

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
January 26, 2005

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on January 26, 2005, at approximately 6:30 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 West Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

- 1.0 Roll Call** Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Tom Ellsworth, Scott Lay, Meta Mickens-Baker, Martin O'Connor (entered at 6:39 p.m.), Steve Whittington, and Board President Rick Percy. Members absent: None.
- 2.0 Closed Session** Briggs moved, Lay seconded, to adjourn to closed session to consider the employment and compensation of specific employees, collective negotiating matters, pending litigation, review of closed session minutes, and sale of securities. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**
- Also present: Superintendent Dr. Alan Chapman, Assistant Superintendent of Operations/Human Resources John Pye, and Clerk of the Board Cindy Prescher.
- 3.0 Return to Public Session** At approximately 7:02 p.m., Briggs moved, Lay seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**
- Also present: Chapman, Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction Jim Braksick, Executive Director of Secondary Education Bruce Boswell, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Prescher, Meghan Leiseberg, Attorney Robert Fleming, Kevin Heid and Paul Brown of First Midstate Inc., Jimmy Munson, Mark Robinson, Elizabeth Troyer, Tom Eder, Teri Wilson, Jeff Fowler, Diana Coombs, Jodi Sherman, Herb Reichelt, Cathy Greene, Chuck Bartlett, Grethe Armstrong, Bob Munson, Karen Gibson, Jay Reece, Rich Schroeder, Julia Basting, John Puzauskas, Valerie Wahls, Chuck Hartseil, Beth Sennett, Bert Popejoy, Adam Denzer, and others.
- 4.0 Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 5.0 Focus on Students/ Good News Reports** The following were recognized:
Focus on Students
- Jimmy Munson, Fox Creek student
 - Elizabeth Troyer, NCWHS student
- Good News Reports
- Becky Hanson, Becky Nourie, and Lori Woodard, Northpoint teachers
 - Teri Wilson, NCWHS teacher
 - Jeff Fowler, Glenn custodian
- 6.0 Public Comments** None.
- 7.0 Action**
- 7.1 Consideration and Action on a Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the District
- Attorney Robert Fleming announced that bids had been received for the sale of the District's general obligation refunding bonds to be issued by the District pursuant to Article 19 of *The School Code* and that the Board would consider the adoption of a resolution providing for the issue of said bonds and the levy of a direct annual tax

sufficient to pay the principal and interest thereon. He reported that actual savings to the taxpayers would be \$10,709,086. He praised all involved in Unit 5 for their efforts toward the accomplishment of the bond sale in such a short time period.

Attorney Fleming presented the resolution for adoption. Briggs moved, Ellsworth seconded, to adopt a resolution providing for the issue of general obligation refunding bonds of the District and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest thereon. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Consideration and Action Authorizing an Escrow Agreement in Conjunction with the District's General Obligation Refunding Bonds

Attorney Fleming also announced that proceeds of the District's General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2005, would be used to refund outstanding bonds of the District and in connection therewith, it would be necessary for the District to enter into an escrow agreement with Heartland Bank and Trust Company, Bloomington, Illinois, and that the Board would consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing and directing the execution of such escrow agreement.

Attorney Fleming presented the resolution for adoption. Lay moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to adopt the resolution authorizing and directing the execution of an escrow agreement with Heartland Bank and Trust Company, Bloomington, Illinois, in conjunction with the District's general obligation refunding bonds. (Attachment #2) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Kevin Heid of First Midstate Inc. summarized the bond sale results. He reported that seven bids were received, with the range of the bids varying by less than .05 percent. Heid indicated that as a result of the sale, the debt of the District would be shortened by more than two years. It was also reported that the estimated tax rate for the Bond and Interest Fund would be around 62.93 cents each year. The rates for the new bonds are 3 to 4 percent and will replace bonds with rates of 5 3/8 to 7 3/8 percent. With the refunding, Heid remarked that annual tax abatements would no longer be necessary. It was explained that the money being saved was in Bond and Interest monies for bond payments—taxpayers would pay less over the life of the bond issue with this refunding.

President Percy expressed appreciation to Attorney Fleming and First Midstate Inc. for their parts in the refunding project.

8.0 Reports/Discussion

8.1 Unit 5 Citizens Advisory Council Study Committee Reports

CAC President Jodi Sherman and CAC Secretary Herb Reichelt reported that the CAC was charged with four study topics for this school year, which aligned with the Unit 5 Strategic Plan. Sherman stated that two of the study committees had concluded their research and presented their reports at the January meeting of the CAC. She indicated the CAC had approved the reports, and she was now presenting them to the Board for consideration. Sherman summarized the completed reports and recommendations on communications and revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions.

