

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
February 22, 2006

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on February 22, 2006, at approximately 6:00 p.m. at Pepper Ridge Elementary School, 2602 Danbury Drive, Bloomington, 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.

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 for Operations/Human Resources John Pye, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum/Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Cindy Prescher, Meghan Leiseberg, Cathy Greene, Dawn Green, Randy Middleton, Jeanette Nuckolls, Bruce Weldy, Chuck Bartlett, Donna Lutkehaus, Michelle Hoerner, Dale Hoerner, Linda Chizmar, Carol Christiansen, Monika Cavanagh, Richard Spencer, Ben Matthews, Valerie Ambrose, Terri Heid, Peggy Feldman, Jen Shaw, Tonia Baker, Maureen Thomas, Lisa O'Dell, Geoff Schoonover, Erin Bradley, Derek Ambrose, Michelle Watson, Julie Laudeman, Jane Moore, Richard Rudolph, Gayle Betts, Kelley Rotramel, Donna Rollins, Rita Brutlag, Tracy Hitchins, Wes Caldwell, James Shaw, Sheri Olson, Marlys Bennington, Bert Popejoy, Steve Simpson, Vickie Mahrt, Derrick Ambrose, Eddie Rice, Tyler Rotramel, Pat Powers, Michelle Steinbacher from The Pantagraph, and others.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pepper Ridge Elementary School Principal Tim Arnold welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4.0 Public Hearing to Determine Need For Paving Work At NCWHS

A public hearing was held to determine the need to undertake repairs to the athletic track pavement at Normal Community West High School. Randy Middleton of Middleton Associates Incorporated presented an overview of the needed paving work proposed for the NCWHS track. He remarked that problems with the track were discovered this winter. Middleton indicated that water had entered through cracks in the track causing the base to separate from the running surface. He recommended resurfacing of the track utilizing Life Safety funds. No one in the audience addressed the Board regarding the proposed work. In addition, no written comments were provided.

5.0 Focus on Students/ Good News Reports

The following were recognized:

5.1 Focus on Students Reports

- Derrick Ambrose, Eddie Rice, and Tyler Rotramel, Pepper Ridge Students
- National Merit Scholarship Finalists from NCHS (Erin Bradley and Natalie Chambers)

5.2 Good News Reports

- NCHS Iron Pride
- Fairview School Principal James Shaw and the Fairview Staff

6.0 Public Comments None.

7.0 Action

7.1 Adopt Resolution Regarding Paving Work to be Funded by Life Safety Levy
Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adopt the Resolution Regarding Paving Work to be Funded by Life Safety Levy as presented. (Attachment #1) In response to a board member question about deterioration of the 10-year-old track, Middleton remarked that a contractor he had asked to look at the track felt the cracking might have been the result of the original mix being shy on urethane. With the proposed repairs, he hoped the track would last another eight years. While several Life Safety repairs have recently been needed at NCWHS, Middleton felt the building overall was fine. Estimated cost of the proposed project is \$65,400. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Certify the Need for Fire Prevention and Safety Funds

- Normal Community High School

Reece moved, Puzauskas seconded, to certify the need for Fire Prevention and Safety funds for paving work to be done at NCWHS. (Attachment #2) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

- Hoose Elementary School

Middleton reported that a 10-year Life Safety survey of Hoose School would take place next year. He indicated the lack of a smoke-screen door in one of the school corridors was of concern to the staff and was being recommended as a safety enhancement. Puzauskas moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to certify the need for Fire Prevention and Safety funds for corridor work to be done at Hoose Elementary School. (Attachment #3) Estimated cost of the project is \$10,320. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.3 Approve ESL Program Recommendation

Superintendent Chapman remarked that the District initially looked at the ESL program issue at Sugar Creek Elementary School due to concerns about increasing class sizes and their impact on teaching and learning. He added that options were explored that would provide the best possible educational and programmatic services to all students involved in a potential move of the program, as well as optimal opportunities for excellent teaching and effective and efficient utilization of available resources. Pye and Linda Chizmar, director of instructional support, presented the recommendation for ESL/Bilingual services. It was recommended that the ESL students currently housed at Sugar Creek be moved to Oakdale and the Spanish speaking bilingual students be moved to Brigham (Option 3). It was noted that the estimated cost to implement the program was \$248,000, which includes the addition of an ESL teacher. Pye pointed out that Sugar Creek no longer had space to house the ESL program and was currently being utilized to its fullest capacity. In response to a board member question about how long Oakdale School might be able to accommodate the ESL program, Chizmar indicated this was difficult to predict due to the nature of the population, but she felt five years might be a good prediction. In regard to Option 5, Pye remarked that this option would divide rather than consolidate instructional services and could create more student transportation challenges. Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the ESL program recommendation as presented. (Attachment #4) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: O'Connor, Reece. **Motion carried.**

7.4 Accept Proposals for the Lease and Purchase of Buses for 2006-2007

Pye presented three proposals for the lease and purchase of additional buses for the next school year. Bert Popejoy, Wes Caldwell, and Steve Simpson of the transportation department were present to address any questions regarding the proposals. Pye reviewed the proposals, which included the renewal of leases for 11 buses for one year and the lease-to-purchase renewal for three years for 6 buses at a cost of \$252,828, the purchase of 3 wheelchair buses at a cost of \$188,875, and the purchase of 2 multi-function activity buses at a cost of \$79,800. (Attachment #5) It was noted that the new wheelchair buses are needed to accommodate the increased size and weight of student wheelchairs, and the

new activity buses are needed due to federal legislation which now prohibits the use of 15-passenger vans to transport school-age children. Altenburg noted that the cost of the leases and purchases had already been budgeted, with the exception of the activity buses. He indicated that payment for the activity buses would be scheduled so that it would come out of next year's budget. Reece moved, Briggs seconded, to accept the proposals for the lease and purchase of buses for 2006-2007 as recommended. (Attachment #5) 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. Puzauskas moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8.1 Approval of the Minutes

