

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

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on March 22, 2006, 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, Meta Mickens-Baker, Martin O'Connor (entered at 6:05 p.m.), John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, Steve Whittington, and Board President Scott Lay. Members absent: None.

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

2.0 Closed Session At 6:00 p.m., Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to adjourn to closed session to review closed session minutes and consider real property matters, the employment/compensation of specific employees, and collective negotiating matters. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

3.0 Return to Public Session At approximately 7:00 p.m., Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Chapman, Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Prescher, Meghan Leiseberg, Jeanette Nuckolls, Andy Turner, Jama Lindahl, David Hirst, Ken Smiciklas, Jodi Sherman, Mary Ahillen, Beth Smith, Gayla Betts, Deborah Curtis, Ben Matthews, Steven Galka, Vickie Mahrt, Cathy Greene, Dawn Green, Erin Bradley, Tom Eder, Ben Hach, Kate Pavlou, Frank Payton, Randy West and Bruce Maxey of BLDD, Loren Baele, 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:

5.1 Focus on Students Reports

- Erin Bradley, NCHS student

5.2 Good News Reports

- David Hirst, Jama Lindahl, Kate Pavlou, and Beth Smith, NCWHS faculty
- Polly Swearingen and Carolyn Weiss, Sugar Creek faculty
- Frank Payton, Band instructor

6.0 Public Comments None.

7.0 Reports/Discussion 7.1 CAC Study Topic Committee Reports

- Alternative Educational Structures (Attachment #1)
- Change Management (Attachment #2)
- Unit 5 2025 (Attachment #3)

Ken Smiciklas, Unit 5 Citizens Advisory Council president, presented reports on three topics studied during the past school year by CAC committees. He highlighted the committee charges and recommendations regarding alternative educational structures, change management, and Unit 5 2025. Smiciklas also thanked the committee chairs. President Lay recognized the time and effort that the CAC put into the three reports, as well as the previously presented CAC report on focus groups. He noted that a portion of

the Board's work session on April 19 would be devoted to discussing the reports and recommendations. Lay expressed appreciation to the CAC for the diligence that went into the reports.

7.2 Wind Farm Project Report

Chapman introduced Ben Hach, development manager of Invenergy Wind, LLC. Hach gave a presentation on a wind farm being developed in Unit 5 in the townships of White Oak, Hudson, Normal and Dry Grove. Hach presented an overview of Invenergy and the McLean Wind Energy Center. In addition, he gave an update on studies and the permits required for the planned wind farm and its projected impact on the local economy. It was noted that construction of the McLean County wind farm would begin in the spring of 2007 and conclude in the fall of 2007. Hach reported that the wind farm is projected to produce enough power for 50,000 Illinois homes. It was noted in Hach's PowerPoint presentation that the value of property hosting wind turbines typically increases. Hach remarked that Invenergy would also be assessed taxes based on the output of the wind turbines. He added that legislation had been proposed to equalize the taxes to be assessed by the various townships for the wind farm. President Lay asked Hach to pass along to Chapman any forthcoming information regarding the proposed legislation.

8.0 Action

8.1 Accept CAC Study Topic Committee Reports

Mickens-Baker moved, Puzauskas seconded, to accept the CAC study topic committee reports as presented, with appreciation to the CAC. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.2 Accept Construction Bid for Grove Elementary School Addition

Altenburg reported that a bid opening for construction of an addition to Grove Elementary School took place on March 17. Randy West and Bruce Maxey of BLDD Architects were present to report on the bidding. West reported that seven general contractors bid on the project. He recommended the Board's acceptance of the low bid from Bishop Brothers, Inc. of Peoria, Illinois in the amount of \$994,323. It was noted that the contractor was comfortable with the recommended bid and had previously served as a contractor in Unit 5 for the addition to PJHS. Also, it was noted that there were no exceptions to the specifications in the recommended bid. Following acceptance of the bid, West commented that a pre-construction meeting would be held on March 24, and construction of the Grove addition would begin as soon as possible. Reece moved, O'Connor seconded, to accept the construction bid for an addition to Grove Elementary School as recommended. (Attachment #4) President Lay remarked that the estimated cost of the total project was about \$1.5 million, with proceeds from the Town of Normal school land dedication fee anticipated to cover the cost of the addition. West added that the initial estimated cost for the construction only (less contingencies) was \$1.25 million. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.3 Action From Closed Session

Pye recommended the appointment of Loren Baele as director of technology. He reviewed Baele's experience and qualifications and remarked that he would be a fine addition to the District's administrative team. Mickens-Baker moved, Puzauskas seconded, to appoint Loren Baele as director of technology, effective July 1, 2006 as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** Baele commented that he was excited about his new position and looked forward to the opportunity.

