

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
April 11, 2007

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on April 11, 2007 at approximately 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. 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. Member absent: None

2.0 Closed Session

At approximately 6:01 p.m., Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker seconded to adjourn to closed session to discuss the following matter according to the exceptions provided in the "Open Meetings Act" and specified as follows:

- Section 2(c)(11) ~ Litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of Mclean County Unit District No. 5 which has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal.

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

Motion carried.

3.0 Return to Public Session

At 7:04 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, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Alan Chapman, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Human Resources John Pye, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Tod Altenburg, Chuck Bartlett, Kelly Steit, Stacy Guetschow, Tim Arnold, Mark Pritchett, Kevin Burke, Jeanette Nuckolls, Tim Morley, Deb Morley, Lora Minton, Sara Grulke, Libby Burns, Stephanie Callam, Meghan Leiseberg, Berny Chiaro, Elizabeth Sachelban, Greg DeBo, Kristin Ochiltree, Katie Pellouchard, Becky Portincaso, Cathy Greene, April Schermann, Jodi Sherman, Trevor Chapman, Wendy Cannell, Julia Basting, Byron Blotcky, Mary Jefferson, Lindsey Cramer of TV10, Jason Klokkenga, Lisa Nichols, Chris Nichols, Dongmei Luo, Brent Nielsen, Drake Nielsen, Adam Nielsen, Dayna Nielsen, Dan Lafayette, Jo Lafayette, Vickie Mahrt, Ben Matthews, Jan Meadows, Dawn Green, Cathy Weiss, Randall Middleton, Bob Thompson, Tom Eder, Kate Pavlou, Marty Tarmann, Christina Montgomery, Kurt Swearingen, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Ben Laxton, Tom Laxton, Linda Laxton, Bruce Boswell, and others.

4.0 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5.0 Public Comments

None

6.0 Focus on Students/Good News Report

- NCWHS Freshman Mentoring Program
- Glenn Elementary Diversity Fair
- NCHS Student Benjamin Laxton
- Prairieland Chess Club

7.0 Reports

7.1 **CAC Study Topic Committee Reports**

Mark Pritchett, Citizens Advisory Council President, provided a summary on the following study topic committee reports:

- Alternative Educational Structures In-Depth: Year Round Education
- Citizens Advisory Council Information Sharing
- Continuing to Map the District's Future: Unit 5 2025
- Exploring the Early Learning Center Concept
(Attachment #1)

8.0 Action

8.1 Accept CAC Study Topic Committee Reports

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

8.2 Approve and Award Contracted Services for Geothermal Project at Fairview and Hudson Elementary Schools

Randall Middleton, Middleton Associates, reported that the items scheduled for approval are a continuation of the conversion of older elementary schools to geothermal heating and cooling. (Attachment #2) He noted that the bids for the projects came in under the amounts that were approved in December, 2005. Incorporated in the project is the recommendation to include the energy recovery unit. Mickens-Baker moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve and award contracted services for the Geothermal Project at Fairview and Hudson Elementary Schools as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

8.3 Approve Short-Term Borrowing

Altenburg discussed and analyzed the District's short-term borrowing options. (Attachment #3) Short-term borrowing needs are estimated to begin April 27, 2007. Altenburg expressed that the District has concerns regarding the timing of various State and local payments to Unit 5. Altenburg announced that the State Comptroller's office is 30 to 45 days behind in dispersing State payments to school districts. He also indicated that the District is waiting on reimbursements that have already been approved for Special Education, transportation, and general state aid payments. Altenburg remarked that he had met with Commerce Bank, Illinois Finance Authority, Chase Bank and PMA Financial Network to develop cost estimates. An explanation of each estimate was presented. Altenburg recommended that the District utilize a line of credit note from Commerce Bank to meet short-term borrowing needs prior to the receipt of the first installment of property tax revenues. Reece moved, Briggs seconded, to approve short-term borrowing options as recommended. A question and discussion period followed. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

8.4 Cancel the June 27 and July 25, 2007 Regular Board Meetings

Chapman recommended the Board cancel the second board meetings in June and July. He stated that Dr. Niehaus concurred with his recommendation that the business of the District could be adequately accomplished with only one regular meeting in each of those months. Mickens-Baker moved, Puzauskas seconded, to cancel the June 27 and July 25, 2007 regular board meetings. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, O'Connor, Puzauskas, Reece, Whittington, Lay. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

9.0 Consent Agenda

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

9.1 Approval of Minutes

- March 14, 2007 Regular Meeting

9.2 Personnel Matters (Attachment #4)

- 9.2.1 Resignation/Retirements/Terminations
- 9.2.2 Release – Temporary Contracts
- 9.2.3 Non-Renewals - Resolution
- 9.2.4 Employment
- 9.2.5 Contract Revisions
- 9.2.6 Leave Requests

