

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
September 10, 2008

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on September 10, 2008 at approximately 5:07 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

Roll Call

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

Closed Session

At approximately 5:07 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,
- Section 2(c)(9) Student disciplinary cases, 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**

Return to Public Session

At 6:11 p.m., Briggs moved, Puzauskas 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.**

Action From Closed Session

Pritchett moved, Lay seconded, that student #20102666 discussed in closed session is found to have violated the District's Policy No. 7190 *Student Discipline* by gross disobedience and/or misconduct related to the possession, use and/or transfer of a weapon on the Normal Community High School campus on August 29, 2008. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Return to Closed Session

At approximately 6:15 p.m., Briggs moved, Cannell seconded, to return to Closed Session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Return to Public Session

At 6:35 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.**

Action From Closed Session

Mickens-Baker moved, Briggs seconded, that student #20102666 discussed in closed session be expelled from McLean County Unit District No. 5 September 11, 2008 through September 10, 2010. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

There was a short recess from 6:36 p.m. to 6:42 p.m.

Return to Closed Session

At approximately 6:42 p.m., Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to return to Closed Session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Return to Public Session

At 7:14 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 Human Resources John Pye, Director of Operations Joe Adelman, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer James Gillmeister, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, Dayna Brown, Jim Fitzpatrick of WJBC, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Chuck Bartlett, Susan Schafer, Joan Beattie, Julie Barnett, Colette Farner, Kevin Callis, Lynette Bixby, James Taylor, Jamie Petersen, Cheyenne Petersen, Logan Petersen, Susan Turner, Mary Aper, Sandra Purcell, Dave Starr, Vickie Mahrt, Dennis Brtva, Carol Burger, Trisha Arendell, Hannah Tomlin, Melanie Wallace, Elaine O'Brien, Anne Atteberry, Tammy Hansen, Leslie Hanson, Kathleen Ely, Dee Hopper, Dawn Goldman, Karin Filkins, Jeanette Nuckolls, Chuck Hartseil, Kathie Kalian, Tamara Howard, Craig Montgomery, Dan Deneen, Tom Eder, Leslie Hanson, Jennifer Stork, Jessica Alt, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Good News Report

- Patriot Day ~ NCWHS Social Studies Teacher Major Glenn Petersen

Public Comments

Colette Farner, Bloomington IL ~ Proposed gravel pit
Susan Schafer, Bloomington IL ~ Proposed gravel pit
Kevin Callis, Bloomington IL ~ Proposed Gravel pit

Action

Approve Proposal for Re-Lease, Acquisition, and Replacement of Wheelchair Buses

Adelman provided information regarding the District's need for buses with wheel chair lifts. The request included extending the current lease by four years and adding another wheelchair bus for 2008-2009. (Attachment #1) Pritchett moved, Briggs seconded, to accept the proposal for the re-lease, acquisition and replacement of wheelchair buses for 2008-2009 as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Consent Agenda

Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda. Craig Montgomery was introduced as the new Custodial Supervisor for the District.

Personnel Matters (Attachment # 2)

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

Payment of Bills (Summary #3)

Approval of Minutes

- August 13, 2008 Closed Session
- August 13, 2008 Regular Session

Other

- Request for Sunday Use of Facility ~ NCWHS Student Council (Attachment #4)
- Request for Overnight Trip ~ NCWHS FFA Convention (Attachment #5)
- Request for Overnight Trip ~ NCWHS Bands of America Regional Championships (Attachment #6)
- Request for Overnight Trip ~ NCWHS Family and Consumer Sciences. (Attachment #7)

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

Reports/Discussion

Special Education Reports

- CARES Process and Program Review ~ Chuck Hartseil and Leslie Hanson, reported on the Collaborative Action and Resources for Educational Success (CARES) program. (Attachment #8) It was noted that the review process involved input from teachers, school psychologists, social workers, and administrators.
- Speech and Language Pathology Program Review ~ Jennifer Stork and Jessica Alt provided a summary of the District's speech and language program. (Attachment #9) The purpose of the review was to determine if the program was aligned with District goals and guidelines. It was noted that management of the program would best be done if the District would consider a designated speech coordinator.

