

**MINUTES**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**October 13, 2004**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on October 13, 2004, 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, Ellsworth 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, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Alan Chapman, Assistant Superintendent of Operations/Human Resources John Pye, Attorney Dennis Triggs, and Clerk of the Board Cindy Prescher.

**3.0 Return to Public Session** At approximately 7:15 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, Rebecca Loda from The Pantagraph, Julie Basting, Chuck Fisher, Leigh Ann Singer, Kathy Johnson, Char McKenzie, Rich Schroeder, Mike Kaywood, Kathleen Kane, Sarah Coffey, Ryan Koehler, 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

- IASB Leadership and Development Award Recipients – Gail Ann Briggs and Rick Percy
- Chuck Fisher, NCHS Teacher

**6.0 Public Comments** None.

**7.0 Action**

**7.1 Adopt Red Ribbon Week Proclamation**  
Mickens-Baker read the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation and then moved, Ellsworth seconded, to adopt the Proclamation as presented. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**7.2 Set Date of November 3, 2004 for Town Meeting**  
Briggs reported that the District's Strategic Plan stipulates that the Community Connections Committee would take the lead in establishing at least two town meetings for the community. She remarked that the first town meeting is proposed for

November 3. It was noted that the agenda for that meeting would be determined at the October 25 meeting of the Community Connections Committee. The town meeting will be open to the public. Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to set the date of Wednesday, November 3, 2004 for a town meeting to be held at the Laborers' Hall, 2012 Fox Creek Road in Bloomington, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Ellsworth, Lay, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Whittington, Percy. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### 7.3 Cancel November 24 and December 22, 2004 Regular Board Meetings

Chapman noted that the second regular board meeting dates in November and December fall on the last working day prior to Thanksgiving and Winter Break respectively. He felt the business of the District could be adequately addressed with one board meeting in each of the months of November and December. Lay moved, Briggs seconded, to cancel the November 24 and December 22, 2004 regular board meetings. 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. He highlighted the upcoming retirements of several long-time employees and a significant donation of equipment to the NCHS Technology Department. Ellsworth moved, Lay seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

### 8.1 Approval of the Minutes

- September 22, 2004 Regular Meeting

### 8.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #2)

### 8.3 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #3)

### 8.4 Treasurer's Report (Attachment #4)

### 8.5 Donation

- NCHS Technology Department request to accept donation of equipment from Mr. Roger Norem – total: \$6,285.00

### 8.6 Other

- Adopted Board Policy revisions:
  - Board Policy 6.15 (Attachment #5)
  - Board Policy 8.25 (Attachment #6)
- Normal Parks and Recreation Department request for Sunday use of the NCWHS Pool on October 17 and 24, 2004 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for scuba diving lessons

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

## 9.0 Reports/Discussion

### 9.1 Board Representative Report

IASB Corn Belt Division (Ellsworth) – Ellsworth reported that the IASB Corn Belt Division Semi-Annual Conference/Dinner Meeting was held on October 5 at Cissna Park High School. He noted that a report on resolutions to be voted on at the IASB Delegate Assembly in November was presented at the meeting. Ellsworth also indicated that the Board, at its regular meeting on October 27, would discuss the IASB Report to the Membership.

McLean County Regional Planning Commission (Lay) – Lay reported on three development proposals presented at the last Commission meeting, which would impact Unit 5 over the next several years. The three proposals are a 55-unit development near Rte. 150 and College Avenue, a 100-acre development in northeast Normal on the south side of Raab Rd. with the potential for 420 units, and a 100-acre development in south Bloomington near Crestwicke Country Club. He also indicated the Commission staff had been asked to prepare for the benefit of taxing bodies a map and plan that would plot each of the proposed developments and the status of their approval process.

Board Policy Review Committee (Briggs) – Briggs reported that discussion by the Board of some outstanding board policy revisions and new policy would take place at the October 27 regular board meeting. She indicated information on these policies would be included with this Friday's Weekly Update to board and cabinet members.

Bloomington Area Vocational Center (BAVC) (Whittington) – Whittington reported he and Boswell recently attended the first meeting of the school year of the BAVC.

#### 9.2 Enrollment Update

Pye reported student enrollment as of September 30 to be 11,417. He noted that at-risk enrollment figures were included at the elementary level. Pye stated that the enrollment had increased by 3.89 percent since the same time last year. He added that he felt the open attendance areas and attendance exceptions were providing the Administration with the means to better balance class size across the District.

### 10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Altenburg commented that the District would be receiving a Fast Growth grant from the Illinois State Board of Education in the amount of \$566,000. He indicated the grant would strengthen the District's reserves, provide a cushion for any unbudgeted growth in regular and special education students, and provide support for next year's budget.
- Braksick remarked that school districts across the state of Illinois were currently correcting some of their ISAT demographic information. Because of that he stated there would be a delay in distributing School Report Cards.
- Boswell made positive comments regarding the NCHS Homecoming activities.
- Boswell commented that each of the District's 20 schools recently redid their Crisis Plans, which have been appropriately distributed to first responders, and the Unit Office.
- Whittington commented on his attendance at a recent meeting on school funding sponsored by the Coalition for School Funding Reform, the Get the Scoop on Education meeting, and the BNEA Open House. He noted that an open house would be held tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at the Unity Center in north Normal.
- Briggs remarked that she was glad to see a Good News Report presented on Chuck Fisher. Noted she had attended the meeting where he was awarded the Project Ignition grant.
- Chapman commented on his recent attendance at the Fall Conference of the Large Unit District Association. He noted that Unit 5 is the 16<sup>th</sup> largest of 54 large unit districts in the state of Illinois.
- Chapman stated that he was proud to represent Unit 5 at the recent inauguration of Dr. Al Bowman as president of Illinois State University.
- Ellsworth commented that an open house would also be held tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club in Bloomington.
- Mickens-Baker noted that she attended the Get the Scoop on Public Education meeting and the BNEA Open House regarding the minority teacher recruitment program. She commented that she recently gave a presentation on diversity and inclusion to the District's new teachers.
- Pye announced that the District would be hosting a Teacher Retirement System meeting for area educators tomorrow at NCWHS at 4:30 p.m.
- Percy remarked that Glenn School would be observing "50 Years of Fun" on October 15.
- Percy commented on his receipt of an email from Vickie Mahrt of the Coalition for School Funding Reform encouraging board members and others to write their legislators regarding school funding reform legislation.

**11.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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Martin L. O'Connor, Board of Education Secretary