9.3 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Summary ~ Attachment #5)

- 9.3.1 Bill Listing
- 9.3.2 Payroll Report
- 9.3.3 Statement of Expenditures by Operating Fund (Attachment #6)
- 9.4 Treasurer's Report ~ March 2007 (Attachment #7)
- 9.5 Other
 - 9.5.1 NCWHS Request For Overnight Trip ~ Student Council (Attachment #8)
 - 9.5.2 Approve Cooperative Paper Bid for 2007-2008 (Attachment #9)
 - 9.5.3 Renew IESA and IHSA Memberships for 2007-2008 (Attachment #10)
 - 9.5.4 Designate June 6, 2007 as the last day of school for 2006-2007
 - 9.5.5 Approve Staff Appreciation Proclamation (Attachment #11)
 - 9.5.6 Elementary Summer Art Camp (Attachment #12)
 - 9.5.7 Set Date of May 9, 2007 to Canvass/Certify Election Results, Seat New Board Members, and Organize the New Board

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

Motion carried.

10.0 Reports/Discussion

- 10.1 Energy Conservation 18 Month Report
Bruce Boswell reported on the energy conservation program in Unit 5. (Attachment #13) Topics discussed included but were not limited to:
 - Cost avoidance summary for each Unit 5 facility ~ noting that every facility site has shown positive data
 - Comparison of savings for geothermal schools vs. non-geothermal schools
 - Utility costs (electricity, natural gas, water) per student and square footage for each school
- 10.2 Report on Professional Development School Program
Cathy Greene introduced several interns who were involved in the Unit 5 Professional Development School partnership. The PDS interns reported on the success and progress of the program in the past year. Presenters included Stacy Guetschow, Sara Gruilke, Kristin Ochiltree, Christina Montgomery, Katie Pellouchoud, and Kelly Steit.
- 10.3 Freedom of Information Reports
Chapman reported that the District received three Freedom of Information requests in the last month. (Attachment #14)
- 10.4 Enrollment Update and Comparison Figures
Pye presented the enrollment figures as of March 31, 2007. (Attachment #15) Total enrollment was reported at 12,114. Pye noted that there was no significant change from the previous month. The first indication of kindergarten numbers will be available in May. Pye indicated that the same day enrollment comparison report reflects typical growth percentages that the District has seen throughout the school year.
- 10.5 Board Representative Reports
 - Executive Committee for Workshop and Programming Phase of Architectural Services ~ Puzauskas reported that the committee met on April 3. He noted that items discussed at the meeting included possible options relative to potential new school construction. Puzauskas also noted that the committee is looking at pre-referendum services in detail. O'Connor commented that the committee is also working with the architects to determine detailed figures for any pre-referendum expenses.
 - Consortium for Educational Change Committee ~ Whittington noted that the CEC met Monday, April 9. The committee is currently developing a communication plan and plans to start with training sessions in June.
 - Unit 5/Local Government Committee ~ Mickens-Baker announced that the committee met on March 20 with representatives from District 87 and the city of Bloomington. District 87 and Unit 5 would like to hold a joint legislative event to be hosted by Unit 5. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5 for the purpose of reorganizing and election of officers. Reece commented that the city of Bloomington officials expressed a desire to continue to be a part of the committee.
 - McLean County Regional Planning Commission ~ Lay noted that the Commission met on Wednesday, April 4. Discussion at the meeting included pending projects related to Unit 5. Lay noted that the Commission will add a component of consideration to be given for all new

development. That component will be the impact the development will have on the local school district.

- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs noted that at the next meeting, members will formally vote on the recommendations from the grant committee. The total amount that will be awarded this year is \$29,700 due to a \$300 contribution specifically designated for a fine arts elementary project. Briggs indicated that in response to the invitations sent to potential new and current contributors approximately 10% have donated more than \$8,000 to date.
- Community Connections Committee ~ Briggs reported that the committee met on April 5 with Loren Baele and David Harris to discuss increasing parent's participation with *Unit5 Connect*. Discussion also included the publication of *Unit 5 Pride*. The committee is working on the outline of the publication with distribution scheduled for May 23.

11.0 Announcements

- Briggs announced that the Meet and Greet Breakfast with the Chamber of Commerce will be held at CJHS at 7:15 a.m. on May 1.
- Mickens-Baker announced that Board members should be receiving information from the IASB Resolutions Committee.
- Mickens-Baker noted that the Minority Educator Reception is scheduled for Monday, April 16, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at KJHS.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

**Scott Lay, Board of Education President
Community Unit School District No. 5
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois**

ATTEST:

Meta Mickens-Baker, Board of Education Secretary

Approved Date: April 25, 2007