

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
February 9, 2005

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on February 9, 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 7:00 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, and review of closed session minutes. 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 7:05 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, Cathy Greene, John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, Bob Burritt, Cory Tello, Michelle Steinbacher from The Pantagraph, Kevin Heinkes from WJBC, Don Whitman, Pat Powers, Grethe Armstrong, Julia Basting, Rich Schroeder, Chuck Bartlett, Bert Popejoy, Wade Harrison, Beth Sennett, Dan Carpenter, Vickie Barbour, Jerry James, 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:
Good News Reports
- Cory Tello, Director of Special Education - Instruction
 - Donald Whitman, NCHS Teacher
 - Pat Powers, Director of Food Service
- 6.0 Public Comments** The following addressed the Board:
- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>Topic</u> |
| • John Puzauskas | Emergency Planning |
- 7.0 Action**
- 7.1 Adopt Proposed Curriculum for 2005-2006
Boswell presented curriculum changes proposed for 2005-2006 and noted that the changes had been reviewed at the textbook hearing held on February 2. He remarked that the changes were an outgrowth of staff committee work that began last summer and continued during the first semester. Whittington moved, Ellsworth seconded, to adopt the elementary, middle school, high school, and special education curriculum for 2005-2006 as presented. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** Teachers who

worked on the curriculum committees were commended for their efforts put forth on these revisions.

7.2 Adopt Proposed Textbooks and Materials for 2005-2006

Boswell recommended approval of the textbooks and materials for 2005-2006 as proposed. He summarized the cost of the textbooks and materials, which totaled \$212,114.44 (including estimated shipping) and noted that the estimated total of free items to be received with the adoptions is \$154,282.02. Boswell commented that the Illinois Textbook Loan Program no longer coincides with the District's textbook adoption cycle. It was moved to the fall and this year focused on Grades K-4. Braksick stated that this year's Textbook Loan Program monies were expended to purchase non-fiction science materials that will enhance the elementary language arts program and go along with the elementary science adoption that will take place next year. Due to the District's current budget constraints, Boswell commented that it is behind in adoptions for some areas. He felt the District should be able to catch up, as its financial condition improves. Mickens-Baker moved, Lay seconded, to adopt textbooks and materials for 2005-2006 as proposed. (Attachment #2) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.3 Approve Transportation Recommendation

Pye presented the administration's recommendation for District transportation. He stated that Option D was recommended as it (1) minimizes time change for each educational level (high school – 10 minutes earlier, elementary – 10 minutes earlier, middle school – 15 minutes later); (2) minimizes arrival and wait times for the secondary schools; (3) provides opportunities for before/after school activities at all levels (i.e., zero hour classes Professional Development Academy opportunities, tutoring session, etc.); (4) moderately improves instruction time at the high school level (with the opposite effect at the middle school); and (5) supports research that elementary students perform better academically with an earlier start time (but does not support sleep study research on high school students).

Pye pointed out that Option D would not address the issue of special education and ESL students needing full-day programming. Regardless of the plan, he indicated the District would still have to take steps to address that issue. Further, he remarked that bus routes and bus stops would continue to be reviewed. Pye stated that the administration would also explore the feasibility of some type of waiver system whereby parents could indicate they did not want their children to receive District transportation. However, with a waiver system, Pye noted that the District would still be obligated to provide transportation, if needed, for students residing in transportable areas. With Option D, Pye indicated an additional 4 to 5 teachers would be needed due to the discrepancy in starting/ending times at the secondary level.

Briggs moved, Lay seconded, to approve the recommendation regarding District transportation as presented. (Attachment #4) Some board members had concerns regarding the change in start times at the secondary level and the expense for additional teaching staff. In response to a board member question about how long it would be, with this plan, before another change would be needed, Pye responded that unless major systemic changes are made, the District's transportation system would continue to be challenged as the District grows. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Percy. Nays: Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington. **Motion carried.**

8.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. Ellsworth moved, O'Connor seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8.1 Approval of the Minutes

- January 26, 2005 Regular Meeting
- January 31, 2005 Intergovernmental Meeting

8.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #5)

8.3 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #6)

8.4 Treasurer's Report (Attachment #7)

8.5 Overnight Trips

- NCHS Speech Team overnight trip request for February 18-19, 2005 to compete in the IHSA State Individual Events Speech Competition at Carbondale High School in Carbondale, Illinois
- NCHS Varsity Girls Soccer Team overnight trip request for April 15, 2005 to play in the Fralish Cup Soccer Invitational in Carbondale, Illinois
- NCHS Images Winter Guard overnight trip requests for February-April 2005 (Attachment #8)

8.6 Other

- Evangelical Free Church request to use the NCWHS Auditorium on Sunday, March 27, 2005 for an Easter Sunday church service
- American Youth Basketball request to use the NCHS and NCWHS Gymnasium facilities for their national tournament on Sunday, July 17, 2005-Sunday, July 24, 2005

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

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies (PBIS) Update

Cory Tello, director of special education – instruction, remarked that Mickens-Baker had asked her to update the Board on progress made toward the implementation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports model in Unit 5. She reported that 11 of the District's schools are currently trained and operating PBIS supports and interventions, 3 schools have orientation inservices scheduled for the February 18 Institute, and 4 schools are willing to become PBIS schools, but do not have a significant need based on discipline referrals. Tello outlined the model for supporting PBIS, program data/results, positive outcomes and activities, and current and future costs. She noted that if 3 or more schools become PBIS schools, the District would need to offer some external coaching that would cost approximately \$9,000 which could be paid for out of the Mackinaw Valley special education federal grant (IDEA). Current PBIS costs have totaled \$27,500 and have been paid for out of the same grant.