In regard to revenue enhancements, Sherman noted that during the past week the CAC was made aware of the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation. She commented that a presentation on the foundation would be presented to the CAC at a future meeting. In response to a board member question about whether the lengthy list of revenue/expenditure suggestions received during the Turning Point meetings were considered by the study committee, Sherman stated that the committee review those suggestions and recommended the ones they felt could be considered this year. She did not feel the committee was suggesting the other ideas not be considered. (Attachment #3) Lay expressed appreciation to Sherman, Reichelt and the study committees and noted that one of the recommendations regarding builder fees, would be discussed at an upcoming intergovernmental meeting with Town of Normal and City of Bloomington officials.

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Accept CAC Study Committee Reports

Chapman also expressed appreciation to the CAC officers present and the study committees and recommended the Board's acceptance of their two reports. Mickens-Baker moved, Lay seconded, to accept the CAC study committee reports on communication and revenue enhancement/expenditure reductions as presented, with appreciation to the CAC and study committees. (Attachments 4 & 5) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

9.2 Adopt Proposed Board Policy Revisions

- Policy 7.70 Attendance and Truancy
- Policy 7.330 Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access

Briggs moved, Ellsworth seconded, to adopt the board policy revisions 7.70 Attendance and Truancy and 7.330 Student Use of Buildings –Equal Access as proposed. (Attachment #5) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

9.3 Adopt Proposed Administrative Procedure 3.70-AP Succession Plan

Chapman commented that it was not usual for the Board to adopt administrative procedures, but policy 3.70 requires board approval of the succession plan procedure. Ellsworth moved, Lay seconded, to adopt administrative procedure 3.70-AP Succession Plan as proposed. (Attachment #6) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

9.4 Set Date of January 31, 2005 for Intergovernmental Meeting

Chapman reported that the administration had been working since early September to organize and plan an intergovernmental meeting with the Normal and Bloomington Councils. He indicated that a meeting and agenda were now in place for January 31. Chapman added that the meeting should be a productive time for the sharing of information and discussion of issues of common concern. Lay moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to set the date of Monday, January 31, 2005 for an intergovernmental meeting with Unit 5, the Town of Normal, and the City of Bloomington to be held at 7:00 p.m. at IWU Shirk Center in Bloomington. It was noted that an intergovernmental meeting was also held during the previous school year. Chapman reported that McLean County Board members were also invited to attend the meeting on the 31st. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** President Percy stated that Vice President Lay would chair the upcoming intergovernmental meeting, as he would be out of town.

10.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. He noted that the KJHS Pom Pon Squad request was included on the Consent Agenda, as the competition would take place on a Sunday. Mickens-Baker moved, Ellsworth seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

10.1 Approval of the Minutes

- January 12, 2005 Regular Meeting
- January 13, 2005 Public Meeting
- January 18, 2005 Special Meeting

10.2 Overnight Trips

- KJHS permission for Pom Pons Squad to participate in the Central Regional Competition in Riverton, Illinois on Sunday, February 13, 2005.

Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

11.0 Reports/Discussion

11.1 Board Representative Reports

Community Connections Committee (Mickens-Baker/Briggs) – Mickens-Baker reported that the committee met on January 20 and discussed feedback received on past

community/public meetings. Also discussed was the potential posting of additional information to the District's website; i.e., board meeting minutes. Mickens-Baker noted that posting of the complete board meeting agenda to the website could not be accomplished at this time due to technological issues. The committee also discussed several board policies. It was reported that the spring "Community Conversation" meeting would be held on April 11 at Sugar Creek Elementary School from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Additionally, it was noted that a public forum hosted by the NAACP would be held on February 7 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Wayman AME Church. Mickens-Baker reported that information from the public forum hosted by the Asian community was provided to building administrators and has been incorporated into School Improvement Plans. She noted that the vegetarian meal suggestion made at that meeting had already been discussed with the director of food service. More individuals were encouraged to sign up for Unit 5 Connect. The next Community Connections committee meeting will be held on February 15 at 4:00 p.m. at the Unit Office.

Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association (MVSEA) (Ellsworth) – Ellsworth reported that the MVSEA Council met on January 19 in El Paso, Illinois. He reported that Pye was elected council president. Also approved at the meeting were the IDEA and preschool grant proposals.

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (Briggs) – Briggs reported that Beyond the Books grant information was available on the Unit 5 website. She noted that \$26,000 would be awarded in grants to Unit 5 and District 87 educators for 2005-2006. This is \$4,000 more than in the past four years due to a determination by the Foundation's board of directors that 50 percent of all contributions received from payroll deductions would be added to the designated amount for grant awards. Grant applications are due on March 4. Awards will be announced in April. Briggs also reported that a strategic planning session would be held on March 5 for the purpose of establishing goals and objectives and fine-tuning program publicity and fundraising.

Strategic Planning Committee (Whittington) – Whittington thanked Chapman in advance for the Strategic Plan progress report he would be presenting later in the meeting. He also thanked the many staff members for their contributions toward the plan.

