

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
September 14, 2005

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on September 14, 2005, at approximately 6:30 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, Steve Whittington, and Board President Scott Lay. Members absent: Jay Reece.

2.0 Closed Session Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adjourn to closed session to consider the employment and compensation of specific individuals, collective negotiating 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.

3.0 Return to Public Session At approximately 7:00 p.m., Briggs moved, Puzauskas 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 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, Lee Brasseur, Linda Chizmar, Jess Ray, Jean Kupper-Smith, Grethe Armstrong, Tony Ferrara, Cathy Greene, Julia Schoonover, Carmen Bergmann, Todd Vincent, Lisa O'Dell, Mary Betancourt, Tricia Thompson, Dawn Leman, Janice Burch, Jerry James, Chuck Hartseil, Eric Swingler, Rhonda Klockenga, Mitzi Woody, Cathy Bissoondial, Joan Everson, Fred Morissette, Henry Walker, Daniel Rich, Krissy Ort, Bert Popejoy, Doug Johnson, Phyllis Coulter from The Pantagraph, Kevin Heinkes from WJBC, and others.

4.0 Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5.0 Focus on Students/ The following were recognized:

Good News Reports

5.1 Good News Report

- Carmen Bergmann and Julia Schoonover, Elementary Math Curriculum Chairs

6.0 Public Comments The following addressed the Board:

	<u>Topic</u>
• Lee Brasseur, Normal, Illinois	Lack of air-conditioning at six schools
• Jess Ray, Normal, Illinois	“ “ “
• Mitzi Woody, Normal, Illinois	“ “ “
• Tony Ferrara, Normal, Illinois	“ “ “
• Cathy Bissoondial, Normal, Illinois	“ “ “
• Krissy Ort, Hudson, Illinois	“ “ “
• Daniel Rich, Normal, Illinois	“ “ “
• Julia Schoonover, Bloomington, Illinois	Expressed appreciation for elementary building chair positions

In regard to the public comments on the lack of air-conditioning at six Unit 5 schools, Chapman remarked that the issue was investigated in the fall of 2002; however, shortly thereafter the District had to address a budget crisis that led to reductions and increased revenue of about \$6 million in the last school year. As the District was able to begin the current school year without significant reductions, Chapman felt Unit 5 could now re-focus on this issue. He stated that he had asked Pye, Altenburg, and Jeff Monahan, supervisor of maintenance services, to actively explore this issue including the possibilities, the obstacles, and costs. Once information has been gathered, a report will be presented at a future board meeting. President Lay noted disparity in the District's schools because of the age of buildings. As the District continues to address its growth, he stated that long-term decisions regarding old and new facilities would be needed. Lay pointed out that the District currently has \$145 million in bonded indebtedness, as it is paying off new buildings constructed since 1998. He hoped Unit 5 taxpayers would continue to be as generous in the future, as new facilities and improvements to old facilities are considered.

7.0 Action

7.1 Accept Quotation for Lease/Repurchase Agreement of Truck with Plow

Altenburg reported the District has two pickup trucks deemed to be unreliable for snow removal, but due to budget constraints only one is recommended for replacement at this time. He recommended the Board's acceptance of the quotation from Dennison Ford in the amount of \$9,290.96 for a new truck with plow. Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to accept the quotation for the lease/repurchase agreement of a 2006 Ford F-350 truck with plow as recommended. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Approve Additional Curriculum Revision Task Force/Textbook Adoption for 2005-2006

Braksick recommended the Board's approval of an additional curriculum revision task force/textbook adoption for Spanish II, as it was inadvertently left off the list of task forces approved in June of this year. He noted that Spanish I was revised last year, and the revision of Spanish II would be a continuance of that work. Braksick reported that the Spanish II cost was already included in the budget for the 2005-2006 school year. O'Connor moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve an additional curriculum revision task force/textbook adoption for Spanish II for 2005-2006 as recommended. (Attachment #2) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. He noted the retirements in 2008 of three long-time certified personnel and the retirements this semester of two educational support personnel. Mickens-Baker moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8.1 Approval of the Minutes

- August 22, 2005 Special Meeting
- August 24, 2005 Regular Meeting
- August 31, 2005 Combined Meeting

8.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #3)

8.3 Overnight Trips

- Normal FFA Chapter overnight trip requests for 2005-2006 (Attachment #4)
- NCWHS Outdoor Adventure Club request for overnight trip to the Shawnee National Forest on September 24-25, 2005

8.4 Other

- NCWHS request for Sunday use of the school by the CIS Soccer Club on September 17-18, 2005
- NCWHS request for Sunday use of the NCWHS pool by the Normal Parks and Recreation Department on Sundays as indicated during the 2005-2006 school year (Attachment #5)

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

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Summer School Report

Dr. Chuck Hartseil, director of special education-operations, introduced Eric Swingler and Rhonda Klockenga, summer school directors, who reported on the special education and English as a Second Language (ESL) summer schools held at Parkside Elementary and Parkside Junior High Schools in June/July 2005. The directors remarked that they would like to see summer school expanded in the future to include regular education, gifted education, and discovery classes. (Attachment #6)

9.2 Enrollment Update

Pye reported the sixth-day student enrollment to be 11,616 as of August 31. He noted that at-risk first grade students were not yet included in the enrollment as they started after the 31st, and 12 teaching assistants were added to elementary classrooms with larger class sizes. In comparison to last August, elementary student enrollment increased by 192. Due to a large increase in the 8th grade enrollment at Parkside Junior High School, Pye reported that one-half teaching team was added. In addition, he indicated the high school student enrollment grew by 147. Overall, student enrollment increased by 379 or 3.37 percent. Pye stated that eight students had been enrolled from the Hurricane Katrina area, and the District expects to welcome three more students on September 19. Lay commented that only 21 of the 233 elementary class sections were larger than the targeted class size ranges.