Pye also recommended the appointment of Stan Lewis as NCWHS athletic director. After reviewing Lewis's experience and qualifications, he indicated Lewis was unable to attend the meeting due to his district being on spring break. Puzauskas moved, Reece seconded, to appoint Stan Lewis as NCWHS athletic director, effective July 1, 2006 as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Chapman reported that the Administration had worked with the Snyder Corporation for some time in regard to Cedar Ridge Subdivision proposed for development in southwest Bloomington. He recommended the Board's approval of the Agreement that would provide land within the subdivision for a potential school site for the District to use at no cost for the property or infrastructure to provide water/sewer/utilities to the site. Chapman noted that the District would have an option until July 1, 2008 to pass a referendum to build a school on the site. If that would not occur, the land would revert back to the developer. Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adopt the Resolution for Unit 5 to enter into an Agreement and accept the donation by Cedar Ridge, LLC of a 15+ acre tract as outlined in the Agreement, contingent upon approval of a Subdivision Plan and authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement acknowledging the commitments set forth therein on this date. (Attachment #5) President Lay felt the Agreement was a positive one for the District and was similar to the arrangement Unit 5 has with the Town of Normal (school land dedication ordinance). Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.4 Approve Professional Development School Partnership Agreement

Chapman recommended the Board's approval of a Professional Development School Partnership Agreement between Illinois State University (ISU) and Unit 5, as he felt it would directly address the District's Strategic Plan theme of professional quality and would indirectly address the theme of student achievement. He explained that the four-year partnership would begin in August 2006 and be reviewed after two years, at which time either party could opt to discontinue the partnership. Chapman stated that clear criteria would need to be developed to measure results of the partnership. He highlighted the positive results of similar partnerships between ISU and three other school districts. Pye felt the partnership would assist the District in attracting and retaining quality teacher candidates in a competitive market. Braksick felt the extra semester that ISU student teachers would spend in Unit 5 classrooms would be a benefit in regard to assisting teachers, helping students, and sharing knowledge/expertise. Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to approve the Professional Development School Partnership Agreement as recommended. (Attachment #6) Briggs requested that a follow-up report be provided to the Board in one year, upon approval of the Agreement. Chapman reported that ISU had already identified students interested in participating in the partnership. He added that Unit 5 would be responsible for working with ISU to identify a program coordinator. Some board members questioned the benefits of the partnership, its cost to the District (\$25,000 per year), teacher candidate diversity, and the possible limiting of teacher candidates from one source. Dr. Deborah Curtis, interim dean of the College of Education at ISU, stated that the year-long, national model program would generate a more enhanced teacher candidate for the school system to consider and provide professional development experiences for Unit 5 faculty in their classrooms that would be aligned with the District's School Improvement Plan. Chapman commented that teacher candidates would continue to be considered from various universities. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, Puzauskas, Reece, Lay. Nays: O'Connor, Whittington. **Motion carried.**

9.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. Briggs requested item 9.7.2 be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of item 9.7.2 Designate May 30, 2006 as the Last Day of School for 2005-2006 (due to a recent snow day).

9.1 Approval of the Minutes

- March 8, 2006 Regular Meeting

9.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #7)

9.3 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #8)

9.4 Treasurer's Report – February 2006 (Attachment #9)

9.5 Donations

- Carlock School request to accept donation of Epson Picture Mate photo printer for the 5th grade at Carlock School from Carlock parent, Cindy Cook – total: \$120.00
- NCWHS request to accept donation of replacement band trailer from the NCWHS Band Parents Organization – total \$3,500.00

9.6 Overnight Trips

- PJHS Python Council request for overnight trip on April 21-22, 2006 to attend the 46th Annual Illinois Association of Junior High Student Councils State Convention

9.7 Other

- Victory Christian Academy request for Sunday use of the NCHS Auditorium beginning May 21, 2006 until their anticipated building project completion date in November 2006 and thereafter as needed
- Change the graduation date for the next school year to June 2, 2007
- Designate School Specialty as the catalog supplier for a three-year period of 2006-2009 (Attachment #10)

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

Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to postpone action to designate the last day of school for 2005-2006 until the next regular board meeting on April 12, 2006. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

