

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**November 28, 2007**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on November 28, 2007 at approximately 5:00 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, Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas, Meta Mickens-Baker (entered at 5:04 p.m.), and President Jay Reece. Members absent: None.

**2.0 Closed Session**

At approximately 5:03 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)(9) Student disciplinary cases.

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

**3.0 Return to Public Session**

At 5:35 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.**

**4.0 (a) Action From Closed Session**

Pritchett moved, Mickens-Baker seconded that student #001015391 discussed in closed session was found to have violated the District's Student Discipline Policy # 7.190 by organizing a fight; in which the student not only participated in and therefore committed battery, but also urged other students to engage in behavior that did physical or psychological harm to another student on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**5.0 Closed Session**

At approximately 5:39 p.m., Briggs moved, Lay 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)(9) To consider disciplinary consequences of the violation.

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

**Return to Public Session**

At 5:50 p.m., Lay 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.**

**4.0 (b) Action From Closed Session**

Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded to expel the student discussed in closed session from McLean County Unit District No. 5 for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year and all of the 2008-2009 school year beginning November 29, 2007 and continuing until the first day of school in August 2009. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

The closed session was exited at approximately 5:52 p.m. for a short recess.

### **Return to Closed Session**

At approximately 6:00 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)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for use by McLean County Unit District No. 5.

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

The closed session was exited at approximately 6:40 p.m.

### **6.0 Return to Public Session**

At 7:00 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, Towanda Elementary principal Sarah Edwards, NCHS principal Jeanette Nuckolls, NCWHS principal Tom Eder, Adria Carter, Michael Donnelly, Meghan Leiseberg, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Director of Elementary Education Kurt Swearingen, Assistant Director of Special Education Bambi Bethel, Michael Gourley, Mike Trask, Donna Lutkehaus, Karen Bland, Michelle Starkey, Henry Walker, Jenny Li of WEEK-TV, Jana Edge, Phil Carter, Payden Carter, Julie Howell, Alan Chapman, Vicki Mahrt, Cathy Weiss, Susan Steinbach, Val Leichtenberg, Stacie Finlen, Katrina Kalamatal, Judy Lancaster, Carl Teichman, Camille Taylor, Ben Matthews, and others.

### **7.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **8.0 Focus on Students/Good News Reports**

- Good News ~ Adrian Carter, Towanda Elementary School
- Good News ~ Jeanne Urbance, Normal Community High School
- Good News ~ Michael Donnelly, Normal Community West High School

### **9.0 Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **10.0 Action**

#### **10.1 Action From Closed**

##### **10.1.1 Collective Negotiating Matters with Employees or Their Representatives ~ Unit Five Support Professionals Association**

Pye provided a summary of the events leading to the proposed contract for approval. He noted that negotiations with UFSPA began in the spring of 2007. Pye thanked UFSPA members, Board members, and others involved in the negotiations for their time and support. Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve the 2007-2008 through 2009-2010 negotiated contract between the Unit 5 Board of Education and the Unit Five Support Professionals Association as presented. All Board members expressed support. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

##### **10.2.1 Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules and Benefits for Exempt Educational Office Personnel**

Lay moved, Mickens-Baker seconded to approve personnel salaries and benefits for 2007-2008 for Exempt Educational Office Personnel as presented in closed session. All Board members expressed support. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

#### **10.2 Adoption of Resolution for Bond Referendum**

Niehaus provided a summary of the architectural workshops and planning sessions and to the events leading to the Board's decision to adopt the proposed resolution for bond referendum. Discussion included but was not limited to the following:

- Comparison of estimated costs to build existing buildings using current fees and prices
- Building two model classrooms – at Oakdale and Glenn Elementary School
- Projections of student enrollment for 2015
- Additions to Sugar Creek Elementary School vs. building one additional elementary school at the Northbridge site
- Traffic flow problems and solutions for Sugar Creek Elementary School renovations
- Kickapoo Creek and Cedar Ridge property donations
- Resolutions for Bond and Tax Rate Increase Referendums were coordinated by local attorneys and bonded counsel for the District
- Security and technology issue as a part of the referendum question
- Question of a high school addition will not be a part of the bond referendum
- Reduction of size for proposed middle school building
- Information will be provided regarding renovations to eight elementary schools