9.3 Transportation Update

Pye updated the Board on how the transportation system had operated during the first few weeks of school. He remarked that the three transportation goals for this year were (1) reduce student ride time, (2) reduce student wait time, and (3) ensure that special education and ESL students receive full-day programming. Pye reported student ride times had been reduced, but work continues to improve ride time for some areas. He felt significant progress had been made in reducing student wait time, particularly at the secondary level. Pye also reported great progress in the area of full-day programming for special education and ESL students. He noted that some individual cases were still being addressed. Pye commended the transportation department for its effort in working through these changes and added that the biggest challenge for the department continues to be finding bus drivers. In response to a board member question about on-time performance, Pye felt transportation services for a majority of the District's students were effective.

9.4 1st Reading: Risk Management Program

Altenburg presented a Risk Management Program for first reading. He stated that the proposed program would guide the District in the reduction and prevention of liability and serves as documentation of how Tort Fund monies are spent. Altenburg indicated the program would be scheduled for approval at the October 12 regular board meeting. He stated that the District's financial auditors had reviewed the program and felt Unit 5 would be taking steps in the right direction with adoption of the program. Lay asked board members to seek answers to any specific questions they might have about the program from Altenburg prior to the October 12 board meeting.

9.5 Update on Skyward Implementation

Braksick presented the second update on the implementation of Skyward software. Due to some issues with the biometric identification system being piloted this year in the student lunch lines at Parkside Junior High School, it was reported that pin numbers have been implemented to speed up the lines. Braksick indicated the system would likely be expanded to Chiddix Junior High in late October/early November.

It was reported that the conversion of student grade history went well, and the grade history is now being checked for accuracy. Braksick stated that grade book training started last week. Follow-up training sessions have also been scheduled to address staff

members' questions about Skyward now that they have been utilizing the software for several weeks.

9.6 ACT Report

Braksick presented an analysis of the ACT scores for the Class of 2005. Also provided were 10-year analyses of Unit 5, State of Illinois, and National ACT scores. (Attachment #7) He noted that NCHS and NCWHS would further analyze their students' scores for areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.

9.7 Freedom of Information Requests Report

Chapman reported that three written requests for public information accessible under the Freedom of Information Act were received and processed.

9.8 Board Representative Reports

Facilities Review Committee (O'Connor) – O'Connor reported the committee met recently to review requests for the following:

- New playground equipment at Carlock Elementary School – approved subject to a meeting with the McLean County Health Department to be certain the location of the equipment would not interfere with the school's septic system
- An indoor concession stand at NCHS – approved
- A storage facility in the NCWHS pool area – approved with the stipulation that the storage facility comes out 7 feet from the wall
- A press box/concession stand for the NCWHS soccer field - tabled pending further discussions regarding utility usage in the area.

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (BTBEF) (Briggs) – Briggs reported the following:

- Applications will be accepted for a replacement to fill a three-year term, due to the resignation of a Unit 5 representative.
- The Foundation's records received a clean audit report.
- The July 30 market value of cash/investments was \$584,244.
- Hurricane Katrina may impact fundraising efforts for BTBEF.

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

- CAC new member orientation on August 25 was attended by 20 of 26 new members.
- CAC officers reopened the membership drive for at-large members. Applications were due by September 12.
- In regard to Focus Group sessions planned for November, meetings with experts in facilitation at State Farm and Illinois State University have provided suggestions and offers of support.
- A print communication is in progress. Plans are to distribute the publication via The Pantagraph to all Unit 5 communities in October.
- Publicity will be forthcoming on:
 - The October 26 regular board meeting that will be held at Prairieland Elementary School. The meeting will open with a public forum at 6:00 p.m.
 - Unit 5 Connect – approximately 980 enrollees currently
 - Focus group sessions scheduled for November 1, 2, and 3
 - The desire for organization and business locations to hold "Community Conversations"

9.9 1st Reading: Proposed Board Policy Revisions

- Policy 5.10 – General Personnel – Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment (*Revision*)
- Policy 6.110 – Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program (*Revision*)

- Policy 7.50 – School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools (*Revision*)

Briggs reported that she had provided to board members, the Cabinet, and union representatives an explanation of the proposed policy revisions. (Attachment #9) Briggs asked board members to submit any input they may have on these policies to her before September 21.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Briggs made positive comments about the luncheon she attended last Thursday at PJHS, along with Dr. Chapman and UFEA President Vickie Mahrt.
- Briggs remarked that she felt a side benefit of the combined meeting of the Unit 5 and District 87 Boards of Education held on August 31 was the small discussions that took place before/after the meeting with the public and District 87 counterparts.
- Chapman concurred with Briggs' comments about the PJHS luncheon and indicated it was the second in a series of luncheons to take place at each of the District's schools through the end of October. Dr. Chapman, UFEA President Mahrt, and a Unit 5 board member will attend each of the luncheons.
- Mickens-Baker indicated the following:
 - She recently attended a Kindergarten reading activity at Brigham Elementary School.
 - She recently visited with teachers and parents at Glenn and Brigham Elementary Schools regarding concerns about the lack of air-conditioning at those facilities.
 - She participated in an Educational Funding Forum panel discussion sponsored by the McLean County Democrats.
- President Lay also made positive comments about the Fairview School luncheon he recently attended with Dr. Chapman and UFEA President Mahrt.
- Lay concurred with Briggs' comments regarding the combined meeting held on August 31. He added that he felt the fruits of that meeting were yet to be seen. Indicated he looked forward to substantive progress on collaborative projects in the areas of finance and curriculum over the next 6 to 12 months.
- Lay noted that Superintendent Chapman recently welcomed a new granddaughter to his family.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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)