10.0 Reports/Discussion

10.1 Reports on Councils/Committees/Commissions/Boards

Unit 5/Local Government Committee (Mickens-Baker/Reece) – Mickens-Baker reported that the committee held its first meeting on March 13 at 11:00 a.m. at the IEA office in Bloomington. Representatives attending were: Unit 5 – Mickens-Baker, Reece, and Chapman; Normal – Mayor Chris Koos, Councilmen Adam Nielsen and Jason Chambers, and City Manager Mark Peterson. Mickens-Baker indicated the committee meeting was in follow-up to an intergovernmental meeting held in January 2005. She also reported she would serve as chairman, and Adam Nielsen would serve as vice chairman. Committee meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each quarter. In regard to meeting agendas, it was reported that matters of interest to all parties involved would be considered. Mickens-Baker and Reece hoped that the City of Bloomington and Bloomington District 87 would choose to participate in the future. Some of the topics discussed at the March 13 meeting were the school land dedication ordinance, current/future residential development projects in the District, and developments in Normal's TIF district.

Community Connections Committee (Briggs/Mickens-Baker) – Mickens-Baker reported that the committee met on March 13 and discussed the following:

- The February 22 board meeting held at Pepper Ridge Elementary School
- Community Conversation meetings
- The possibility of using Study Circles in the future to seek input and perhaps take action
- Scheduled presentations to Unit 5 schools' parent-teacher groups on enrollment/finance/state of the District
- Non-English speaking communications
- Unit 5 Connect (currently has 1,131 participants)
- A possible legislator education forum to be jointly sponsored by Unit 5 and District 87 (tentative date is May 31)
- Development of "Meet and Greet" breakfasts to be held at the District's schools in partnership with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce in the fall
- Development of a "senior" connection in the fall

Mickens-Baker stated that the next meeting of the committee would be held on April 11, with the main agenda item to be discussion of the District's Communication Plan.

Facilities Review Committee (O'Connor/Reece) – O'Connor reported that the committee met recently and discussed the bidding of architectural services and the Kern Street property. The committee also agreed on the following:

- To purchase 71 portable air conditioners for the District's schools that do not have air conditioning
- Uniformity of color in purchasing carpet for the District

In response to a question about the status of an offer by an individual to secure donated window units for all un-air conditioned buildings, it was stated that the units were not forthcoming and that portable units were determined to be preferable.

Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council (Puzauskas/Reece) – Reece reported that the council met last week and re-appointed Dr. Chuck Hartseil as director and elected Pye as chairman. Reece requested that Hartseil report to the Board at a future meeting on staffing changes that would most likely have to be implemented if proposed legislation is passed. Reece felt the proposed legislation would significantly increase the District's special education costs.

McLean County Regional Planning Commission (Lay) – Lay reported that he and Chapman had attended a luncheon meeting today where William Hudnut (former mayor of Indianapolis, former congressman, and now a senior fellow with the Urban Land Institute) was a guest of the Regional Planning Commission. He remarked that Hudnut spoke on planning issues from the local government standpoint at a public forum.

In regard to presentations to Unit 5 schools' parent-teacher groups on enrollment/finance/state of the District, Lay reported that three meetings had been held to date, with more scheduled. He thanked Chapman and Meghan Leisberg for their efforts in preparing for the meetings.

10.2 1st Reading: Proposed Board Policy Revisions

- Policy 1.20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
- Policy 2.30 School District Elections
- Policy 2.50 Board Member Term of Office
- Policy 2.210 Organization Board Meetings
- Policy 6.130 Program for the Gifted

Briggs presented five board policies for revision. She highlighted the proposed changes and recommended adoption of the revisions at the April 12 regular board meeting. She requested that any suggested input regarding the policies be submitted to her as soon as possible and noted that several more proposed policy revisions would be presented for first reading on the 12th.

11.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Mickens-Baker announced that the Bloomington-Normal Education Alliance Diversity Committee would hold a Minority Educator Reception on April 10 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Bloomington High School. ISU President, Dr. Al Bowman, will be the keynote speaker.
- Reece congratulated the NCHS and NCWHS Mock Trial teams on their very strong showing in the Mock Trial event recently held in Springfield.
- Reece commented that he, Chapman, and Vickie Mahrt attended a McLean County Compact meeting today and heard an informative presentation on the business of school districts/financial elements presented by Superintendent Bob Nielsen of Bloomington District 87.

- Braksick announced that ISAT testing would be completed tomorrow in Unit 5. He commended the teaching staff for making adjustments and taking in stride the numerous test distribution issues that occurred throughout the state.
- Lay recognized and welcomed John Moore, mayor of the village of Lexington, who attended the board meeting.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 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)