

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
August 24, 2005

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on August 24, 2005, 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, John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, Steve Whittington, and Board President Scott Lay. Members absent: None.
- 2.0 Closed Session** Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to adjourn to closed session to consider the employment and compensation of specific individuals, real property matters, collective negotiating matters, and review of closed session minutes. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, 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.
- 3.0 Return to Public Session** At approximately 7:00 p.m., Briggs moved, Reece 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, Chuck Bartlett, Vickie Mahrt, Dawn Green, Rich Schroeder, Ben Matthews, Andrew Matthews, Phyllis Coulter from The Pantagraph, Kevin Heinkes from WJBC, and others.
- 4.0 Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 5.0 Public Comments** The following addressed the Board:
- | | <u>Topic</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Andrew Matthews, Normal, Illinois | CAC At-Large Member Selection |
- 6.0 Reports/Discussion** 6.1 Enrollment Update
Pye presented what he termed a "very preliminary" enrollment update, as August 24 was the first half-day of school. He highlighted the bilingual sections at Brigham School, as well as additional sections and sections being considered for the addition of a teaching assistant at other elementary schools in the District. Significant increases at the high school level were also noted. Pye reported overall enrollment growth of 466 students. He stated that the average class size at the elementary level was 22.6, which was slightly lower than it was at the end of the previous school year.
- 7.0 Action** 7.1 Adopt Proposed Board Policy Revisions/Addition
- Policy 2.150 Committees – *Revision*
 - Policy 2.160 Board Attorney – *Revision*
 - Policy 3.60 Administrative Responsibilities of the Principals – *Revision*
 - Policy 5.35 General Personnel – Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act – *New*
 - Policy 5.270 Educational Support Personnel – Employment At-Will, Compensation and Assignment - *Revision*

Briggs reviewed the policy revisions and addition proposed for adoption and noted she had not received any suggested changes since their first reading at the last regular board meeting. Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adopt the revision of Board Policies 2.150, 2.160, 3.60, and 5.270 and addition of Policy 5.35 as proposed. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Approve Unit 5 CAC Study Topics for 2005-2006

Chapman reported that the Community Connections Committee and leadership of the Citizens Advisory Council worked together to develop proposed study topics for the current school year. He reviewed the proposed short-term action project (Focus Groups), and the three long-term studies (Alternative Educational Structures, Change Management, and Unit 5 2025) and recommended their approval. Mickens-Baker moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the Unit 5 CAC Study Topics for 2005-2006 as presented. (Attachment #2) Briggs pointed out that the four proposed study topics were interrelated. Reece remarked that he was pleased to see the CAC addressing a longer-term perspective for the Board and District. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.3 Action From Closed Session

Chapman recommended the Board's approval of an action item from closed session. Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve administrator salaries and benefits for 2005-2007. (Attachment #3) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

8.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. He remarked that staffing for this school year would be near completion, with approval of this Consent Agenda. Chapman pointed out that the KJHS overnight trip request included on the Consent Agenda was approved by the Board last year, but the Pom Pon Squad was unable to make the trip at that time. Mickens-Baker moved, Reece seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8.1 Approval of the Minutes

- August 10, 2005 Regular Meeting

8.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #4)

8.3 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #5)

8.4 Treasurer's Report – End-of-Year June 30, 2005 (Attachment #6)

8.5 Treasurer's Report – July 2005 (Attachment #7)

8.6 Overnight Trips

- KJHS Pom Pon Squad request to participate in the National Pom Pon Competition in Orlando, Florida on February 2-6, 2006

President Lay introduced the recommended candidate for the NCWHS varsity girls basketball coach position, Steve Price. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Board Representative Reports

Community Connections Committee (Briggs/Mickens-Baker) – Mickens-Baker reported that the CAC New Member Orientation would be held on August 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, and the first CAC general membership meeting would be held on September 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Parkside Junior High School. Included on the agenda for the 21st will be introduction of the CAC study topics with sign-up for committees, presentation of the revised Strategic Plan and Diversity Plan, follow-up on the status of the 2004-2005 CAC study topic recommendations, an open forum, and a membership survey.

Mickens-Baker informed the Board that Community Conversation focus groups would meet on November 1, 2, and 3. She requested board member input on questions to be asked at those meetings by September 2.

She also reported the annual District newsletter was being prepared for distribution in mid October.

Other events planned to expand on the District's communication were reported to be Community Conversation meetings for the public and Lunch and Learn meetings for interested employees at local workplaces.

Mickens-Baker noted that 942 individuals have signed up for Unit 5 Connect.

The next meeting of the Community Connections Committee will be on October 3 at 4:30 p.m. at the District Office.

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (Briggs) – Briggs reported that an orientation session for new members of the Foundation's Board of Directors was held recently.

Board Policy Review Committee (Briggs) – Briggs reported that the committee continues to meet regularly for the ongoing review of policies. She indicated that more policies would be presented for first reading at the September 14 board meeting.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Altenburg commented that he had the opportunity to attend Kindergarten Open House at Northpoint School today, with his family.
- Reece remarked that he walked his children to their new classrooms at Prairieland School today, the first day of the school year.
- Briggs made positive remarks concerning the Opening Institutes held on August 22 and 23. She added that she was delighted that the weather was cooler for the students in buildings without air-conditioning.
- President Lay noted that he had the opportunity last Friday to welcome the District's 90+ new teachers. He also expressed appreciation to UFEA president, Vickie Mahrt, for her positive remarks made at the Opening Institute.
- President Lay announced that a combined meeting of the Unit 5 and District 87 Boards of Education would be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Building in Bloomington. He encouraged board members to come prepared to present ideas on areas in which the two districts could work together cooperatively. He indicated that the superintendents and board presidents of both districts met this morning with the editorial board of *The Pantagraph* to discuss topics to be addressed not only at the meeting next week, but in the future.
- Chapman announced that he recently attended the grand opening of the new Gordmans store in Normal and met the company's CEO, Jeff Gordman. He remarked that it was Gordmans' practice in all of their stores to have a "Partners in Education" program. Gordmans has partnered with Unit 5 and provided the District with an initial contribution of \$5,000. Chapman indicated that Gordmans would be partnering with Unit 5 schools on a rotating basis beginning with Chiddix Jr. High and Northpoint Elementary.
- Mickens-Baker reported that she attended a meeting yesterday afternoon at Hoose School where two representatives of the McLean County Indian Association gave a presentation on Indian culture and its impact on schools. The presenters also shared comparison information on school in India and the United States. Mickens-Baker felt the presentation was well received by the attendees.
- Mickens-Baker reported that she attended the Opening the School Year with Prayer event that was held last week and helped last Saturday with the installation of playground equipment at Oakdale School, where her son participates in a Boy Scout troop. She also made positive remarks regarding registration and Open House at Chiddix Jr. High, where her son is a student.
- Puzauskas remarked that the school year was off to a good start for his family as well.

- Pye announced that an article appeared recently in Turf magazine regarding Unit 5's Grounds crew and its efforts put forth in working on the athletic fields at Normal Community High School to bring them into good playing conditions for students.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 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)