

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
February 23, 2005

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on February 23, 2005, at approximately 6:00 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, 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, a student discipline matter, and review of closed session minutes. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Alan Chapman, Assistant Superintendent of Operations/Human Resources John Pye, Executive Director of Secondary Education Bruce Boswell, and Clerk of the Board Cindy Prescher.

3.0 Return to Public Session At approximately 7:00 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, Boswell, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Prescher, Meghan Leiseberg, Cathy Greene, John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, Chuck Bartlett, Jeanette Nuckolls, Jan Orcutt, Linda Chizmar, Toni Wudtke, Dan Wudtke, Mason Wudtke, Kim Brown, Claudia Brown, Dan Brown, Dave Hays, Pam Hays, Kecia Jent, Kelly Keogh, Julia Basting, Grethe Armstrong, Catherine Napoleon, Kelly Burrows, Janessa Gulley, Tyler Shelton, Bennett Hofer, 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

- National Merit Scholarship Finalists from NCHS: Elisa Beneze, Michael Duffy, Allen Hays, Megan Henricks, Jonathan O'Rourke, and Laura Shears
- National Merit Scholarship Finalists from NCWHS: Dan Brown
- Pepper Ridge Students Tsunami Relief Effort: Tyler Shelton, Bennett Hofer, and Mason Wudtke

Good News Report

- Kelly Keogh, NCHS Teacher

6.0 Public Comments The following addressed the Board:

- John Puzauskas Topic
Emergency Planning

7.0 Action

7.1 Action From Closed Session

Lay moved, Ellsworth seconded, to affirm the Superintendent's decision regarding the student discipline matter discussed in closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Adopt Proposed School Calendar for 2005-2006

Braksick reported that he had received only one telephone call and no other comments since the first reading of the proposed school calendar at the February 9 board meeting. He recommended approval of the calendar as presented. Ellsworth moved, Lay seconded, to adopt the School Calendar for 2005-2006 as proposed. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.3 Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for the McLean-DeWitt Regional Vocational System

Boswell reported that at the last Administrative Council meeting of the McLean-DeWitt Regional Vocational System, it was requested that participating school districts adopt proposed changes related to the Intergovernmental Agreement. He stated that the changes were relatively minor and were recommended by the attorney for Bloomington Public School District 87, the administrative district for the Regional Vocational System. A spelling error was noted in Section 1.2 Mission, sixth line, on page 1 of the Agreement ("Statutes). Mickens-Baker moved, O'Connor seconded, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the McLean-DeWitt Regional Vocational System as amended. (Attachment #2) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.4 Adopt Proposed Revision of Board Policy 6.300 Graduation Requirements

Briggs commented that it was rare for the Board Policy Review Committee to place a proposed policy revision on a board meeting agenda without a first reading prior to its adoption. However, she indicated Board Policy 6.300 was proposed for adoption at this meeting in order for the District to comply with state-mandated adoption by March 1. Boswell addressed the two areas of revision to the policy—one related to the Prairie State Achievement Exam and a second area related to "Brittany's Law" that became effective in January 2005 and mandated board adoption by March 1, 2005. Briggs moved, Lay seconded, to adopt the revision of Board Policy 6.300 Graduation Requirements as proposed. (Attachment #3) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.5 Cancel the March 23, 2005 Regular Board Meeting

Chapman recommended cancellation of the March 23 regular board meeting due to spring break and because it is felt that District business could be adequately accomplished with one meeting in March. Lay moved, Briggs seconded, to cancel the March 23, 2005 regular board meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.6 Set the Date of March 16, 2005 for a Special Board Meeting

Chapman recommended setting the date of March 16 for a special board meeting to be held one hour prior to the Unit 5 Citizens Advisory Council meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on the 16th. The purpose of the board work session would be to receive a presentation from the financial consulting firm, PMA, Inc., contracted by the District to assist with an analysis of its financial status and to present a 5-year projection. Mickens-Baker moved, Briggs seconded, to set the date of Wednesday, March 16, 2005 for a special board meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. at Towanda Elementary School for the purpose of conducting a board work session on a financial planning model. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. Ellsworth moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 8.1 Approval of the Minutes
 - February 2, 2005 Textbook Hearing
 - February 9, 2005 Regular Meeting
- 8.2 Overnight Trips
 - NCWHS Mock Trial Team request for an overnight trip to compete in the Illinois State Bar Association State Competition in Springfield, Illinois on March 4-5, 2005
 - NCHS Mock Trial Team request for an overnight trip to compete in the Illinois State Bar Association State Competition in Springfield, Illinois on March 4-5, 2005
 - NCHS request for 5 students and 1 teacher to attend The Capitol Forum on America's Future in Springfield, Illinois on March 10-11, 2005
 - NCWHS request for 4 students, 1 teacher, and 1 student teacher to attend The Capitol Forum on America's Future in Springfield, Illinois on March 10-11, 2005
- 8.3 Other
 - Authorization for Summer School
 - Summer services for students with disabilities (Attachment #4)
 - English as a Second Language and Bilingual summer school program (Attachment #5)
 - Secondary summer school program (Attachment #6)

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

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Board Representative Reports

Area Vocational Center (AVC) (Whittington) – Whittington reported that he and Boswell recently attended the Administrative Council meeting for the AVC where such agenda topics as the recently adopted Intergovernmental Agreement were discussed.