Discussion ~ 2008-2009 Tentative Budget

Gillmeister provided information on the 2008-2009 Tentative Budget. (Attachment #10) A hearing on the budget will be held at the September 24 Board meeting. Information included a comparison of fund balances if District monies from taxes were received on time.

Discussion ~ Appointment of Commerce Bank as Treasurer for the District

Gillmeister reported that past audit findings have included the recommendation to separate the roles of Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. (Attachment #11) A resolution will be brought to the Board for approval at the September 24 meeting.

Enrollment Report and Comparison Report

Pye reported on the final enrollment figures as of August 31, 2008. (Attachment #12) He noted that the average elementary class size average is at 22.8. Elementary sections showed 6% of classrooms over the range and 61% within the range. September 30 enrollment figures will be used for reporting and projection purposes.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- District Continuous Improvement Team ~ Cannell and Mickens-Baker attended the committee meeting on Monday, September 8. Topics discussed included Professional Learning Communities. The October 13 meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on November 10.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ The committee met on Monday, September 8. Topics included the 2008-2009 budget report presented by Gillmeister at this evening's meeting.
- Architectural Services Executive Committee ~ Puzauskas reported that the committee continues to meet on an ongoing basis. Discussion includes additions to Sugar Creek and renovations of existing facilities as well as final designs for the new schools. He noted that the architects will be here on September 19 to provide additional information on the new elementary schools.
- McLean County Regional Planning Commission ~ Reece noted that one of the topics at last week's meeting was the proposed gravel pit near Fox Creek Elementary School.
- Community Connections Committee ~ The committee met on Friday, September 5. Items discussed included but was not limited to the following:
 - CAC membership and organization of study topics sub-committees - first meeting will be September 17 at Towanda Elementary school with an open house at 6:30 p.m. to tour the school.
 - Unit 5 e-link
 - School lunch visits
 - Unit 5 Pride
 - The parent organization presidents' luncheon is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 11:30 a.m. at the IEA office
 - ICN5 cable programming will be broadcasting Unit 5 programs on Focus with Jim Brown - Dr. Niehaus has taped one program - Topics of discussion included three-tiered busing and inclusive practices
 - The Chamber of Commerce Meet and Greet breakfast is scheduled for November 5, 7:00 a.m. at Oakdale Elementary School
 - Illinois State Board of Education budget hearing will be held at NCHS on Tuesday, September 16, 6:00 p.m.

- Process for naming new schools. Board Policy No. 4.155 *Naming or Renaming of Facilities and School and District Symbols* can be found on line. The anticipated date for action is the November 12.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 10, 10:00 a.m.

- Beyond The Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs noted that the Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, September 11 and will be approving their final representative. A copy of the minutes and name of members will be provided as soon as it is available.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ Briggs reported that the committee is scheduled to meet on September 18 to address several policies.

Announcements/Comments

- The schedule of IASB workshops being offered at the November conference is available on the IASB website. Board members are encouraged to review the information and make arrangements to register.
- Gillmeister announced that IASBO will be sponsoring several public comment sessions on school funding issues and is looking for representatives to speak at the session in Springfield on October 7.
- Board members commented on the success of the Glenn playground dedication ceremony.
- Niehaus introduced Tom Laxton of State Farm Insurance who will serve as the Education Coordinator for the Bloomington/Normal Achievement Gap Task Force.
- Niehaus attended a meeting with District 87 and Bloomington and Normal officials on youth issues in the community.
- A Youth Summit is being scheduled tentatively for Martin Luther King Day. Tom Laxton will represent the District on the organizational committee.
- Unit 5 will participate in the Racial Justice Forum scheduled on November 13 – 15.
- Niehaus attended the YouthBuild McLean County luncheon program at the Interstate Center on Friday, September 5.
- Adelman reported that transportation employees are currently undergoing CPR and first aid classes to receive certification.
- Adelman reported that on Thursday, September 11 he and Bert Popejoy will participate in a job fair at the Interstate Center to recruit bus drivers and monitors.
- RevTrak is currently underway and has been very successful.
- Custodial ground services are currently beginning work on the Eagle Road Resource Center.
- Adleman noted that the District is looking at purchasing new machines for the production service department.
- September 16 is the custodial/maintenance department's first safety meeting.
- There will be a Patriot Day celebration on Thursday, September 11, 4:00 p.m. at the Interstate Center.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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 8, 2008**