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8.2 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #6)

8.3 Treasurer's Report (Attachment #7)

8.4 Overnight Trips

- NCHS request for overnight trip for six students to participate in the Capitol Forum on March 9-10, 2006 in Springfield, Illinois
- NCWHS request for overnight trip for six students to participate in the Capitol Forum on March 9-10, 2006 in Springfield, Illinois
- KJHS request for overnight trip for members of the Wrestling team and coaching staff to participate in the State Wrestling Tournament on March 10-11, 2006
- NCHS Advanced Choir and NCWHS Chamber Choir request to travel to Toronto, Canada on May 30 to June 6, 2006 to attend a clinic and perform at a Toronto cathedral

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

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Self-Funded Workers' Compensation Insurance Report

Pye introduced Jane Moore from the Van Gundy Insurance Agency and Dr. Richard Rudolph, an independent consultant engaged by Moore to assist the District as it considers Workers' Compensation insurance plan options. Moore reported that Worker's Compensation insurance plan specifications and invitations to bid were mailed to four entities on January 23. She added that bids were due by February 24, but had already been received and would soon be analyzed. Moore reviewed plan options available to the District: (1) the fully insured plan (which the District currently has), (2) the self-funded plan, and (3) an insurance pool. Rudolph reviewed the pros and cons of the pool plan option. Once an entity's bid has been accepted, Moore stated that the entity would then purchase Workers' Compensation insurance for the District as specified.

9.2 Reports on Councils/Committees/Commissions/Boards

Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council (Puzauskas/Reece) – Puzauskas reported he and Reece recently visited the TMD and LD instructional areas at Parkside Junior High School. He remarked that they greatly appreciated the hospitality of the school and faculty. Reece remarked that he had great respect for the staff involved in these instructional areas.

Consortium for Educational Change (Whittington) – Whittington reported that he and several others attended an orientation session on the Consortium recently in Springfield. He felt the session provided a good overview and indicated the District was ready to move ahead on working with the Consortium.

Bloomington Area Vocational Center (BAVC) (Whittington) Whittington reported he and Dawn Green, director of secondary education, attended the BAVC Council meeting last Tuesday. He reported that enrollment remained steady and that the center continues

to be a good value for the tuition paid. Whittington noted that a tuition increase would be forthcoming in two years.

Community Connections Committee (Briggs, Mickens-Baker) – Briggs reported that the schedule for presentations on enrollment, facility and financial issues to the PTA/PTO at schools would be sent soon to board members. A similar presentation will also be offered to community groups. Briggs added that a connection with the District's senior citizens would also be developed. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 13 at 4:30 p.m.

9.3 Illinois Interactive Report Card

Braksick stated that the Illinois Interactive Report Card was a tool used to help districts with the School Improvement process. He introduced Bruce Weldy, principal of Northpoint School, who gave a demonstration of how the Report Card was used at his building. Braksick remarked that he felt Weldy was a leader in using the Report Card and had trained and assisted other administrators on how to use the tool for their buildings. (Attachment #8)

9.4 Technology Update

Braksick presented a report on technology that included updates regarding the newest Skyward release, the Family Access component, scheduling of classes at the secondary level for the next school year, the Graduation Requirements component, utilization of Skyward functions for employee management, the Gradebook component, implementation of the state-level Student Information System (SIS), the Illinois Interactive Report Card, and the beginning implementation of United Streaming, a digital video-on-demand service, in the District. (Attachment #9) In response to a board member question regarding implementation district-wide of the food service component, Braksick indicated the District was disappointed in the speed of the finger scanning at Parkside Jr. High and was reluctant to move ahead with further implementation until the issue was resolved. He noted that fiber optic lines were being upgraded to speed up the process. Braksick also remarked that he hoped all teachers would eventually utilize the Gradebook component of Skyward.

9.5 Report on RevTrak

Altenburg and Pat Powers, director of food service, reported on RevTrak, an online revenue program designed to handle school needs. This program would allow parents to use a credit card to pay for their child's meals at school. Altenburg indicated the program could be expanded in the future to also allow parents to use a credit card to pay for registration and other fees/purchases online. Powers remarked that she felt the program would work well with the Family Access component of Skyward. It was suggested that the program be implemented first at Parkside Junior High School.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Chapman announced that BLDD would be advertising for bids for the addition to Grove School. Bids are scheduled to be accepted by the Board at the March 22 board meeting.
- O'Connor asked about an enrollment report. Pye indicated an enrollment report would be presented at the March 8 board meeting.
- Briggs expressed appreciation to Principal Tim Arnold and Pepper Ridge for hosting the board meeting.
- Reece announced that the Illinois State Bar Association would hold its annual mock trial experience for high school students next weekend in Springfield. He indicated he would serve as a judge at the event.
- Altenburg commented he had provided to board members a copy of the PMA financial model, which the administration would be working with tomorrow in planning for the future.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 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)