

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

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on March 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 6:50 p.m.), Steve Whittington (entered at 6:35 p.m.), 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, 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 7:10 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, Grethe Armstrong, Linda Chizmar, Jodi Sherman, John Puzauskas, Shelly Erickson, Judy Lancaster, Rich Schroeder, Julia Basting, Mary Z. Walker, Daniel Carpenter, Randy Middleton, Steve and Peggy Ward, Julie Anderson, B.J. McClarty, Jill Frazier, Apsora Sorensen, Julie Loy, Colleen O'Dea, Pamela Fields, Chuck Bartlett, Jay Reece, Ben Matthews, Andrew Matthews, Ron Starkey, Bob Crawford, Mark Stotler, Jeff Nonnemacher, Cathy Greene, Geoff Schoonover, John Lutes, Phyllis Coulter from The Pantagraph, 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

- Towanda School PTO – Recipient of award for DAR service
- Unit 5 teachers who presented at the Illinois Association of Gifted Children Convention
- Unit 5 teachers and coordinator who presented a workshop at the “No Child Left Behind” Conference

6.0 Public Comments The following addressed the Board:

	<u>Topic</u>
• Apsara Sorenson	Open Attendance/Registration
• Bob Crawford	Schedule B – Softball
• Mark Stotler	Schedule B – Softball
• Jeff Nonnemacher	Schedule B – Softball
• Ron Starkey	Schedule B – Softball
• Pam Fields	Schedule B – Softball

7.0 Action

7.1 Action From Closed Session

Lay moved, Briggs seconded, to appoint Dawn Green as director of secondary education, effective July 1, 2005. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** Pye introduced Mrs. Green to the audience and indicated she would be moving from Chiddix Junior High School as building principal to the District Office to fill her new position. Mrs. Green commented that she was pleased with her new appointment and felt her past experience would help her in her new role.

Mickens-Baker moved, Lay seconded, to approve a military leave extension for the employee discussed in closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Briggs moved, Ellsworth seconded, to rescind the June 2005 retirement/resignation for the employee discussed in closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Certify the Need for Additional Fire Prevention and Safety Funds – Glenn School

Randy Middleton of Middleton and Associates presented an amendment to the Glenn School 10-Year Life Safety Survey that would allow for replacement of a cold water line at the same time as a previously approved hot water line is replaced. He indicated that the plan is to replace both water lines this summer. Mickens-Baker moved, Lay seconded, to certify the need for additional Fire Prevention and Safety Funds for work to be done at Glenn Elementary School as recommended. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.3 Adopt 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 Procedure

Briggs presented four board policy revisions for adoption. She stated that she had not received any comments, questions or concerns regarding the proposed revisions since their first reading at the last regular board meeting. Briggs moved, Ellsworth seconded, to adopt the revisions of Board Policies 2.30, 2.50, 2.210, and 2.220 as proposed. (Attachment #2) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman presented the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. Pye noted the upcoming retirement of a food service manager in the District and contract revisions for certified personnel as a result of ongoing professional development and completed college coursework. He also reviewed five proposed resolutions authorizing the honorable dismissal of first year non-tenured teachers, part-time non-tenured teachers, regular and special education teaching assistants, and the discontinuation of certain Salary Schedule B activities. Pye remarked that there may be a need for reinstatement of some of the individuals being dismissed at a later date, but he indicated that the District's specific classroom needs for the coming school year are unknown at this time. It was clarified that with the proposed Schedule B discontinuations there would not be a reduction in athletic program offerings from this school year to the next. Further, it was noted that these discontinuations would save the District about \$100,000. Ellsworth moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8.1 Approval of the Minutes

- February 23, 2005 Regular Meeting

8.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #3)

8.3 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #4)

8.4 Treasurer's Report (Attachment #5)

8.5 Overnight Trips

- NCHS overnight trip request for 18 students to participate in the IHSA State Drama Contest Sectional Competition at Charleston High School in Charleston, Illinois on March 11-12, 2005 and State Competition on March 18-19, 2005 at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, Illinois (*if they win one of the top two spots at the Sectional*)
- KJHS overnight trip request for 13 students and sponsor to attend the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Councils Conference on April 22-23, 2005 in Bloomington, Illinois
- PJHS Python Council overnight trip request to attend the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Councils Conference on April 21-23, 2005 in Bloomington, Illinois

8.6 Other

- Summer 2005 athletic and music camps
 - Athletic camps (Attachment #6)
 - Music camps (Attachment #7)

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

Community Connections Committee (Mickens-Baker/Briggs) – Mickens-Baker reported that the Committee had not met since the last board meeting, but did several other things since that time. She noted that the Citizens Advisory Council would meet at 7:00 p.m. on March 16 at Towanda Elementary School and that the Community Connections Committee would meet on March 28 at 4:00 p.m. at the District Office. Mickens-Baker reported that she attended a meeting regarding the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System in response to an item that came up during one of the candidate forums. She indicated that other community and Unit 5 representatives also attended the meeting to discuss the impact on students by not having public transit transportation available. Mickens-Baker remarked that she also attended, along with other Unit 5 board candidates and board members, the Illinois Association of School Boards Corn Belt Division meeting group session for school board candidates on March 8.

Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council (Ellsworth) – Ellsworth reported that the Council would meet next week.

Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (Lay/Whittington) – Lay reported that a special board meeting would be held on March 16 at 6:00 p.m. (prior to the CAC meeting) at Towanda School at which time a board work session would be held that would deal specifically with the District's finances. He indicated that a representative of PMA Financial Network, Inc. would present financial scenarios and projections. Lay invited the public to attend the meeting.

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (BTBEF) (Briggs) – Briggs reported that 18-19 members of the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors attended a retreat on Saturday, March 5. She added that Dr. Chapman and Cathy Greene, Unit 5's director of elementary education, and representatives from Bloomington District 87 also attended the meeting. It was reported that two teachers presented information at the retreat regarding BTBEF grants they received. Also discussed at the meeting was the need for additional funding, grants requested and awarded for the coming school year, publicity initiatives, contributor levels, etc. Briggs reported that about 470 informational packets regarding the Foundation had been prepared for distribution to parents, staff, and visitors in Unit 5 and District 87 to help raise awareness about BTBEF.

Briggs reported that the cutoff date for grant applications was March 4. She indicated that a committee of about eight people would review the grant applications between now and March 28 and make recommendations to the Foundation Board of Directors for the awarding of approximately \$26,000 in BTBEF grants in mid April.

Briggs remarked that she also attended the recent Illinois Association of School Boards Corn Belt Division meeting where she attended a panel session on legal issues in regard to personnel matters. She stated that Dr. Cal Jackson reported at the meeting that over 6,000 education-related bills had been submitted to various legislative committees for consideration.

Concerning the recent school board candidate forums, Briggs stated that she was pleased with the attendance at most of the forums and with the candidates' participation.

9.2 1st Reading: Proposed Board Policy Revisions and Deletion

- Policy 4.140 Waiver of Student Fees - Revision
- Policy 5.220 Certified Personnel – Substitute Teachers - Revision
- Policy 7.50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools - Revision
- Policy 7.200 Suspension Procedures - Revision
- Policy 8.30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property - Revision
- Policy 8.50 Visitors to the Schools – Deletion
- Policy 8.60 Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent - New

Briggs presented five proposed board policy revisions, one deletion, and one new policy for first reading. She highlighted some of the policy changes and indicated the policies were scheduled for adoption at the April 13 regular board meeting.

9.3 Administrative Procedure 7.50-AP Foreign Exchange Students

Briggs reported that Policy 7.50 was proposed for revision and Administrative Procedure 7.50-AP Foreign Exchange Students was being presented for the purpose of seeing the correlation between the policy and the procedure. Bruce Boswell, director of secondary education, reported that following 9/11, the government took more control regarding foreign exchange students entering the country. He indicated that most of the District's students have been categorized as J-1. Boswell indicated there are other categories, which require the District to be involved in the SEVIS system. As the District is SEVIS approved, he reported that the District has received multiple requests from foreign students to attend Unit 5 schools.

9.4 Enrollment Update

- Enrollment – February 28, 2005
- Enrollment Comparison – 2/05 to 2/04

Pye reported student enrollment as of February 28 to be 11,322. He noted that elementary class size remains at 22.7 students. In addition, he indicated that some Title II monies were utilized to pay the salaries of about six teachers at Brigham, Fairview, and Pepper Ridge Elementary Schools to help reduce class size at those buildings. A comparison of the District's enrollment in February 2005 to that of February 2004 indicated total enrollment growth of 2.31 percent.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Chapman commented that he had the opportunity on March 7 to present testimony at the bipartisan budget hearing that was hosted by State Representative Dan Brady and two other Central Illinois state representatives. He reported that he was one of a huge number of speakers who testified during a four-hour period. Chapman added that virtually every message indicated the need for increased state funding to support the services that the speakers represented.
- Mickens-Baker announced that another Unit 5 School Board Candidate Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters would be held on Thursday, March 17 at KJHS. She noted that it would be televised.
- Braksick congratulated Dawn Green on being appointed director of secondary education and indicated that he looked forward to working with her.
- Boswell also congratulated Mrs. Green and indicated they had already begun the transition process. He commented that he felt she would do a great job.

- President Percy reminded the public of the April 5 school board election and encouraged them to become informed about the six candidates running for three seats on the Board.

Closed Session

At approximately 8:10 p.m., Briggs moved, Lay seconded, to adjourn to closed session to consider collective negotiating matters. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** President Percy announced that there would be no action items in public session after this closed session

Return to Public Session

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.**

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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)