

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

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on October 26, 2005, at approximately 6:00 p.m. at Prairieland Elementary School, 1300 East Raab Road, Normal, Illinois.

1.0 Open Forum Members of the Board of Education were available for one hour preceding the regular board meeting to meet informally with the public.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., on behalf of the students, staff, and parents of Prairieland Elementary School, Principal Kurt Swearingen welcomed everyone to the regular meeting. He remarked that he hoped it would be the first of many more held at schools in the District.

2.0 Roll Call Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Meta Mickens-Baker, Martin O'Connor, John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, Steve Whittington, and Board President Scott Lay. Members absent: None.

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Alan Chapman, Assistant Superintendent of Operations/H.R. John Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Clerk of the Board Cindy Prescher, Meghan Leiseberg, Chuck Bartlett, Tracy Sherman, Grethe Armstrong, Cathy Greene, Julie Evans, Toby Bryant, Brittany Baird, Dawn Green, Karen Berta, Carol Johnson, Mary Farnsworth, Tony Ferrara, Jo Anderson, Tom Frazier, Tom Peffer, Pat Powers, Adam Nielsen, Dayna Nielsen, Ben Matthews, Andrew Matthews, Brenda Carter, Valerie Wilder, Kathleen Lorenz, Mitzi Woody, Margaret Finnegan, Sharon Becker, Tom Eder, Kurt Swearingen, Shantise Hall, Vickie Mahrt, Kathy Sieg, Diana Behnke, Brian Hitchins, Tracy Hitchins, Cregg Miyat, Donna Rollins, Rita Brutlag, Tony Petersen, Candace Hopgood, Rozalind Hopgood, Darrell Reeps, Kathy Johnson, Rich Schroeder, Jerry James, Phyllis Coulter from The Pantagraph, Kevin Heinkes from WJBC, and others.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

(The order of agenda items 4.0 and 5.0 were reversed to allow time for the parent of a student being recognized to arrive at the meeting.)

5.0 Public Comments	The following addressed the Board:	<u>Topic</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shantise Hall, Normal• Mitzi Woody, Normal• Tony Ferrara, Normal	Air-Conditioning Air-Conditioning Air-Conditioning

**4.0 Focus on Students/
Good News Reports** The following were recognized:

- 4.1 Focus on Students
- Candace Hopgood, NCWHS Student

6.0 Reports/Discussion 6.1 Bloomington Area Vocational Center (BAVC)
Dawn Green, director of secondary education, gave an update on the BAVC. Green reported that a total of 101 Unit 5 students attend the center. She noted that the center serves not only Normal and Bloomington, but other school districts in the region as well. A breakdown of classes Unit 5 students are enrolled in at the center was presented.

(Attachment #1) Green introduced the new director of the BAVC, Tom Frazier, who reported that a total of 447 students were enrolled at the BAVC. Frazier noted that the most popular programs at the center are automotive technology, cosmetology, health occupations, and criminal justice. He stated that the center was focused on supporting the core curriculum academics with its career and technical education programs, as many of the center's students pursue a post-secondary education or enter the workforce. He expressed appreciation for being invited to the board meeting.

6.2 Financial Audit Report

Tom Peffer of Gorenz and Associates reported on the financial audits of the past school year for the District and Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association. (Attachment #2) Highlights of the report included:

- The report was prepared on the cash basis of accounting using regulatory reporting requirements established by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Total revenues, expenditures, and fund balances as of June 30, 2005
- The schedule of cash revenues received and cash expenditures disbursed for the operating funds for the past three years
- Charts showing 2005 operating revenues
- Operational funds disbursement analysis by object for the past two years
- Charts showing 2005 operating expenses
- Charts showing the District's assessed value, tax rate, average daily attendance, cost per pupil, and operating fund balances
- Unit 5's financial designation with the State of Illinois has improved by one level from "warning" to "review." The improvement is due to a decrease in the District's expenditures to revenue ratio.
- The District has realistic budgets and sticks with them once they are in place.
- The Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association fund balance has improved since the previous year.
- Revenues from real estate taxes have increased, while revenues from General State Aid have remained flat.
- The District's comparative cost per pupil has decreased.
- Operating fund balances totaled \$17,003,078 as of June 30, 2005.
- The good news is operating fund balances increased this year, after four years of declining balances.
- The District's operating fund balances amount to approximately two and one-half months of operating fund expenses.
- It was suggested that the budget line item for contingencies be eliminated.
- The District will need to continue to monitor its expenditures and assessed valuation as it grows.