9.2 Board Representative Reports

Textbook Hearing (O'Connor) – O'Connor reported that in the absence of Percy and Lay, he chaired the February 2 textbook hearing. He felt the hearing went very well and noted that 4 other board members also attended the hearing.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Corn Belt Division (Ellsworth) – Ellsworth reported that the next IASB Corn Belt Division meeting would be held on March 8. He encouraged board members to begin thinking about future resolutions to be submitted to the IASB.

Intergovernmental Meeting and McLean County Regional Planning Commission (Lay) – Lay reported that the January 31 Intergovernmental meeting with Unit 5, Town of Normal, and City of Bloomington officials went very well. He reviewed the agenda topics covered at the meeting and noted that land use fees were discussed on the 31st and at the recent Regional Planning Commission meeting. Lay stated that he was in the process of obtaining from the Commission an electronic version of all developments and their phases and schedules, which he will share with the administration.

Community Connections Committee (Briggs/Mickens-Baker) – Briggs reported that 5 board meeting minutes have now been posted to the Unit 5 website. She indicated that Unit 5 board members and administrators recently participated in a public forum "Community Conversation" hosted by the NAACP on February 7 at Wayman AME Church in Bloomington. It was reported that the next meeting of the Community Connections Committee would be held on February 15. The Unit 5 Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Communications study committee report will be one of the agenda topics for that meeting.

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (Briggs) – Briggs reported that several Beyond the Books articles about various school grants have recently appeared in the local newspaper. A presentation on the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation will be given at the CAC meeting on February 16.

Bloomington Area Vocational Center (AVC) (Whittington) – Whittington reported that the AVC council would meet next week. He commented that he was sorry Dr. Steve Poznic, AVC director, would be leaving the area to pursue another career opportunity.

9.3 1st Reading: Proposed School Calendar, 2005-2006

Braksick presented the proposed school calendar for the next school year for official first reading and reported that additional input was received since presentation of the first draft of the proposed calendar at the last board meeting. He reported he had met with the Unit Five Education Association (UFEA) calendar committee since then and made several changes to the calendar—April 14 was added as a board holiday, the last day of school was changed to June 6 (if all emergency days would be used), and the October 31 parent-teacher conference day was moved to November 4.

Braksick remarked that he would meet again with the UFEA calendar committee before spring break to further look at school calendars for the next 5 years.

It was noted that registration in August is a concern to families in open attendance areas. Particularly parents of kindergarteners in open attendance areas desire to inform their children earlier of the school they will attend. Registration in the spring was suggested. Braksick noted that changing the registration time might solve some problems and create some for others due to families being away on vacations, etc. He added that he has sought input from building administrators on the registration time.

9.4 District Goals Update, 2003-2005

Chapman presented the District Goals, 2003-2005 progress report. He noted that the first progress report on the goals was presented in April 2004. The current report covers progress made toward the goals since April. He cited some great work accomplished by teachers, support staff, and building/district administrators not only in helping to attain the goals, but also in documenting the progress. Chapman stated that while the current progress report was a general summary with some specificity, the individual reports he received from staff and administrators included extensive detail regarding the progress made to date toward the goals. He added that the District Goals would be examined when looking at the District's Strategic Plan this spring to see if some could be put to rest or if others may need to be included in the Strategic Plan. Chapman remarked that he was pleased with the collective results and felt the District was making good progress toward its goals.

9.5 Enrollment Update

- Enrollment – January 31, 2005
- Enrollment Comparison – 1/05 to 1/04

Pye reported student enrollment as of January 31 to be 11,326. He noted an increase of 21 students at the elementary level, a decrease of 11 students at the middle school level, and a decrease of 32 students at the high school level since December 2004. A comparison of the District's enrollment in January 2005 to that of January 2004 indicated total enrollment growth of 2.32 percent.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Briggs commented that she attended the recent school board candidate orientation session. She complimented Unit 5 Cabinet members on their presentation of District information to the candidates.
- Chapman expressed appreciation to The Pantagraph and WJBC and ISU Channel 10 for their coverage of the February 7 public forum hosted by the NAACP

- O'Connor made positive comments regarding the February 2 textbook hearing and suggested a 'Good News' report in follow up to the hearing.
- Ellsworth commented that he was interviewed by the Peoria Journal Star concerning a recent shooting incident that occurred at a Peoria high school. In response to a suggestion made during Public Comments concerning emergency drills, he suggested exercising caution in institutionalizing practices as sometimes they cause more fear than they alleviate.
- Mickens-Baker recognized Unit 5 administrators who attended the February 7 public forum. She felt they were doing an excellent job and put in long days.
- Mickens-Baker commented that she attended the Family Reading Night at Glenn School last week and felt it was an excellent program available to all the children and families at schools where Title I services are received.
- Percy thanked Lay and O'Connor for covering meetings for him while he was out of town recently.
- Percy reminded the public of the April 5 school board election. He stated that three seats on the Board would be filled, and he encouraged people to become informed about the candidates and to vote.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 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: _____
 (Date)