mike Trask, Tom Eder, Lisa Utkin, Chris Rhodes, Dominique Bolder, and others.

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3.0 Public Comments**

None.

**4.0 Introductions**

Lay welcomed and expressed appreciation to the elected and appointed officials from the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, Village of Towanda and the McLean County Board for being in attendance. Stockton thanked Unit 5 for the invitation to attend the meeting. On behalf of the City of Bloomington officials, Stockton suggested that another intergovernmental meeting be scheduled sometime after January to include Bloomington District 87, Unit 5 and elected officials from Bloomington and Normal. Lay noted that the Unit 5 ~ Local Government Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 5 at the IEA Univer Office and representatives from the Town of Normal, Unit 5, City of Bloomington and District 87 have been invited to attend. Chapman indicated that any future meetings of governing bodies would be welcomed by Unit 5. Mayor Koos also thanked Unit 5 for the invitation and commented that the Normal officials looked forward to the discussion.

**5.0 Reports/Discussion**

**5.1 Unit 5 Enrollment and Facilities Report**

Chapman presented the Unit 5 Enrollment and Facilities Report. (Attachment #1) Chapman reported on the most recent enrollment figures as of September 30, 2006. He noted that Unit 5 enrollment had exceeded 12,000 students. This represented a growth from last year of 3.71% and exceeded the District's projections from a year ago by 81 students. Total in-district enrollment by 2015 is predicted to be over 16,000. In response to a question, Chapman indicated that 48.3% of Unit 5 students have a Bloomington mailing

address and 44.4% have a Normal address. Chapman also discussed information regarding classroom needs projections from 2005-2006 through 2014-2015.

Discussion topics included but were not limited to:

- Bloomington census report and actual growth
- Unit 5 projections are based on historical trends
- Regional Planning Commission's county population projection
- Social factors relative to growth projections
- Relationship between housing and commercial growth regarding property taxes
- District funding ~ 67% from property tax, 23% from state government, and 10% from federal government and other sources
- Need for additional intergovernmental meetings and communication between the communities

### 5.2 Unit 5 Fund Reserves Report

Altenburg presented a report on the District's fund reserves. (Attachment #2) The report was based on preliminary data from the Unit 5 auditor, Gorenz and Associates, and the District's adopted budget for 2006-07. Altenburg noted the report also looks at how many months worth of expenditures the District has in reserve in each of the funds.

Discussion topics included but were not limited to:

- Funded and unfunded mandates
- Fund balances and building needs
- Possible additional building projects
- Operating fund issues associated with addition of new facilities
- Educational Fund ~ balanced budget for the past three years
- 2004-2005 budget reductions
- Student growth and an increase of staff

### 5.3 Impact Fees

Chapman provided information regarding impact fees (land dedication ordinances). He reported that there has been ongoing discussion with city managers from Bloomington and Normal regarding this issue.

Discussion topics included but were not limited to:

- Request for Town of Normal to increase the land value on which their school land dedication ordinance is based
- Request that the City of Bloomington consider some element of an impact fee
- Development in the two communities
- Need for communication between Town of Normal and City of Bloomington to develop a plan to benefit District 87 and Unit 5
- Elementary classrooms added after 1997 and projected needs by 2015
- Benefits of impact fees vs. land donations
- Impact fees should help defray cost resulting from growth
- Donations of land for school sites in the Grove at Kickapoo Creek and Cedar Ridge
- Affordability of housing
- Normal school land dedication ordinance accumulated \$1.2 million over a period of eight to nine years which almost exactly paid for the recent addition to Grove Elementary School
- Operational funds tax rate increase requires voter approval
- Approximately two-thirds of the District's total operating revenues come from local tax payments
- Cost of one elementary building ~ \$12 million to \$13 million range (600 students)
- Cost of one middle school building ~ \$33 million (900 students)
- Impact of growth on cities (streets, parks, services, schools, etc.)

### 5.4 School Safety and Security

Tom Eder, NCWHS principal, provided a recap of the emergency crisis drill held on October 6 at Normal Community West High School. Eder indicated that the McLean County Disaster Council coordinated the event with the high school and various local agencies. The Disaster Council consists of a group of law enforcement agencies and first responders that cooperate on a yearly basis to hold drills to test current procedures and review protocols. Organizational meetings were held to coordinate the drill starting in

August. Eder noted that local agencies involved included but were not limited to Normal Police Department, Bloomington Police Department, ISU Police, McLean County Sheriff's Department, BroMenn Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, and the American Red Cross.

Discussion included but was not limited to:

- Staff involvement
- Scenarios for the drill involved a shooting incident, involvement with hazardous materials, and a hostage situation
- Family notification challenges
- Debriefing meetings to be scheduled
- Importance of District Office to provide efficient emergency support
- District Office communication of information to parents/guardians
- Response team involving American Red Cross
- Building Crisis Team ~ ongoing review of Crisis Plan
- Proactive administration in working with law enforcement responders
- Procedures for determining lock-down status
- Sharing information learned with all Unit 5 administrators
- School Resource Officer's role
- Feasibility of metal detectors in Unit 5 buildings
- Promote idea of communication between students and staff for prevention of this type of situation

#### 5.5 Board/Council Member Questions and Comments

Discussion included but was not limited to:

- Utilization of building space
- Alternatives to building additional schools being studied by the District
- Cooperative programs between Unit 5 and Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department
- Suggestion to hire outside firm to evaluate challenges of growth and utilization of resources on both municipalities and school districts
- Possibility of using ISU class as a resource for evaluating growth challenges
- Consortium for Education Change
- Expectation of available teachers in ten years
- Homeschooling ~ District does not have much data concerning this topic

#### 6.0 **Announcements**

Unit 5/Local Government Committee ~ Mickens-Baker, chairman of the committee, announced that the committee will be meeting at noon on December 5 at the IEA Uniserve Office located at 304 S. Eldorado Road in Bloomington.

#### 7.0 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

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**Scott Lay, Board of Education President  
Community Unit School District No. 5  
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois**

**ATTEST:**

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**Meta Mickens-Baker, Board of Education Secretary**

**Approved Date:** November 8, 2006