7.0 Action

7.1 Accept Financial Audit Report

Altenburg recommended the Board's acceptance of the financial audit report. Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to accept the financial audit report as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Adopt American Education Week Proclamation

Reece read the American Education Week Proclamation and moved, O'Connor seconded, to adopt the Proclamation as presented. (Attachment #3) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. Reece moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8.1 Approval of the Minutes

- October 12, 2005 Regular Meeting

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

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Report on Consortium for Educational Change

Pye reported that at one of the monthly meetings with the officers of the Unit Five Education Association, UFEA President Vickie Mahrt, shared information on the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC). Pye stated that the Consortium was established in February 1987 and was the direct result of administrators, teachers, and school board members working together through interest-based bargaining, which Unit 5 just experienced and successfully negotiated an agreement with UFEA. He added that the mission of the Consortium was to improve student achievement. With Mahrt's help, Pye indicated Jo Anderson, executive director of the Consortium, was contacted to give a presentation at the Board meeting. Anderson presented an overview of the Consortium's mission, objectives, programs/services, leadership team training, and partnerships. Whittington suggested the District further investigate partnership with the CEC, as he felt it aligned well with the District's goals.

9.2 Student Wellness and Nutrition

In follow up to questions raised about offerings in the District's school lunch program, particularly in regard to soft drinks at the high schools, etc., Pye stated he and Pat Powers, director of food service, were asked to report on food and beverage offerings. He indicated they had broadened their approach to include student nutrition and the development of a wellness policy. Powers reported that the law requires all schools establish a local school wellness policy by August 2006. The law is an attempt to address childhood obesity and related health concerns through school meal programs. Powers reviewed the components that must be included in the policy. She also presented an overview of the District's meal programs and beverage choices offered during lunch for Grades K-12.

9.3 School Report Cards from ISBE

Braksick reported the District had received its School Report Cards from the Illinois State Board of Education and copies were provided to board members. He stated that the report cards would be available on the District's website this week and at the District's schools the first of next week. Braksick noted that two schools, NCHS and KJHS, did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) last year, but made AYP this year. However, two different schools, NCWHS and Oakdale Elementary, did not make AYP this year due to specific subgroup performance. It was reported that none of the District's schools had been identified as "in need of school improvement." Braksick noted that, overall, the percentage of Unit 5 students who meet or exceed standards has increased. In addition, he remarked that the scores of individual schools would be reviewed to address areas of concern. In response to a concern about lower scores, Braksick stated subgroup performance continues to be a concern and needs to be addressed.

9.4 Reports on Councils/Committees/Commissions/Boards

Community Connections Committee (Briggs/Mickens-Baker) – Mickens-Baker reported the following:

- The committee met on October 25.
- Focus group sessions will be held on November 1, 2, and 3. Board members will not participate in the meetings, but a board member will be present at the end of the meetings to thank participants. Surveys will be completed at the beginning of the meetings and will be available on the District's website after the meetings for those unable to attend to have an opportunity for input.
- The *Unit 5 Pride* newsletter that was recently distributed in *The Pantagraph* will also be available at local libraries.
- A "Key Communicators" list is being developed.
- Some of the District's brochures are now available in Spanish at the District Office.
- A focus group meeting for ESL parents will be held on November 17 at Brigham School.

- Unit 5 *Connect* now has 1,038 subscribers.
- The next committee meeting will be held on November 3 at 4:30 p.m. at the District Office.

Bloomington-Normal Education Alliance – Mickens-Baker reported that the Alliance met recently and discussed the Minority Educators Reception that will be held on April 3 at Bloomington High School.

IASB Corn Belt Division – Briggs reported she, Mickens-Baker, and Chapman recently attended the IASB Semi-Annual Corn Belt Division Fall Conference and Dinner Meeting that was held at Ridgeview School District. She reported that only 40 people attended, and that the regular December Governing meeting has been cancelled and in its place a survey will be conducted in regard to future programs.

Board Policy Review Committee (Briggs) – Briggs reported that 13 policies had been reviewed and will be presented for first reading at a future board meeting.

McLean County Regional Planning Commission (Lay) – Lay reported the Commission would meet next week.

9.2 IASB Report to the Membership

Mickens-Baker, the Board’s delegate to the IASB Delegate Assembly that will meet during the IASB Conference in November, noted that board members had received the IASB Report to the Membership regarding resolutions to be discussed and voted on by the Assembly. She requested board member feedback on the proposed resolutions prior to the meeting in November.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- President Lay announced that board members had been invited to participate in “Teacher for a Half-Day” during American Education Week. Board members were asked to respond to UFEA President Mahrt regarding their participation.
- Briggs commented that she was pleased to see Candace Hopgood recognized at the board meeting. She noted she along with Mickens-Baker, Puzauskas and Chapman were present at the NAACP’s Freedom Fund banquet when Hopgood received her award.
- Briggs noted that it was Red Ribbon Week.
- Braksick announced that an update on Skyward would be presented at the November 9 board meeting. He remarked that Skyward’s Family Access feature would be piloted at PJHS, with the intent of implementing it district-wide at the beginning of second semester.
- President Lay thanked Prairieland Elementary for hosting the board meeting.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Scott Lay, Board of Education President
Community Unit School District No. 5
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois

ATTEST:

Steve Whittington, Board of Education Secretary

Approved: _____
(Date)