

MINUTES
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
September 28, 2005

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, met in regular session on September 28, 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, Martin O'Connor, John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, Steve Whittington, and Board President Scott Lay. Members absent: Meta Mickens-Baker.

2.0 Closed Session Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to adjourn to closed session to consider the employment and compensation of specific individuals, collective negotiating matters, pending litigation, and review of closed session minutes. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, 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, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Chapman, Pye, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Prescher, Meghan Leiseberg, Chuck Bartlett, Vickie Mahrt, Dawn Green, Rich Schroeder, Grethe Armstrong, Teresa Watts, Lauren Lampi, Jerry James, Jeff Monahan, Bruce Boswell, 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 Hearing on Proposed Budget For 2005-2006

Altenburg presented the 2005-2006 Budget for Unit 5 and Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association and noted that the tentative budget had been on public display since August 11, and the notice of public hearing on the budget had been published in the local newspaper. He stated that expenditures had increased some since the tentative budget was presented due to the District's growing student enrollment and the need for more teaching staff, furniture and supplies. Altenburg also reported that additional grant monies had increased revenue, and \$100,000 had been added to the expenditure line item for diesel fuel. The proposed revenue and expenditures for the various funds were reviewed. It was pointed out that the Educational and Transportation Funds would have balanced budgets, while the Operations and Maintenance Fund would have a deficit budget of about \$3 million. Altenburg remarked that total proposed revenue for 2005-2006 would be \$99,918,985 and proposed expenditures would be \$100,886,078. Some possible strategies presented to reduce expenditures in the Operations and Maintenance Fund were continued scrutiny of requisitions, savings from the Energy Education program, continued seeking of grant opportunities, cooperatives with District 87 to reduce utility costs, depositing of interest income from investments into the Operations and Maintenance Fund, restructuring of building rental fees to increase revenue, the transfer of monies from Working Cash to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, and continued scrutiny of overtime and extra work assignments. Altenburg added that strategies presented last year by the Citizens Advisory Council and Turning Point 2004 Task Force would also be taken into consideration. In response to a board member question about how much money would be available to transfer from the Working Cash

Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, Altenburg responded that about \$3.3 million was currently available and possibly \$4.1 million by the end of the year. President Lay commented that he felt the proposed budget was trending in the right direction and thanked the administrative team and staff for their efforts toward improving the District's budget. Lay felt more information was needed in regard to utility deregulation and its impact on the Operations and Maintenance Fund. No one in the audience addressed the Board regarding the proposed budget for 2005-2006. The public hearing officially ended at approximately 7:30 p.m.

6.0 Public Comments

None.

7.0 Action

7.1 Adopt 2005-2006 Budget Resolution

Altenburg recommended the Board's adoption of the 2005-2006 Budget Resolution as proposed. Reece moved, O'Connor seconded, to adopt the 2005-2006 Budget Resolution as presented. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Adopt 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 presented three board policy revisions for adoption and indicated no comments or suggestions had been received since their first reading. Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adopt the revision of Board Policies 5.10, 6.110, and 7.50 as recommended. (Attachment #2) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

7.3 Action From Closed Session

Chapman recommended the Board's approval of three motions discussed in closed session prior to the public session.

Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release as discussed in closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

O'Connor moved, Reece seconded, to approve the 2005-2006 salaries/benefits for technology personnel, occupational/physical therapists, occupational/physical therapy assistants, medical personnel, grant personnel, maintenance exempt personnel, and transportation exempt personnel as proposed. (Attachment #3) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Reece moved, O'Connor seconded, to approve the 2005-2006 food service substitute hourly rate of pay as proposed. (Attachment #4) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.0 Consent Agenda

Chapman reviewed the Consent Agenda and recommended its approval. He highlighted the administration's request for an additional technology support staff position to meet the District's increasing demand for technology services. Chapman also noted that Board approval was still required for the ISBE Annual Applications for Recognition of Schools, but the applications were now filed electronically. Puzauskas moved, Reece seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8.1 Approval of the Minutes

- September 14, 2005 Regular Meeting

8.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #5)

8.3 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #6)

8.4 Treasurer's Report – August 2005 (Attachment #7)

8.5 Other

- ISBE 2005-2006 Annual Applications for Recognition of Schools (Attachment #8)
- NCWHS request for Sunday use of the Gymnasium on October 9, 2005 for the Future Stars basketball camps

Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None.

Motion carried.

9.0 Reports/Discussion

9.1 Energy Education Update

Bruce Boswell, Energy Education coordinator, and Jeff Monahan, supervisor of maintenance services, updated the Board on energy management in the District. Energy management goals, progress made toward those goals, and sample graphs of logger data were presented. (Attachment #9) Boswell complimented the District's custodial/maintenance staff for their assistance with energy management. Monahan provided information on heating/cooling throughout the school system in regard to control of temperature, humidity, and fresh air. In regard to a board member question about previous infrared reports of energy loss, Monahan responded that efforts were being made to replace inefficient glass, windows, doors, etc. in older buildings utilizing Life Safety funds.

9.2 Board Representative Reports

School Visits:

- Reece reported that he recently visited Towanda School with Chapman and UFEA President Vickie Mahrt.
- Whittington reported that he visited Hudson School this past Monday with Chapman and Mahrt.
- Puzauskas reported that he visited Sugar Creek School this past Tuesday with Chapman and Mahrt. He pointed out that about 100 of the school's 300+ enrollment are ESL students who speak 16 different languages. Puzauskas made positive comments about Sugar Creek's embracement of diversity.
- President Lay reported that he visited Hoose School this past week with Chapman and Mahrt. In addition, he noted that he attended a recent Administrative Council meeting and visited with principals, directors, and others.

Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council (Reece/Puzauskas) – Reece reported that the Council met recently, and he learned a great deal about special services in Unit 5 during his first time of attending a meeting of the Council.

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

- The annual Unit 5 Pride publication is being prepared for publication and distribution in *The Pantagraph* on October 17.

Board Policy Review Committee (Briggs) – Briggs reported the following:

- The committee is pulling back on its review of policies temporarily, so there will be no policy revisions for first reading at the October 12 regular board meeting.

President Lay noted that Mickens-Baker was absent from the board meeting due to her graduation this week (in Chicago) from the Leadership Illinois Program.

9.3 Natural Gas Cooperative with District 87

As a result of the combined meeting of the Unit 5 and District 87 boards of education held on August 31, Altenburg reported that he and District 87 representatives met with Vanguard Energy Services regarding a natural gas cooperative. By entering into a two-year cooperative agreement with District 87 and Vanguard, the District will realize a savings of about \$2,400 per year.

10.0 Announcements

Announcements made at the meeting:

- Chapman noted that Braksick was absent from the board meeting as he was representing the District at a meeting about healthcare issues in our community.
- Chapman shared an article from the Illinois State University publication, *Statewide Standard*, regarding Seth Baker, a Unit 5 graduate and teacher in Oak Park, Illinois, who received the 2005 Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching in Grades 4-8.
- Briggs commented that she visited Glenn Elementary School last week with Chapman and Mahrt.
- Briggs announced an upcoming family reading event that will be held on Friday at Prairieland Elementary School. She noted that the event is part of a Beyond the Books Foundation grant.
- President Lay announced that this week was Homecoming week for NCWHS, and he wished the “Wildcats” success on Friday evening at their football game.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 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)