

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
September 26, 2007

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on September 26, 2007 at approximately 6:10 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

1.0 Roll Call

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Cannell, Scott Lay, Meta Mickens-Baker, Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas, and Board President Jay Reece. Members absent: None.

2.0 Closed Session

At approximately 6:10 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the following matters according to the exceptions provided in the "Open Meetings Act" and specified as follows:

- Section 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters with employees or their representatives 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.**

The closed session was exited at approximately 6:17 p.m.

3.0 Return to Public Session

At 7:00 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett 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, Director of Secondary Education Dawn Green, Director of Elementary Education Kurt Swearingen, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Josh Layden, Tim Arnold, Vickie West, Tade Layden, Cregg Miyat, Terry James, Cathy Weiss, Brian Taylor, Maggie Taylor, Chuck Bartlett, Pam Turley, Luke Baughman, Ryan Young, Amy Brozavich, Ben Matthews, and others.

4.0 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5.0 Focus on Students/Good News Reports

- Vickie West, Josh Layden and Ryan Young ~ Eagle Road Resource Center
- Gail Ann Briggs ~ IASB Master Status Maintained Award

6.0 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7.0 Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for 2007-2008

Gillmeister presented the 2007-2008 Budget for Unit 5 and Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association. No one in the audience addressed the Board regarding the proposed budget for 2007-2008. The public hearing officially ended at approximately 7:20 p.m.

8.0 Action

8.1 Adopt 2007-2008 Budget Resolution

Gillmeister recommended the Board's adoption of the 2007-2008 Budget Resolution as proposed. (Attachment # 1) Cannell moved, Briggs seconded, to adopt the 2007-2008 Budget Resolution as

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

8.2 Approve Client Service Agreement with CCMSI/Van Gundy Insurance Agency

Pye presented a summary of the worker's compensation program during the fiscal year 2006-2007. (Attachment #2) Lay moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve the client service agreement with CCMSI/Van Gundy Insurance Agency as presented. Pye noted that through combined efforts of CCMSI, the Van Gundy Agency and Unit 5 staff; there has been an increased awareness of safety in all Unit 5 facilities. It was the recommendation of administration to extend the client service agreement with the Van Gundy Insurance Agency for the 2007-2008 year. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

9.0 **Consent Agenda**

Reece requested that two items on the consent agenda be removed and added as Action items. Item 9.4.1 Approve Independent Consultant for Unit 5 CFO and Item 9.4.2 Approve Consultant for Unit 5 Special Education Program Review were placed on the agenda as action items. Niehaus reviewed the Consent Agenda as modified. Mickens-Baker moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as modified.

9.1 Approval of Minutes

- September 10, 2007 ~ Special Session
- September 12, 2007 ~ Closed Session
- September 12, 2007 ~ Regular Session

9.2 Payment of Bills and Payrolls

- 9.2.1 Bill Listing
- 9.2.2 Payroll Report
- 9.2.3 Statement of Expenditures by Operating Fund

9.3 Treasurer's Report ~ July 2007 (Attachment #3)

9.4 Other

- 9.4.3 Request for Approval for Overnight Trip ~ NCWHS Outdoor Adventure Club (Attachment #4)
- 9.4.4 Illinois State Board of Education Annual Applications for Recognition of Schools (Attachment #5)
- 9.4.5 Request For Sunday Use of Facility ~ NCHS (Attachment #6)
- 9.4.6 Request For Donation Approval ~ NCWHS Soccer Field Sound System (Attachment #7)

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

9.0 **Action**

9.4.1 Approve Independent Consultant for Unit 5 CFO

Niehaus provided an explanation regarding the recommendation to hire an independent consultant for Unit 5. He noted that it was his recommendation to hire Martin Getty, retired CFO from Decatur public schools. Puzauskas moved, Mickens-Baker seconded to approve the independent consultant for the Unit 5 Chief Financial Officer as stated in Item 9.4.1. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

9.4.2 Approve Consultant for Unit 5 Special Education Program Review

Niehaus provided an explanation regarding the recommendation to hire special consultant, Margaret Jobe, to review the District's special education programs. Niehaus provided background information regarding Jobe and noted that Jobe is a retired Director of Special Education from the Champaign public school system. Niehaus indicated that Jobe will specifically review the Unit 5 CARES program. Lay moved, Cannell seconded to approve the consultant for the Unit 5 Special Education program review as detailed in Item 9.4.2. Board members offered support of this recommendation and suggested that Unit 5 special education procedures should be reviewed and evaluated on a rotating basis. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

10.0 **Reports/Discussion**

10.1 Summer School Report

Directors Rhonda Goss and Robin Musson reported on the Unit 5 Summer School Program and thanked

Kingsley Jr. High school staff for the use of their building and support services provided. (Attachment #8) They noted that parents were provided information about the program during the annual IEP held during the spring and enrollment in the program was optional. Goss noted that the feedback from participants was very positive, specifically relating to the autism program. It was noted that Unit 5 Director of Food Service, Pat Powers, had received a federal grant allowing students to receive free breakfast during the program. Recommendations for next year included additional materials for the ELL program, additional employment information provided to Unit 5 staff, and additional hours for the summer school administrative assistant.

