

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**October 24, 2007**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on October 24, 2007 at approximately 6:12 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 6:12 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)(2) Collective negotiating matters with employees or their representatives,
- Section 2(c)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for use by Mclean County Unit District No. 5, 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 6:56 p.m.

**3.0 Return to Public Session**

At 7:06 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, Meghan Leiseberg, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Greg Summers and mother, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Jerry Martoglio, Vickie Mahrt, Monika Cavanaugh, Cathy Weiss, Bambi Bethel, Michelle McNamera, Jeff Monahan, Randy Middleton, Kyle Beasley and parents, Alan Chapman, Jeanette Nuckolls, Cregg Miyat, and others.

**4.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**5.0 Focus on Students/Good News Reports**

- NCHS Student ~ Kyle Beasley
- NCHS Student ~ Greg Summers

**6.0 Public Comments**

Monika Cavanagh, Bloomington ~ Unit 5 Music Parents Association

**7.0 Action**

**7.1 Approve the 2007 Ten Year Life Safety Surveys**

Niehaus provided a summary report of the Ten Year Life Safety Surveys for the following Unit 5 facilities: (Attachment #1)

- ALP and Maintenance Building
- Eagle Road Bus Garage
- Administration Building
- Kern Street Bus Garage and Transportation Office

- Eagle Road Resource Center
- Eagle Road Driver Building
- Maintenance, Grounds, Food Service Warehouse
- Colene Hoose Elementary School

Jeff Monahan presented an explanation for each of the life safety surveys at each of the facilities. Pritchett moved, Lay seconded, to approve the 2007 Ten Year Life Safety Surveys for Unit 5 facilities as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

## 8.0 Consent Agenda

Niehaus reviewed the Consent Agenda. Cannell moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

### 8.1 Payment of Bills and Payrolls

- 8.1.1 Bill Listing
- 8.1.2 Payroll Report
- 8.1.3 Statement of Expenditures by Operating Fund

### 8.2 Treasurer's Report ~ September 2007 (Attachment #2)

### 8.3 Approval of Minutes

- September 26, 2007 ~ Closed Meeting
- September 26, 2007 ~ Regular Meeting
- October 10, 2007 ~ Closed Meeting
- October 10, 2007 ~ Regular Meeting

### 8.4 Other

- 8.4.1 Designate November 11 through November 17, 2007 as American Education Week and the Month of November as Unit 5 Education Month. (Attachment #3)
- 8.4.2 Approve the Statement of Completion for Health/Life Safety Amendments for: (Attachment #4)
  - Parkside Jr. High School
  - Hudson Elementary School
  - Fairview Elementary School

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

## 9.0 Reports/Discussion

### 9.1 Report on Working Cash Bonds/Educational Fund/Operations and Maintenance Fund

Niehaus provided three reports to the Board. Reports included the Education Fund, the Operation and Maintenance Fund, and Working Cash Summary (Attachment #5), the Review of Outstanding Debt and Working Cash Bonds (Attachment #6), and the Financial Planning Program Scenarios (Attachment #7). Discussion included but was not limited to the following topics:

- Aggregate balances in the Educational, O & M, Transportation, IMRF, and Working Cash Funds
- New school operating cost assumptions
- Tax anticipation warrants and line of credit
- Summary of outstanding bonds
- Statutory debt margin
- Current and estimated bond and interest tax rate
- Equalized Assessed Valuation
- Sale of working cash bonds
- Referendum questions

Niehaus noted that a report of the final cost of site and construction needs will be presented at the November 14 Board meeting and that the November 28 meeting will be the last regular Board meeting to pass any questions regarding a referendum.

### 9.2 Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Bloomington Area Vocational Center Administrative Council ~ Pritchett reported that the council met on October 16 and noted that the BAVC will have a name change. The new name will be Bloomington Area Career Center.
- Beyond the Books Education Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs reported that the Foundation held a very successful fundraiser on October 11 at Bloomington Country Club. Two Unit 5 educators,

Jason Nourie and David Hirst, made presentations at the fundraiser. Briggs noted that the annual report will be available to the public and is posted on the Unit 5 website.

- Community Connections Committee ~ Briggs reported that the Unit 5 Pride publication should be distributed the last week in November. The next committee meeting will be October 30, 10:30 a.m. at the District Office.
- Consortium for Education Change Continuous Improvement Team ~ Mickens-Baker reported that the committee met on October 11 and noted that the committee is continuing its discussion on shared decision making.

#### **10.0 Announcements/Comments**

- Niehaus reported that there will be a special presentation of the School Reach program at the District Office on Friday, October 26. The system provides automated contact solutions for educational, healthcare, government and commercial businesses.
- Lay wished good luck to Normal West and Normal Community High Schools in the upcoming football playoffs.
- Puzauskas noted that he will be the IASB Delegate to the IASB Annual Fall Conference in November. Anyone with comments about the resolutions should contact Puzauskas.
- Mickens-Baker commented on the NAACP Banquet held on October 11.
- Mickens-Baker and Briggs reported on the “Lights on After School” program held on Thursday, October 18.
- Mickens-Baker congratulated Glenn Elementary School on the success of the new weather program.
- Briggs reported that Kathy Johnson will be leaving the Unity Community Center.
- Briggs provided information about a program at ISU called “Letters to a Young Teacher”.
- Briggs congratulated the staff and students on the publication of the NCHS Reverie. She noted that the book was produced entirely in color.
- Pritchett reported that he is continuing his tour of schools with Bloomington Alderman Dave Sage. They are scheduled to tour Brigham Elementary on November 12.
- Pritchett reported that he had recently attended his 20 year NCHS reunion.
- Briggs noted that all of the District’s school websites that she has reviewed were up-to-date and very well done.

#### **11.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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**Meta Mickens-Bake, Board of Education President, Pro-Tem  
Community Unit School District No. 5  
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois**

**ATTEST:**

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**John Puzauskas, Board of Education Secretary**

**Approved Date: November 14, 2007**