

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
February 13, 2008

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on February 13, 2008 at approximately 5:37 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

Roll Call

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Cannell, Scott Lay, Meta Mickens-Baker (entered at 5:38 p.m.), Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas, and President Jay Reece. Members absent: None.

Closed Session

At approximately 5:37 p.m., Briggs moved, Puzauskas 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)(1) The appointment, employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel, and
- Section 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed.

Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Return to Public Session

At 7:05 p.m., Briggs moved, Cannell seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session.

Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Human Resources John Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Braksick, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, Chief Financial Officer James Gillmeister, Meghan Leiseberg, Julia Turner, Ryan Smoot, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Chuck Bartlett, Jim Fitzpatrick of WJBC, Cathy Weiss, Shane Hill, Brian Taylor, Julie Ryan, Lindsey Mucciolo, Art Taylor, Kimberly Martin-Boyd, Dawn Green, Molly Senders, NCHS Assistant Principal Michael Gourley, NCHS Principal Jeanette Nuckolls, NCWHS Principal Tom Eder, Diane Turek, Camille Taylor, Chris Golick, Adam Kimbell, Jon Butler, Andy Turner, Randy Middleton, Mark Jolicoeur, David Henebry, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Student and Good News Reports

- Diane Turek ~ NCWHS Teacher
- Camille Taylor ~ NCHS Teacher
- Molly Senders and Ryan Smoot ~ NCHS Students
- *U.S. News & World Report* Best School Recognition ~ Normal Community High School

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Action

Approve Service Level Agreement Between Unit 5 and District 87 Data Center

Niehaus reported on the Service Level Agreement between Unit 5 and District 87 for the purpose of housing Unit 5 migration equipment at the District 87 Data Center. (Attachment #1) Items discussed included, but were not limited to the following:

- District 87 service provided will include rack space, security, environmental monitoring, network connectivity to assist with migration of Novell to Windows
- Availability of the Data Center will be seven days a week 24 hours per day

- Agreement will run through August, 2008 with the option to extend the agreement if needed after this date
- Notification to Unit 5 Technology Department of outages, maintenance needs, and environmental triggers
- Unit 5 will upgrade software in Special Education along with District 87
- Cost of Inter-district WAN link will be shared between Unit 5 and District 87
- Facility is protected against environmental disasters, has mobile power sources and generators, excellent design to house and protect Unit 5 data

Board members offered their support of the agreement and noted that this is the first step of many to improving the Unit 5 information technology. Pritchett moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve the service level agreement between Mclean County Unit District No. 5 and Bloomington District 87 as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None.

Motion carried

Approve Bids and Award Contracted Services for Geothermal Projects at Brigham and Carlock Elementary Schools

Middleton reported on the bid process and contracts to be awarded for ground source heating systems at Carlock and Brigham Elementary Schools. (Attachment #2) It was Middleton's recommendation to award both projects to Mid-Illinois Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$750,000 for Brigham and \$394,000 for Carlock. Mickens-Baker moved, Briggs seconded, to approve bids and award contracted services for the geothermal project at Brigham and Carlock Elementary Schools as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Resolution Authorizing the Exchange of Properties and the Execution of Implementing Documentation

Niehaus provided information to the Board regarding the acquisition of property for a proposed new middle school and recommended the Board's approval of the resolution to authorize the exchange of properties. (Attachment #3) Letters were previously sent to landowners in the southeast section of Unit 5 to see if anyone would have an interest in selling property for the purpose of building additional schools. Niehaus reported Unit 5 had been contacted by the Shirk family, indicating a desire to discuss the possible sale of land. Niehaus noted that after extensive discussion it was agreed that part of the agreement would include exchange of property for a portion of Unit 5 land located on Hershey Road and Ireland Grove Road. Unit 5 representatives met with the City of Bloomington Planning Commission as well as property owners with land near the proposed site. Niehaus recognized Neil Finlen and the Farnsworth Group for their work on this project. Lay moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Exchange of Properties and the Execution of Implementing Documentation as presented. Several Board members offered support and commented on the value of this property to Unit 5 taxpayers. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Authorize Request for Proposals Process

Niehaus expressed appreciation to the architects for their assistance and support in the recent referendum. Niehaus provided information on the Request for Proposals – Construction Management Services. (Attachment #4) He noted that recommendations for Construction Management Services representatives will be presented at the April 9 Board meeting. Pritchett moved, Lay seconded, to proceed with the Request for Proposals as presented. Jolicoeur offered congratulations on the successful referendum. He noted that there will be a Kick-Off meeting with the steering committee and planning committees planned for March 11. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None.

