

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
March 12, 2008

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on March 12, 2008 at approximately 5:35 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, Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas, and President Jay Reece. Members absent: None.

Closed Session

At approximately 5:35 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett 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, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Return to Public Session

At 7:10 p.m., Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker 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, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Chuck Bartlett, Jim Fitzpatrick of WJBC, Bob Lewis of PMA Financial Network, Jon Butler, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Lynette Mehall, Joseph Orendorff, Brian Taylor, Robert Lewis, Colin Logue, Wendy Schiffer, Randall Middleton, Cathy Weiss, Shelli Lord, Dawn Green, Jaja Moore-Johnson, Rexie Lanier, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Good News Report

Rexie Lanier, KJHS teacher.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Action

Approve Bid for Renovation Work at Towanda, Fairview, Glenn, and Oakdale Elementary Schools

Middleton presented recommendations for three bids as listed below (Attachment # 1):

- Building Renovation for Towanda and Fairview Elementary Schools – Felmley Dickerson Company \$159,900
- Building Renovation for Glenn Elementary School – Johnston Contractors Inc. \$305,000
- Building Renovation for Oakdale Elementary School – Steele Construction Inc. \$553,800

Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve bids for renovation work at Towanda, Fairview, Glenn, and Oakdale Elementary Schools as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Approve Agreement With Sprint-Nextel for GPS Service for Unit 5 Transportation Department

Niehaus reported on options for acquiring a GPS system to be used on Unit 5 school buses. (Attachment #2) He noted that the GPS system will assist with routes including establishing more efficient and effective use of the bus system. Niehaus noted that this pilot agreement would be a monthly billing fee with no long term contract commitment. Mickens-Baker moved, Lay seconded, to approve the agreement with Sprint-Nextel for GPS Service for Unit 5 Transportation Department as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Approve Agreement with Integrity Technology Solutions

Gillmeister provided information regarding the proposed agreement with Integrity Technology Solutions. (Attachment #3) He noted that Unit 5, District 87, and State Farm have been working to develop a system which facilitates the use of student data to improve student achievement. Cost of the initial payment to Integrity would be \$40,250 and would allow Integrity to begin work on the project immediately while a complete contract is finalized. Gillmeister noted that the system will be designed to house data from both Unit 5 and District 5 and future costs will be shared equally by both Districts. Pritchett moved, Cannell seconded, to approve the agreement with Integrity Technology solutions for development related to the Data Warehouse as presented. Board members expressed support of the project and thanked State Farm for their experience and help with the project. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Adoption of Parameters Resolution to Facilitate Bond Sale

Gillmeister noted that the parameters bond resolution will authorize the Superintendent and Board President to approve the sale of the bonds subject to meeting pre-established parameters. Bob Lewis of PMA Financial Network provided an update on the current bond market and a summary of the parameters resolution. (Attachment #4) Lewis noted that the parameters consist of a maximum issue size \$85,000,000. Final bond terms will be set in a bond order and will be approved by the Superintendent and Board President after a successful sale. Cannell moved, Lay seconded to adopt Parameters Resolution to facilitate bond sale as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Consent Agenda

Niehaus thanked Pye, Sharon Kraft and Barb Fowler (Human Resources) for all of their work in compiling and verifying data related to the personnel pages. Niehaus reviewed the Consent Agenda. Pritchett moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Personnel Matters (Attachment #5)

- Resignations/Retirements/Terminations
- Releases ~ Temporary Contracts
- Non-renewals
 - Resolution of Non-Renewal for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year Non-tenured Teachers
 - Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of ESP Regular Ed. Teaching Assistants
 - Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of ESP Special Ed. Teaching Assistants
- Employment
- Contract Revisions
- Leave Requests

Approval of Minutes

- February 13, 2008 Closed Session
- February 27, 2008 Regular Session

Other

- Approve Unit 5 Summer Athletic Camps for NCWHS and NCHS (Attachment #6)

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

Reports/Discussion

Enrollment Report and Comparison

Pye presented the Enrollment Report and Comparison as of February 29, 2008. (Attachment #7)

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Illinois Association of School Boards Corn Belt Division ~ Briggs, Cannell, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett and Gillmeister reported on their attendance at the Spring Conference in Heyworth.

- Architectural Services Executive Committee ~ Briggs, Pritchett, and Unit 5 administrators have visited other school districts to look at various elementary and middle school building designs.
- Community Connections Committee ~ Briggs, Pritchett, and Niehaus attended the PTO presidents' luncheon on March 10. Briggs will provide a summary of the meeting to Board members.
- Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council ~ Pritchett reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 19.
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs reported that 113 grant applications had been submitted. The Foundation will award approximately \$33,000 in grant monies. Briggs provided a statistical comparison with last year's applicants and award recipients. Grant committee members have begun review of the applications. Recipients will be announced in May.
- Unit 5/Local Government Committee ~ Mickens-Baker, Lay, and Niehaus attended the meeting held March 4. Discussion included but was not limited to the following:
 - New emergency information system (School Reach)
 - Safety routes to schools and safe houses
 - Renovations to Field Special Services
 - Future geothermal projects
 - Traffic reconfiguration for Unit 5 schools
 - Sugar Creek expansion
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ Lay reported that the committee met on March 10. Information discussed included claims and historical information from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Gillmeister reported that on March 13 members of the Finance Committee will be holding a conference call regarding the District's bond rating with representatives from PMA Financial Network.
- Consortium for Educational Change ~ Cannell report the next meeting of the District Continuous Improvement Team meeting will be March 13.

Announcements/Comments

- Niehaus noted that he had recently attended the Unit 5 Choir concert at Evergreen Baptist Church.
- Mickens-Baker announced the following: 1) the YWCA Racial Justice Summit will be held April 9; 2) a community forum "Making Our Schools Safe" will be held at NCHS on April 22; and 3) that the NCWHS Jazz Performance will be March 14 during lunch hours.
- Mickens-Baker attended the CJHS 8th grade basketball game where the team played against staff and parents.
- Briggs reported she recently attended a presentation on autism perspectives by Marty Murphy. Murphy offered to discuss with educators in Unit 5 her experiences as an autistic child and adult.
- Briggs shared information about Heartland Community College Community Scholarship applications that are due by April 15.
- Pritchett reported that he, Briggs, and Niehaus will visit CJHS teachers on March 14.
- Braksick noted that State testing will be completed March 13 and mailed out the following week.
- Gillmeister announced that on Monday, March 17, the Regional Office of Education will open the bids for the purchasing paper for the District.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 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: April 23, 2008