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (Briggs) – Briggs remarked that she announced at last week's Citizens Advisory Council meeting that there would be recognition packets available during the first week in March at all Unit 5 schools as an option for recognizing staff. She indicated that presentations have been made to both Unit 5 and District 87 administrators and teacher association representative councils regarding this option.

Hispanic Coalition (Ellsworth) – Ellsworth announced that he had been asked by the University of Illinois Extension Service to be involved with a Hispanic Coalition in the community to coordinate and improve availability of services to Hispanic citizens. He reported that about 30 people attended the first meeting of the coalition at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington.

Community Connections Committee (Briggs/Mickens-Baker) – Mickens-Baker reported that the Community Connections Committee met on February 15 and evaluated the "Community Conversation" held with the NAACP. The committee also reviewed the report regarding non-English speaking communications in the District. Mickens-Baker noted that committee was looking into adding some additional information to the website in Spanish. In addition, she reported that the committee was hoping to improve recognition of personal excellence in the community beyond the typical recognitions made at board meetings. Also discussed at the meeting were future focus group meetings with parent-teacher groups and sponsored by the Unit 5 Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) and identification of key communicators in the community. Mickens-Baker noted that a contact has been made with MANA, a Hispanic organization, to look at scheduling another "Community Conversation." Another topic of discussion at the committee meeting was the CAC Communication report in regarding to activities that the committee might work on implementing. The committee felt the communication audit was the first activity that should be pursued. It was reported that James Russell of the IASB and a CAC member would be asked to assist with the activity. Further, it was reported that a

Communications intern was being considered for the fall of 2005, without charge to the District. Mickens-Baker reported there is an ongoing review of the Unit 5 website to look for ways to improve it. The committee has also reviewed several policy revisions for board consideration in April. The spring "Community Conversation" will be held on Monday, April 11, at Sugar Creek Elementary School from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Mickens-Baker indicated that agenda topics were being developed and suggestions may be forwarded to the committee. She also acknowledged the new reporter for *The Pantagraph*, Phyllis Coulter, (who attended the board meeting) and stated that the committee suggested a meeting with the newspaper's Editorial Board be considered by the new officers for April or May. The next Community Connections Committee meeting will be held on March 28. As part of the Beyond the Books presentation at the last CAC meeting, Mickens-Baker reported that two Unit 5 teachers, Lyndra Webb and Julie Knutson, made excellent presentations at the meeting on how they have utilized Beyond the Books grants at their schools, and Briggs provided history, data and goals of the Foundation. She added that Chapman also made an excellent presentation at the CAC meeting on growth projections for the District. Also reported, was that the CAC has identified a slate of officers for 2005-2006.

Discipline and Medication Committee (Mickens-Baker) – Mickens-Baker reported that she attended the introductory presentation regarding PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) for the NCHS staff on Institute Day, February 18.

Glenn School Annual Diversity Fair (Mickens-Baker) – Mickens-Baker reported that Ellsworth recently spoke on criminal justice careers at Glenn's 4th annual fair, which was held yesterday. She indicated that a Good News Report on the event would be forthcoming.

9.2 1st Reading: Proposed Board Policy Revisions

- Policy 2.30 Board Elections
- Policy 2.50 Board Member Term of Office
- Policy 2.210 Organizational Board Meetings
- Policy 2.220 Board Meeting Procedures

Briggs presented four proposed board policy revisions for first reading. The policies are scheduled for adoption at the February 23 board meeting. She noted that the proposed revisions to 2.30, 2.50, and 2.210 relate to changes in law. Briggs stated that proposed revisions to 2.220 are due to school district concerns expressed to the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) in regard to how voting at board meetings was stated in the last revision. She asked board members to offer any input on these proposed revisions to the committee as soon as possible.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Altenburg announced that he, Braksick, and Pye began 2005-2006 budget planning meetings today with building principals.
- Ellsworth announced that the IASB Corn Belt Division meeting would be held on March 8 at Bloomington High School. He commented that it would be his last meeting as Resolutions Chair. Briggs added that part of the meeting would include a panel session for school board candidates. She suggested that an invitation to the meeting be extended to Unit 5's candidates.
- Mickens-Baker noted that she and Briggs attended the Towanda School PTO Chili Dinner last Friday. She felt it was an excellent event.
- Mickens-Baker announced that several Candidate Forums were coming up and dates were included in the Weekly Update calendar.
- Percy commented that he, Lay, and Chapman attended an FFA banquet on February 7 at NCWHS.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:43 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: March 9, 2005