

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
May 13, 2009

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on May 13, 2009 at approximately 5:06 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

Roll Call

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Cannell, Scott Lay, Mark Pritchett (entered at 7:14 p.m.), John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, and President Meta Mickens-Baker. Members absent: None.

Closed Session

At approximately 5:06 p.m., Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the following matters according to the exceptions provided in the "Open Meetings Act" specified as follows:

- Section 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel,
- Section 2(c)(9) Student disciplinary cases,
- Section 2(c)(11) Litigation against, affecting or on behalf of McLean County Unit District No. 5 which has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or is probable or is imminent,
- Section 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters with employees or their representative or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, and
- Section 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed.

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

Return to Public Session

At approximately 5:47 p.m., Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Pye, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, and attorney for the District Curt Richardson.

Action From Closed Session

Puzauskas moved, Lay seconded, to find student #15000024 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the School Code, including but not limited to the following actions:

- (a) possessing and brandishing a knife on his school bus on April 22, 2009,
- (b) possessing a knife on his school bus and at Parkside Junior High School on April 22, 2009 and April 23, 2009, and
- (c) engaging in an activity that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, all in violation of Board Policy 7.190.

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

Return to Closed Session

At approximately 5:50 p.m., Briggs moved, Cannell seconded, to return to closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Return to Public Session

At approximately 7:02 p.m., Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Pye, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, and attorney for the District Curt Richardson.

Action From Closed Session

Puzauskas moved, Briggs seconded, to expel student #15000024 from McLean County Unit District No. 5 effective immediately and continuing for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year and the 2009-2010 school year. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None.

Motion carried.

There was a short recess and Board members returned to public session at approximately 7:14 p.m.

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer James Gillmeister, Director of Operations Joe Adelman, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, Dayna Brown, Jim Fitzpatrick of WJBC, Tom Eder, Randy Middleton of Middleton Associates, Inc., Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Marlys Bennington, Sarah Edwards, Tim Arnold, Bill Decker, Richard Ach of Turner Construction, Nate Cunningham, Steve Bushue of Bushue Human Resources, Inc., Tom Laxton, Rachael Plantholt, Lynette Mehall, Sandy Slingsby, Dr. Baeg-beom Park, Jeff Monahan, Loren Baele, Bruce Boswell, Ken Lee, Jon Butler, Matt Sterrett, Scott Myers, Mike Adams, Julie Payne, Ted McNair, Dr. A.K. Thacker, Chuck Bartlett, Carla Cunningham, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Students and Good News Reports

- **Unit 5 Energy Star Recognition**
Brigham, Fairview, Grove, Oakdale, Fox Creek, Colene Hoose, Parkside, Glenn, Hudson, Towanda, and Prairieland Elementary schools, Eagle Road Resource Center, Unit 5 Warehouse, and Eugene Field Special Services Center
- **NCWHS Student** Rachael Plantholt ~ *National Merit Finalist*
- **Colene Hoose Elementary Students** Julia Herrman, Aditi Mutagi, Cassie Parent, and Anjali Toly ~ *National Chess Championship Team*
- **KJHS Student Council Members** Sankhya Amaravadi, Connor Brinkman, Clay Darrow, Ashlyn Gramm, Kyler Martin, Traevon Parnell, Rachel Pinto, Jenny Plunkett, Gabby Robles, Yash Thacker, Emma Wilson, and Alyssa Woodrum ~ *National Dairy Council's Fuel Up to Play Program*
- **KJHS Students** Kenna Dischert, Alex Jefferson, Tara Lopez, Monica Maybell, Sonya Myscofski, Chris Patterson, Michelle Plunkett, Katie Reyes, Zavier Robinson, Paola Rodriguez, Ollivia Slater, Maya Walker, Claneshia Williams, and Jalyne Zehr ~ *"Power of a Promise Youth Summit"*
- **Beyond the Books Educational Foundation 2009-2010 Grant Winners** ~ Leisa Barbour, Mary Jo Douglass, Debra Foster, Jennifer Gibson, Carol Johnson, Kathryn Kalina, Carrie Kieser, Betty Kinzinger, Linda Kitterman, Cristie Koechle, Judy Lancaster, Linda Lenz, Ellen Main, Kathy Mandros, Marylynn Meredith, Christine Mitchell, Kelly Murray, Dan Phelps, DeeDee Sanders, Amy Schumacher, Sherry Sharp, Rebecca Spears, Matt Sterrett, Lisa Tomlin, and Candice Vercurysse

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Report

Achievement Matters

Tom Laxton and Mike Adams of State Farm presented information on Achievement Matters. (Attachment #1) Discussion included but was not limited to the following:

- Unit 5 ranks in the top 2% for the state for academic excellence
- Achievement gap exists and data indicates it is due to socio economic status, not racial classification
- District growth, increasing diversity and increasing low social economic status
- Promise Council concept
- Student needs include mentors and parental involvement
- Cooperation of State Farm, District 87 and Unit 5 in programs such as Illini Data, Kids Expo, Youth Summit and Global Youth Service Day

- Back to school party scheduled for August 11 at ISU Horton Field House

Action

Accept Bids for Construction Work at Evans Jr. High School

Ach presented information and recommendations for the following contractors for construction work for Evans Jr. High School: (Attachment #2)

- Singles Roofing ~ Bid Package #4 Roofing Bid award: \$797,365.00
- Millworks ~ Bid Package #8 for Athletic wood flooring Bid award: \$88,383.69
- Ravensberg Incorporated ~ Bid Package #9 Science casework Bid award: \$96,000.00

Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve Bid Package #4 for flooring, Bid Package #8 for athletic wood flooring, and Bid Package #9 for science casework for George L. Evans Jr. High School site as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Accept Bids for Renovations at Hudson Elementary School

Middleton presented information and his recommendation of the following contractor for renovations to Hudson Elementary School (Attachment #3)

- SCI General Contractor ~ Base bid amount: \$323,900.00

Pritchett moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve bid for renovations at Hudson Elementary School as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Approve Agreement with KJWW Engineering Consultants, PC for Technology Engineering Services

Pete McGhee and Loren Baele presented information on the proposal for technology engineering services. Contracted services will include:

- centralized access control system
- video surveillance system design
- master clock engineering design
- new intercom system installed at both high schools
- renovation of high school equipment rooms
- consulting for selection of a new VoLP telephone system

Cannell moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the contract agreement with KJWW Engineering Consultants, PC for technology engineering services as recommended. No roll call vote was taken on this motion.

