

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
March 8, 2006

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on March 8, 2006, at approximately 5:45 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 West Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

**1.0 Preview of Meeting
Room Multi-media
Capabilities**

Tod Altenburg, chief financial officer/treasurer, previewed for board members the new multi-media capabilities of the District Office meeting room. Capabilities presented included Smartboard/Optoma projector, laptop computer, dry erase boards, and television.

2.0 Roll Call

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Meta Mickens-Baker, Martin O'Connor, John Puzauskas, Steve Whittington, and Board President Scott Lay. Members absent: Jay Reece.

3.0 Closed Session

At 6:00 p.m., Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to adjourn to closed session to consider the employment and compensation of specific individuals, collective negotiating matters, real property matters, and review of closed session minutes. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. 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.

**4.0 Return to
Public Session**

At approximately 7:08 p.m., Briggs moved, O'Connor seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Chapman, Pye, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum/Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Prescher, Meghan Leiseberg, Cathy Greene, Jan Meadows, Jill Frazier, Shelly Erickson, Judy Lancaster, Charles Bartlett, Todd Zaitzeff, Glen Heiner, Matt Thompson, Aaron Gierhart, Ambar Riswan, Mary Kate Polzin, Bryan Throckmorton, Crystal Penn, Jim Carver, Jamie Jackson, Lisa Petrovik, Bryan Kelly, Ben Hammer, Pat Stephens, Val Hackett, Michele Steinbacher from The Pantagraph, Linda Conder, Deanne Bryant, Boy Scouts from Troop 41 in Normal, and others.

5.0 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**6.0 Focus on Students/
Good News Reports**

The following were recognized:

6.1 Focus on Students Reports

- NCHS Football Team members who participated in the annual BroMenn ride

6.2 Good News Reports

- Deanne Bryant, CJHS retiree/teacher
- Towanda School PTO and grant from Lowe's

7.0 Public Comments

None.

8.0 Action

8.1 Set Date for Board Work Session

Chapman recommended a board work session be held on April 19 to discuss future issues. Mickens-Baker moved, Puzauskas seconded, to set the date of Wednesday, April 19, 2006 for a board work session to be held at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None.

Motion carried.

8.2 Adopt Revised Organizational Chart

Chapman recommended adoption of a revised Organizational Chart for greater efficiency. He remarked that the revision included changes in who administrators report to, restructuring of some existing positions, and the creation of a director of technology position without increasing the total number of positions. Puzauskas moved, Briggs seconded, to adopt the District's Organizational Chart as revised. (Attachment #1)

President Lay noted that the administrative team had worked on the revised chart for several months, which eliminated the need for discussion of the motion. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.3 Approve Elementary Open Attendance Area Recommendation

Pye presented a recommendation to alter two elementary open attendance areas to provide for increased flexibility to balance class sizes. The recommendation included:

- Expansion of Open Attendance Area 1 (Grove, Northpoint, and Towanda Elementary Schools) to include areas within the following boundaries: North – Raab Road, East – Towanda Barnes Road, West – Airport Road, and South – Fort Jesse Road. Colene Hoose and Sugar Creek Elementary Schools would be added to the list of designated schools.
- Expansion of Open Attendance Area 4 (Glenn and Brigham Elementary Schools) to include areas north of Route 150 and west of Abraham Road. Colene Hoose Elementary School would be added to the list of designated schools.

Puzauskas moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the elementary open attendance area recommendation as presented. (Attachment #2) In response to a board member question, it was noted that students currently in the two open attendance areas would remain in their designated schools. The recommendation would impact only new students. Pye stated that parents would be informed as early as possible of these open attendance area changes. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.4 Action From Closed Session

Pye introduced Kurt Swearingen, currently principal of Prairieland Elementary School, and recommended his appointment as director of elementary education. He stated that Swearingen had served the District over the past 27 years in the capacities of teacher, administrative intern, and principal of four elementary schools. Pye also highlighted Swearingen's educational background. Briggs moved, O'Connor seconded, to appoint Kurt Swearingen as director of elementary education, effective July 1, 2006 as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** Swearingen remarked that he was honored to be given this opportunity and looked forward to starting his new position.

