

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**July 9, 2008**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on July 9, 2008 at approximately 6:05 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Cannell, Meta Mickens-Baker, Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas, and President Jay Reece. Members absent: Scott Lay.

**Closed Session**

At approximately 6:05 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" specified as follows:

- Section 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel,
- 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 representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees,
- 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, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

**District's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

At approximately 6:30 p.m., Board members, District staff, and community members attended a reception to celebrate Unit 5's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Return to Public Session**

At 7:04 p.m., Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, 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, Dayna Brown, Jim Fitzpatrick of WJBC, Kenny Lee, Joe Adelman, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Vickie Mahrt, Ed Heineman, Chuck Bartlett, Sandee Jessee, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, and others.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Public Hearing**

Public Hearing to Consider YouthBuild McLean County's Proposal to become a Charter School of McLean County Unit District No. 5

Niehaus reported on the proposal from YouthBuild to operate a charter school in Unit 5. Tom Kennedy, attorney for YouthBuild, and Curt Richardson, attorney for Unit 5, were involved in the contract negotiations. He noted the charter school will educate high school students within Unit 5. It was also noted that the Charter School will be a different entity than YouthBuild. Niehaus reported that the timeline

would allow for Unit 5 to open classes at the Charter School on or close to September 1. There were no public comments.

### **Action**

#### Resolution to Approve Contract Agreement with YouthBuild McLean County to become a Charter School of McLean County Unit District No. 5

Mickens-Baker moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the Resolution for the Proposal and Contract Agreement with YouthBuild McLean County to become a Charter School of McLean County Unit District No. 5 as recommended. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### **Action From Closed Session**

#### Approve Personnel Salaries and Benefits for 2008-2009 for Specific Classes of Employees

Pye presented information regarding the salaries and benefits for the following employee groups: (Attachment #2)

- Health Care Assistants
- Transportation Exempt Staff
- Occupational/Physical Therapists
- Educational Office Personnel Exempt Staff
- Title I Support Staff

Pritchett moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve personnel salaries and benefits for 2008-2009 for specific classes of employees as discussed in closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Mickens-Baker, Puzauskas, Reece. Abstain: Pritchett. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### **Consent Agenda**

Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda.

#### Personnel Matters (Attachment #3)

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

#### Approval of Minutes

- May 28, 2008 Closed Session
- May 28, 2008 Regular Session

#### Payment of Bills and Payroll by Fund (Summary Attachment #4)

#### Treasurer's Report ~ May 2008 (Attachment #5)

#### Other

- Appoint Meta Mickens-Baker as delegate and Mark Pritchett as alternate to the IASB Delegate Assembly
- Approve Development Agreement with City of Bloomington ~ Preliminary Construction Plans and Design Study (Attachment #6)
- Requests for Donation Approval
  - KJHS PTO/General Activity - 4 projector packages (Attachment #7)
  - KJHS PTO - sound system (Attachment #8)

Cannell moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.** Niehaus announced that Kenny Lee will be the new principal at Parkside Jr. High School and Sandy Wilson has been named the Director of Secondary Education.

### **Reports/Discussion**

#### Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Insurance Committee ~ Cannell noted that the next meeting is scheduled for July 15.
- Architectural Services Executive Committee ~ Puzauskas reported that the committee had a special presentation to District staff and community members on June 17. The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 15.
- District Continuous Improvement Team ~ Mickens-Baker reported that the next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 4:45 p.m. at the IEA office.

- Community Connections Committee ~ Briggs provided Board members with a report of the July 3 meeting. It was noted that CAC at-large representative applications are still being accepted.
- Facilities Review Committee ~ Pritchett reported that the committee had recently met to discuss the donation requests that were on this evening's consent agenda.

**Announcements/Comments**

- There will be a Town of Normal reception on July 16, 5:30 p.m. at Medici's in uptown Normal.
- Mickens-Baker reported on the Minority Academic Achievement Ceremony where over 500 area students in grades 5 through 12 were recognized for making the honor roll.
- Mickens-Baker announced that she attended the MAPS scholarship reception. She noted NCHS principal Jeanette Nuckolls was also present to recognize an NCHS student.
- Board members reported on the success of the Towanda 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- Puzauskas, Mickens-Baker, and Briggs participated in the 2008 IASB LeaderShop Academy Symposium on June 28 regarding running schools like a business. Presentations were titled "On Common Ground" and "The Real Business of School Boards".

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 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: August 13, 2008**