11.2 Testing Update

Braksick updated the Board on ISAT testing information for Grades 3, 5, and 8 and PSAE information for Grade 11 in reading and math for 1999-2004. Also provided was ISAT testing information for Grades 4 and 7 and PSAE information for Grade 11 in science. (Attachment #7) He noted that as the No Child Left Behind Act focuses on these three subject areas and due to state cutbacks in testing, writing and social studies are no longer part of the ISAT and PSAE testing. It was pointed out that the District scored above average in the areas tested. Braksick added that some areas would continue to be monitored and curriculum review would be ongoing. He also provided board members with a sample Interactive Report Card analysis of testing data used by the District's schools to help students. Boswell gave an example of how Kingsley Junior High School recently utilized its testing data to make revisions to its School Improvement Plan to help students improve in the area of math. It was noted that School Improvement Plans are available to parents at the District's schools and that parents are often part of the schools' School Improvement teams.

11.3 Professional Development Report

Cathy Greene, director of elementary education, reported on professional development in the District. She noted how administrators work together as a team to provide these opportunities for staff. Greene highlighted the District's No Child Left Behind professional development plan for the year, which she indicated was tied to the Strategic Plan, District Goals, and student achievement. She also reported that the District now has 24 action research teams that work on such areas as behavior issues to learning styles. Also, there are 3 administrative action research teams. Greene commented that while professional development funds had been reduced, she felt the District was doing a very

good job of meeting the professional development needs of teachers due to the current process and structure.

11.4 1st Draft: Proposed 2005-2006 School Calendar

Braksick presented the first draft of the proposed school calendar for 2005-2006 and reported he had been working with the Unit Five Education Association calendar committee over the past several months. He remarked that priorities were considered, as well as calendars for the future. Ending the first semester prior to winter break was the first priority. The second priority was for winter break to consist of two weeks capped by weekends. The third priority was to not start the school year too early as the District has some facilities without air-conditioning. The fourth priority was to have parent-teacher conferences closer to the end of the first grading period. The fifth priority was to balance School Improvement and Institute Days on Fridays and Mondays. Braksick reviewed the proposed calendar and stated that he would meet with the UFEA calendar committee again on February 8. The official first reading of the proposed calendar is scheduled for the February 9 regular board meeting. Adoption of the calendar is expected to occur on February 23. Braksick reported that all staff were emailed the proposed calendar and asked to provide feedback. He sought direction from the Board on whether April 14 (Good Friday) should be considered as a board holiday.

11.5 Tiered Transportation System Report

Pye reported on transportation Options D and E for consideration as a result of the comments, suggestions, and questions received to date from students, parents, staff, the Board, and community members. He reviewed key factors of the two options in regard to instruction, personnel, routes, and the bus fleet. Also provided was a comparison of school times for the current transportation system and Options D and E, as well as ride and wait time information. He suggested that a recommendation be provided to the Board at the February 9 regular board meeting.

It was pointed out that the current options would take care of some transportation issues, but would not generate any cost savings such as included in the original proposal with major changes in school times. Feedback received on the original proposal indicated the major changes in school times were not supported. Pye pointed out that maintaining sufficient personnel in transportation would continue to be an issue with any of the transportation options.

Board members reviewed the options. Chapman stated that the administration would provide the Board with a transportation recommendation on February 9.

11.6 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Chapman presented a progress report on the District's Strategic Plan, which he indicated was a compilation of 30 individual reports provided to him by building and district administrators. (Attachment #8) He stated that he was pleased with the progress made to date on the plan and had also identified areas in need of work. Chapman added that the progress report would be broadly distributed, with further direction given where needed. It was noted that a group would be reconvened in the spring to re-examine the plan.

12.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Boswell announced that a Textbook Hearing would be held on February 2 at 4:00 p.m. at the District Office. He noted that board members were provided with a tentative hearing schedule.
- Boswell commented that an order was placed today for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be placed in each of the District's facilities. Grant monies were utilized for this purchase. Designated staff members will receive training on use of the AEDs.
- Mickens-Baker encouraged the public to attend the forum hosted by the NAACP that is scheduled for February 7.
- Briggs commented that Mickens-Baker, Mr. Baker, Dr. Chapman, and she attended the Bloomington/Normal Human Relations Commissions' luncheon on January 15.

She added that she and Dr. Chapman also attended the Martin Luther King banquet that was hosted by the NAACP ISU Chapter.

- Whittington announced that the McLean County COMPACT would meet at 7:30 a.m. on January 28 at the Farm Bureau office. The meeting topic will be school funding.

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:03 p.m.

Richard B. Percy, Board of Education President
Community Unit School District No. 5
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois

ATTEST:

Martin L. O'Connor, Board of Education Secretary

Approved: February 9, 2005