10.2 UNICOM ARC Public Opinion Research Services

Niehaus provided a proposal for a public research service to be provided by UNICOM-ARC. (Attachment #9). Information provided included a proposed budget and scope of services for conducting a community survey on behalf of Unit 5. Niehaus introduced UNICOM-ARC executives Rod Wright and Andrew Dutlinger. Wright provided background information about the agency, outlined a proposed strategy for completing a community survey, and addressed questions from the Board.

10.3 Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council ~ Cannell reported that she and Pritchett had attended the September 17 meeting. Topics of discussion included the new state regulations implementing special education services that are in place. She noted that the council is in the process of providing new staff development to insure that the District procedures meet the requirements of the law. Cannell noted that a potential due process hearing had been resolved. Pritchett noted that he was elected secretary for the committee.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ Cannell reported that the committee met on September 17. Lay noted that the committee reviewed the revisions to the 2007-2008 Budget noting the additional monies allocated to technology and additional staffing. Reece noted that he had also attended the meeting.
- Architectural Services Executive Committee ~ Puzauskas provided a summary of the committee meeting held this evening. The committee discussed the definition of the total costs to the proposed new buildings. He noted that it was the consensus of the committee that ten additional classrooms at the high school level should not be included in the construction recommendations. Niehaus noted that the architects would meet with Sugar Creek Elementary School staff to gather input for the proposed renovations. Briggs reported that the next meeting on October 4 will be held at PJHS and will focus on middle school construction.
- Consortium for Education Change Continuous Improvement Team ~ Mickens-Baker noted that the next meeting is scheduled for October 11 at the IEA office.
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs reported that the grant check had been received for the 2007-2008 awards. There is additional information located on the Unit 5 website. The Board is continuing its work on the first annual Foundation report and this report should be available to the public mid-October.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ Briggs noted that the committee met last week to review Policy #5.30 as recommended in the report from T.J. Wilson. She noted that the policy will be reviewed by John Pye for specific recommendations on changes to the policy.
- Community Connections Committee ~ Briggs reported that the committee met Friday, September 14. Items discussed include but were not limited to the following:
 - The scope of committee work for this semester is to support ongoing initiatives.
 - The Unit 5 Pride publication will be available to the public in mid-November.
 - The committee is making plans for a luncheon with parent organization presidents.
 - The Unit 5 e-link quarterly distribution will be available to employees. Meghan Leiseberg is currently updating this information.
 - Unit 5 Connect continues to increase in enrollment.
 - All but one building administrator is a deputy voter registrar.
 - CAC study topic groups and appointment of principals for each group. The group leaders and administrators will meet on Thursday, September 27 at 1:00 p.m.
 - The next Community Connections meeting will be on Friday, October 19, 10:30 a.m.
- Bloomington Area Vocational Center Administrative Council ~ Pritchett reported that the council met on September 18. Topics of discussion covered the enrollment and budget update.
- Facilities Review Committee ~Pritchett report that the committee met Friday, September 21 and the approval of the donation to the NCWHS Soccer Field sound system was one item of discussion. He noted that there was also discussion regarding the Normal West roof repair and lighting issues.

11.0 Special Announcements and Recognition

- Briggs congratulated Bloomington District 87 on its 150th Birthday celebration.
- Pritchett congratulated Fairview Elementary School on its 50th Birthday celebration and provided a certificate to Principal James Shaw.

12.0 Announcements/Comments

- Niehaus provided information regarding deadlines for the referendum question. (Attachment #8).
- Mickens-Baker noted that she attended the Joint Review Board of the Normal TIF District on September 20. She noted that the Board is in the early stages of redevelopment and are anticipating greater revenues in the future.
- Gillmeister provided information that will be presented to the Board at the October 10 meeting regarding the purchase of natural gas supplies for 2007-2008 and the agreement for Printsolve software for printer management supplies.
- Pritchett noted that Friday, September 28 is the annual football game with Normal Community High School and Normal West.
- Pritchett announced that he will be meeting with Bloomington Alderman Dave Sage and touring various Unit 5 facilities within Sage's ward.
- Board members reported that they had attended Fairview's 50th Birthday Celebration on September 25.
- Mickens-Baker reported that she had attended the CJHS 8th grade curriculum night.
- Mickens-Baker announced that the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet will be held on October 11.
- Reece provided comments on the success of the new Robotics Club at Prairieland Elementary School.
- Board members supported the suggestion that Unit 5 solicit volunteers from various branches of the armed forces to speak to Unit 5 students about their experiences in the service.
- Niehaus commented on the results of the Skyward User Survey and will provide a final report to the Board.
- Cannell commented on the success of the Unit 5 music program.
- Reece recognized Ben Matthews on his new position as the IEA Uniserve Director.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 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: October 24, 2007