Briggs moved, Cannell seconded, to amend the motion to include authorization for Superintendent Niehaus with the assistance of the Facilities Review Committee to finalize details of the contract agreement with KJWW Engineering Consultants PC for technology engineering services. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Roll call vote on the amended motion: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** (Final contract Attachment #4)

Approve Resolution Authorizing Intervention with the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board

Gillmeister provided information on an appeal filed with the Property Tax Appeal Board by a McLean County property owner. He also noted that the District has a revenue interest in the valuation of this property. Gillmeister advised that the Property Tax Appeal Board requires a school Board resolution authorizing intervention. (Attachment #4) Reece moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve the resolution authorizing the law firm of Brown, Hay and Stephens, LLP to file requests to intervene and to proceed on behalf of McLean County Unit District No. 5 in proceedings before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Implementation of Volunteer Program

Dayna Brown, Tim Arnold, and Steve Bushue provided information on the new volunteer program for the District. (Attachment #5) The program is scheduled for implementation beginning in the fall of 2009. Bushue Human Resources Inc. will conduct background checks on specific volunteers working in the District. A committee of parents, administrators, UFEA and UFSPA members met to discuss the development and implementation of the program. Pritchett moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the

implementation of a volunteer program for McLean County Unit District No. 5 as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Consent Agenda

Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda. Special recognition was given to Nate Cunningham who will be the District's Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources effective July 1, 2009. Niehaus also reported that Carol Frericks was appointed as the new director for the Literacy and Response to Intervention programs.

Personnel Matters (Attachment #6)

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

Payment of Bills and Payroll (Attachment #7)

Approval of Minutes

- April 8, 2009 Closed Session
- April 8, 2009 Public Session
- April 15, 2009 Closed Session
- April 15, 2009 Special Session

Other

- Approve Board representatives to Committees/Councils/Commissions/Board (Attachment #8)
- Approve student fees for 2009-2010 (Attachment #9)
- Approve changes to Student/Parent Handbooks for secondary schools (Attachment #10)
- Approve Resolution to Designate Hazardous Traffic Areas (Attachment #11)
- Approve purchase via lease agreement with Dell Computers for Junior High Technology Refresh (Attachment #12)

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

Reports

Enrollment Report and Comparison Report

Pye provided the enrollment and comparison reports as of April 30, 2009. (Attachment #13) Total enrollment is 12,549. Kindergarten pre-registration enrollment numbers for 2009-2010 were also provided.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Community Connections Committee ~ The committee met on Friday, May 8. Items of discussion included but were not limited to the following:
 - Study topics for 2009-2010 CAC
 - Unit 5 *Pride* will be distributed in *The Pantagraph* on Monday, June 8
 - Staff Appreciation Program
 - Groundbreaking ceremonies
 - Redistricting guidelines to be posted prominently of the district's website
- Facilities Review Committee ~ The next meeting will be Friday, May 15.
- Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ The committee met on Tuesday, May 12. The committee will review Section 8 – School/Community Relations. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28. The committee looking at administrative procedures will meet on June 8.
- Illinois Association of School Board Corn Belt Division ~ Briggs reported that the association met on Tuesday, May 12 in Fairbury. She noted that division officers were elected. It was also noted that the IHSA Bass Fishing event was very successful for its first year. There were 215 teams involved.
- Redistricting Committee ~ The committee met on April 28 to further develop elementary school options. There will be two public forums on June 16 at NCHS and on June 17 at NCWHS. Both are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs reported that grant awards for 2009-2010 totaling \$27, 429 were approved. The Annual Meeting will be Thursday, June 11.
- District Continuous Improvement Team ~ Mickens-Baker reported that the DCIT met on May 4. Discussion focused on evaluating the Smart School initiative and defining the structure of DCIT and alignment with school CORE improvement teams. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8.
- McLean County Regional Planning Commission ~ Reece reported that the commission met on May 6. Discussion included the eastside highway bypass.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ The committee met on Monday, May 11. It was noted that the District would not require an amended budget for 2008-2009 school year.

Announcements/Comments

- Groundbreaking ceremonies for Cedar Ridge Elementary School and Evans Jr. High School were held at Pepper Ridge Elementary School on May 2. Board members thanked the community, District staff, Turner Construction Company, LZT and Perkins + Will for a successful event.
- The Board expressed thanks to staff and District administrators for the Staff Appreciation Program.
- Adelman noted he had recently attended a conference in St. Charles. The conference program featured discussion on the homeless and transportation issues.
- Adelman reported that Brigham Elementary School was the last school to implement RevTrak.
- Niehaus reported on his recent meeting with State Superintendent of Schools, Chris Koch. Discussion included the Illini Data project and when the federal stimulus monies would be available.
- Niehaus recently met with State Farm representatives Ed Rust and Willie Brown. Discussion included the Illini Data project with State Farm, District 87 and Unit 5.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

**Gail Ann Briggs, Board of Education Secretary
Approved Date: June 10, 2009**