Motion carried

Boards Policies ~ 2nd Reading and Adoption

Briggs presented and provided an explanation of the following Board policies for adoption:

- Board Policy 7.180 ~ Preventing Bulling, Intimidations, and Harassment (new)
- Board Policy 7.310 ~ Publications (revised)
- Board Policy 6.310 ~ Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs and Course Substitution (revised)

Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to adopt the policies as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Money from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund

Mickens-Baker moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. (Attachment #5) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Money from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund
Cannell moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of \$1,500,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund. (Attachment #6) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Consent Agenda

Niehaus reviewed the Consent Agenda. Lay moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Personnel Matters (Attachment #7)

- Resignation/Retirements/Terminations
- Employment
- Contract Revisions
- Leave Requests

Payment of Bills and Payrolls

- Bill Listing (December)
- Payroll Report (December)
- Summary of Bills and Payrolls by Operating Fund

Treasurer's Report ~December (Attachment #8)

Approval of Minutes

- December 19, 2007 ~ Closed Session
- December 19, 2007 ~ Special Session
- January 16, 2008 ~ Regular Session
- January 30, 2008 ~ Special Session

Other

- Request for approval for overnight trip ~ NCHS Student Council (Attachment #9)
- Request for approval for overnight trip ~ NCHS Speech Team (Attachment #10)
- Retire District surplus property and approve disposal of said property ~ NCHS Marching Band uniforms (Attachment #11)
- Approve proposed curriculum revisions and textbooks/materials for 2008-2009 (Attachment #12)
- Approve Gorenz and Associates, LTD. as audit services provider for McLean County Unit District No. 5 and Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association for year ended June 30, 2008. (Attachment #13)
- Approve Title I District e-Plan. (Attachment #14)

NCHS athletic director Andy Turner announced that Wes Temples would be the new Normal Community High School football coach for 2008-2009. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Reports/Discussion

Mid-Term Budget Report

Gillmeister presented a mid-year budget update as of December 31, 2007. (Attachment #15) His report included figures on fund balances, revenue and expenditures in the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Bond and Interest, Transportation, Working Cash and Life Safety Funds. Discussion included the State of Illinois budget and the delayed revenue to the District. Gillmeister noted that the State was also late on providing the funding for approved grants.

2008-2009 School Calendar 1st Reading

Braksick highlighted the proposed 2008-2009 School Calendar and presented it for 1st reading. (Attachment #16) Braksick noted that the committee had focused on providing more five-day weeks. One change noted and discussed was the scheduling of parent-teacher conferences for the middle of the school week.

Freedom of Information Request

Niehaus reported that since the last Board meeting the District had received and processed the following Freedom of Information Requests:

- Mark Sperry, Bloomington IL (Attachment #17)
- Brock Spencer ~ WHOI TV News, Creve Coeur IL (Attachment #18)

SAM School Administration Manager

Niehaus provided information regarding the SAM – School Administration Manager program, an initiative to help principals focus on being an instructional leader. (Attachment #19) Niehaus noted that nine Unit 5 schools are currently involved in the process.

Enrollment Report and Comparison

Pye presented the Enrollment Report and Comparison as of January 31, 2008. (Attachment #20) Pye noted that Unit 5 had reached its first class to exceed 1000 students. Total kindergarten enrollment as of this report is 1001 students.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Bloomington Area Vocational Center Administrative Council ~ Pritchett reported that the Council had met on Tuesday, February 12. One topic of discussion was a change in the Council's name to the Bloomington Area Career Center Administrative Council. The joint agreement for administering the Bloomington Area Career Center is scheduled for Board approval at the February 27 meeting.
- Facilities Review Committee ~ Pritchett noted that the Facilities Review Committee will not meet on Friday, February 15 as scheduled.
- Architectural Services Executive Committee – Pritchett reported he had attended the ASEC meeting along with Puzauskas, and Briggs. Puzauskas thanked the Referendum Committee for all of their work. He noted the District needs to make a plan, follow through with the plan and provide documentation of everything done. Pye reported that a group from the ASEC committee that will travel to Monticello on Friday, February 15 to tour the middle school. Additional tours are being planned.
- Community Connections Committee ~ Pritchett reported the Committee will meet on February 22. Briggs reported that the PTO Presidents' luncheon is scheduled for Monday, March 10 at the IEA office. Board members were encouraged to attend school activities. She noted that the Towanda Chili Supper will be held on Thursday, February 21. Board members and administrators will begin school lunch visits in the next month. Briggs reported that Unit 5 retirees will be more actively included in receiving information from the District.
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs noted that March 4 is the deadline for grant applications. Grants will be awarded in the amount of \$33,000.
- Consortium for Education Change Continuous Improvement Team ~ Mickens-Baker noted that she and Cannell had attended the DCIT meeting on January 25. Agenda items included the executive summary of the communication survey and what will be the next steps for the committee. She noted that the audit survey was consistent with the findings of the CEC Critical Friends summary. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the IEA office. Suggestions for discussion should be submitted to Mickens-Baker.
- McLean County Regional Planning Commission ~ Reece reported the Commission met on Wednesday, February 6.
- Unit 5 – Local Government Committee ~ Mickens-Baker reported that the committee will reschedule its December meeting within the next few weeks.

Announcements/Comments

- The Citizens Advisory Council will meet at Parkside Elementary School on Wednesday, February 20.
- Niehaus commented on the Kids Expo held on Saturday, February 9 noting that the event was very successful.
- KJHS will play in the State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, February 14.
- The annual Glenn Diversity Fair will be held Thursday, February 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- The Students Involved in Technology (SIT) conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Heartland Community College.
- The IASB Corn Belt Conference Dinner meeting will be March 6 in Heyworth.
- Board members thanked the Referendum Committee, Unit 5 staff and community and all involved in helping with the referendum.

Adjournment

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

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

ATTEST:

John Puzauskas, Board of Education Secretary

Approved Date: March 12, 2008