

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
October 8, 2008

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on October 8, 2008 at approximately 5:13 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 5:13 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, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Return to Public Session

At 6:07 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.**

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, Randy Middleton of Middleton Associates Inc., Dayna Brown, Jim Fitzpatrick of WJBC, Chuck Bartlett, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Lynette Bixby, Jean Harper, Cynthia Behrens, Sharon Abner, Joan Beattie, Terri West, Susan Steinbach, Stacie Finlen, Katrina Bates, Elizabeth Tomera, Judy Lancaster, Marty Pickett, Karen Bland, Stephanie Long, Vickie Mahrt, Peggy Modglin, Lisa Heaser, Tara Hafermann, Blair Broker, Laura Miller, Kathleen Ely, Vickie Curry, Jonathon Butler, Jessica Hooten, Dawn Green, Dave Lehr, Camille Taylor, Dan Swallow, Kathy Brittnell, Lori Beemer, Tom and Julie Shackley, David Underkoffler, Chuck Bartlett, Megan Ernst, Gretchen Cetin, Laura Tallman, Jane Rolfs, Hannah Tomlin, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Students and Good News Reports

- Unit 5 ~ Energy Education's Energy Pacesetter Award
- Towanda Elementary School Teaching Assistant ~ Anna Elizabeth Tomera
- Towanda Elementary School Staff

Public Hearing

Braksick reported that the public hearing held this evening would fulfill the legal requirement for the District to request modification of the Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/18-8:05 (F)(2)(d)(2) on School Improvement Days. There were no comments from the public regarding the request for modification.

Public Comments

Jon Butler, Normal IL ~ Topic: Unit 5 insurance contributions and benefits

Action

Approve Request for Modification of the Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/18-8:05(F)(2)(d)(2)

Braksick noted that the modification was a renewal of a previously approved waiver to schedule two full-day school improvement days to the school calendar. (Attachment #1) The waiver, if approved, will be for the 2008-2009 through 2012-2013 school years. Pritchett moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to approve the District's request for Modification of the Illinois School Code 105 IL CS 5/18-8:05 (F)(2)(d)(2) as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Accept Bids for Unit 5 District Office Construction and Remodeling

Randall Middleton provided information on the results of the bid process for remodeling the Unit 5 Administration Office. (Attachment #2) Middleton reported that there were seven bids presented. It was Middleton's recommendation that the bid be awarded to SCI General Contractors with a base bid of \$108,834.00. Cannell moved, Briggs seconded, to accept bids for the Unit 5 Administration Office construction and remodeling 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.

Personnel Matters (Attachment # 3)

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

Payment of Bills and Payroll (Summary Attachment #4)

Approval of Minutes

- September 10, 2008 Closed Session
- September 10, 2008 Regular Session

Other

- Designate October 21, 2008 through October 31, 2008 as Red Ribbon Week
- Designate November 16, 2008 through November 22, 2008 as American Education Week
- Approve two-year contract service agreement with CM Engineering (Attachment #5)

Pritchett moved, Mickens-Baker 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

Illinois State Board of Education School Report Card and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Braksick provided a summary of the School Report card for 2008. (Attachment #6) The information will also be posted on the District website. He noted that the data for both high schools has been resubmitted to the State with an appeal for the scores to be recalculated. Braksick also reported that the State minimum target to make AYP is currently at 62.5% and will continue to rise every year. Areas of concern include the economically disadvantaged and limited English speaking students. Braksick noted that the District will continue to address those concerns as well as look at individual school improvement plans.

Three-Year Energy Education Program Update

Boswell presented the 36 Month Energy Conservation and Savings Progress Report. (Attachment #7) He noted that energy use has been greatly reduced compared to past practice prior to implementation of this program. Boswell provided information on percentages saved for each facility and average costs per square foot noting that the geothermal sites are showing very positive data.

Illinois Sustainable Schools

Boswell reported on the application for a wind turbine feasibility study for Unit 5. The study would evaluate certain criteria to determine the potential for installing wind turbine generators at several school sites. (Attachment #8)

Discussion ~ Agreement Naming Commerce Bank as Treasurer for the District

Gillmeister discussed the Resolution Naming Commerce Bank as Treasurer for the District voted on at the last meeting. Commerce Bank will provide services for account reconciliation and reporting duties that normally are a part of the responsibilities of the District Treasurer. Gillmeister noted that Commerce Bank will not serve as the actual Treasurer for the District. According to FDIC rules and regulations, Commerce Bank is restricted from performing this function. (Attachment #9)

Enrollment Report and Comparison Report

Pye provided the enrollment report as of September 30, 2008. (Attachment #10) Total enrollment is at 12,734. He noted that the September 30 enrollment figures are a benchmark for looking at future projections for the District.

First Reading Board Policy 7.100 ~ Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

Briggs presented Board Policy 7.100 *Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students* for first reading. (Attachment #11) Briggs provided an explanation for changing the date for exclusion of students who do not have proper evidence of immunization and physicals to the first day of school rather than October 15. The amended policy will be scheduled for second reading and adoption at the November 12 Board meeting. It was noted that questions can be forwarded to the Board Policy Review Committee.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Board Policy Review Committee ~ Briggs noted that the committee continues to meet to review policies. The committee will also be reviewing the administrative procedures manual. A copy of IASB procedures and exhibits was provided to Board members. It was also noted that there will be a committee of principals to review the District's administrative procedures.
- Community Connections Committee ~ The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 10.
- Illinois Association of School Boards Corn Belt Division Representative ~ Mickens-Baker will be the delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards annual fall conference in November. Board members were asked to review the proposed resolutions for the delegate assembly. Any questions and concerns should be addressed to Mickens-Baker prior to the conference. The IASB Cornbelt Division Fall conference will be held on October 14 in Pontiac.
- Unit 5 / Local Government Committee ~ The next meeting will be held on October 20, 12:00 p.m. at Normal Town Hall.
- District Continuous Improvement Team ~ The next meeting will be held on November 10, 4:30 p.m. at the IEA office.
- Insurance Review Committee ~ The committee held a special meeting on October 7. The committee will present a proposal for enhancements for insurance benefits for the 2008-2009 year to the Board of Education, UFEA, and UFSPA.

Announcements/Comments

- Adelman reported that he, District food service director Pat Powers, and transportation director Bert Popejoy toured the Romeoville and Bollingbrook High Schools to observe food service procedures and three-tiered busing.
- Adelman reported that the safety committee continues to meet and is currently preparing a mission statement.
- Adelman will bring a request for approval to purchase four activity buses to the November 12 Board meeting.
- Reece reported that the September 30 public forum on the proposed gravel pit near Fox Creek school was very well attended. The forum offered an opportunity for alternative points of view to be presented. It was noted that results of additional studies will be shared with the Board when available.
- NCHS band parade and field performances can be observed on UTube.
- The NCHS homecoming parade will be Friday, October 10.
- The Lights on After School Event will be held on October 16. More information will be provided in the Weekly Bulletin.
- Gillmeister reported that the Board will begin receiving monthly investment reports from the Finance Department.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 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: November 12, 2008**