Briggs moved, Cannell seconded, to adopt the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the following proposition: "Shall the Board of Education of Normal Community Unit School District Number 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, build and equip a new junior high school building and two new elementary school buildings, build and equip an addition to, improve the site of and alter, repair and equip the Sugar Creek Elementary School building, alter, repair and equip the Carlock, Hudson, Towanda, Brigham, Fairview, Glenn, Oakdale and Colene Hoose Elementary School buildings, alter, repair and equip the other school buildings of said School District to provide security and technology improvements and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$96,700,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?" of issuing school building bonds to the voters of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois at the general primary election to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008. (Attachment #1) Jolicoeur offered comments and a summary of input received from the architectural workshops over the past three months. Board members expressed their support of the bond referendum. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### 10.3 Adoption of Resolution for Tax Rate Increase Referendum

Niehaus presented information regarding the resolution for a tax rate increase referendum and the District need for operational funds to sustain and to move forward with building projects. Discussion included but was not limited to the following:

- Projections by PMA Financial Network, Inc.
- Options to increase the Education Fund rate and/or the Operations and Maintenance Fund rate
- Use of working cash bonds for operational funds
- Operational funds needed for each new building
- Projected EAV growth figures
- Need for a balanced budget on a year to year basis
- Fiscal responsibility of the Board
- Tax levy and timing of funds made available to the District
- Cash flow issues

Pritchett moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adopt the resolution providing and requiring the submission of the following proposition: "Shall the maximum annual tax rate for educational purposes for Normal Community Unit School District Number 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, be increased and established at 2.72 percent upon all the taxable property of said School District at the value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, instead of 2.62 percent, the present maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended for said purpose?" of increasing the existing tax rate for educational purposes to the voters of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois at the general primary election to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008. (Attachment #2). Board members offered support of the proposed resolution. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### 11.0 **Consent Agenda**

Niehaus reviewed the Consent Agenda. Cannell moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 11.1 Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Summary Attachment #3)
  - 11.1 Bill Listing
  - 11.2 Payroll Report
  - 11.3 Statement of Expenditures by Operating Fund
- 11.2 Treasurer's Report ~ October 2007 (Attachment #4)

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

## **12.0 Reports/Discussion**

- 12.1 Response to Intervention

Swearingen provided a report on Response to Intervention. (Attachment #5) Items discussed included but were not limited to the following:

  - Definition of Rtl
  - Scientific-based interventions
  - Reading workshop model
  - Integrated with Standards Aligned Curriculum
  - Literacy and instruction are main components
  - Problem solving model
  - Screening components and classroom strategies to identify students
  - Professional development to support staff
  - Tiered framework – Core instruction, strategic interventions, and Intensive interventions
  - Three-year strategic planning
- 12.2 Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Bethel reported on the PBIS program. (Attachment #6) Bethel noted that the adoption of PBIS in Unit 5 began as a special education funded initiative in 2002. As of 2007-2008, ten elementary schools and three middle schools have adopted the principles of the program.
- 12.3 Inclusive Practices

This presentation of this report was rescheduled for the December 12, 2007 Board meeting.
- 12.4 Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports
  - Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council ~ Pritchett reported that the council met on November 21.
  - Community Connections Committee ~ Pritchett reported that the committee will meet Friday, November 30. Pritchett also noted that the PTO presidents' luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, November 29.
  - Facilities Review Committee ~ Pritchett reported the committee will be touring the data center at Bloomington District 87.
  - Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ Lay report that he and Cannell had met to review information regarding issuing bonds. Lay noted that the Request for Proposals for financial advisor for the District will be due on Friday, December 7.
  - Consortium for Education Change Continuous Improvement Team ~ Cannell reported that the committee will meet on December 6.
  - Unit 5/Local Government Committee ~ Lay reported that the December 4 meeting will be rescheduled.
  - Architectural Services Executive Committee ~ Niehaus reported that the committee will meet on December 5 at 5:00 p.m.

## **13.0 Announcements/Comments**

- Reece reported that he and Dr. Niehaus attended the McLean County Community Compact meeting.
- Mickens-Baker reported that the Unit 5 Pride publication was recently distributed to the community via *The Pantagraph*. She offered thanks to Leiseberg for her contributions in putting together the publication

### **Return to Closed Session**

At approximately 8:48 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)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for use by McLean County Unit District No. 5.

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

**Return to Public Session**

At 9:10 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.**

**14.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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

**ATTEST:**

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**John Puzauskas, Board of Education Secretary**

**Approved Date: January 16, 2008**