9.0 Consent Agenda

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

9.1 Approval of the Minutes

- February 22, 2006 Regular Meeting

9.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #3)

9.3 Overnight Trips

- NCWHS Color Guard request to participate in the Midwest Color Guard Circuit Championships in LaPorte, Indiana on March 31-April 2, 2006
- NCHS request for selected students to participate in the IHSA Drama/Group Interpretation State Competition on March 24-25, 2006 in Springfield, Illinois
- PJHS request for Wrestling Team members who are successful at sectionals to attend the State Wrestling Tournament at Northern Illinois University on March 10-11, 2006

9.4 Other

- Hudson School request for Sunday use of Hudson School IMC on March 26, April 23, and May 28, 2006 by the Bloomington-Normal Juvenile Diabetes Information Support Group
- American Youth Basketball Tour (AYBT) request to utilize the Gymnasium facilities at NCHS, NCWHS, CJHS, KJHS, and PJHS for its National Tournament to be conducted Sunday, July 23 through Sunday, July 30, 2006
- NCWHS request for Sunday use of the Auditorium and Cafeteria on Sunday, April 16, 2006 by Evangelical Free Church for an Easter breakfast and church service
- Summer 2006 Camps
 - NCHS Athletic Camp (Attachment #4)
 - NCWHS Athletic Camp (Attachment #5)

Concerning AYBT's request to utilize District facilities, President Lay pointed out that Unit 5 makes every effort possible to open its facilities to the community in an effort to be a good neighbor and to provide additional revenues for the school system. He added that the Tournament would generate \$33,000 in additional revenue for the school system. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

10.0 Reports/Discussion

10.1 Reports on Councils/Committees/Commissions/Boards

Intergovernmental Committee (Mickens-Baker/Reece) – Mickens-Baker reported that the committee would hold its first meeting on March 13 at 11:00 a.m. at the IEA office in Bloomington.

McLean County Regional Planning Commission (Lay) – Lay reported that at the recent monthly meeting of the Commission no new subdivision proposals were presented. He also announced that the Commission would be hosting a forum on March 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the Normal Theater. Guest speaker will be William Hudnut, III. Lay noted that Hudnut is former mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana and served as secretary of housing and urban development during the presidency of George H. W. Bush. Lay indicated the forum was open to the public and free of charge.

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (Briggs) – Briggs reported that the Foundation's Board of Directors would meet tomorrow morning and that a committee would review 61 grant applications on April 6. Recommendations to fund \$27,400 in grants will be made to the Board of Directors in late April.

Community Connections Committee (Briggs/Mickens-Baker) – Briggs noted that board representatives and administrators would be attending parent group meetings at the District's schools over the next several months to present information on enrollment, facilities, and finance. The first meeting will be on March 13 at Parkside Elementary. Other meetings scheduled are March 15 at Pepper Ridge Elementary School and March 20 at NCHS. There will be nine more meetings after spring break. Meetings at other Unit 5 schools will be scheduled at the earliest opportunity.

102 Enrollment Update

- Enrollment – February 28, 2006
- Enrollment Comparison – 2/05 to 2/06

Pye reported student enrollment of 11,746 as of February 28. He noted that enrollment would be reported next month for an additional ECE class at Fox Creek Elementary School that would begin on March 13. Pye remarked that the average elementary class size remains around 22.9, and enrollment has grown by 476 students when compared to the February 2005 enrollment.

11.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Mickens-Baker commented that she, Briggs, Chapman, and Lay attended the IASB Corn Belt Division Semi-Annual Conference and Dinner Meeting in Pontiac, Illinois on March 7. She highlighted agenda topics, which included: (1) the importance of delegates participating in the Delegate Assembly at the IASB Conference held annually in November, (2) a new guidebook published by IASB on effective school board meetings, (3) consideration of a day rate for board members who might want to attend the National School Board Association Conference only one or two days, (4) the importance of getting to know and contact legislators, (5) tax referenda ideas, and (6) No Child Left Behind.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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)