

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**October 22, 2008**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on October 22, 2008 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 (entered at 5:23 p.m.), Scott Lay, Meta Mickens-Baker, Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas, and President Jay Reece. Members absent: None.

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, Chuck Bartlett, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Lori Laughlin, Julia Turner, Vickie Mahrt, Jonathon Butler, Michelle Starkey, Cheryl Muir, Sharon Abner, Joan Beattie, Kathy Brittneil, Jeannie Jahnke, Mark Williams, Dawn Green, Sandy Wilson, Chuck Hartseil, Kurt Swearingen, Monika Cavanagh, Donna Matlock, and others.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comments**

Jonathon Butler, Normal IL ~ Topic: Unit 5 insurance contributions and benefits  
Donna Matlock, Bloomington IL ~ Topic: Unit 5 insurance contributions and benefits  
Monika Cavanagh, Bloomington IL ~ Topic: Unit 5 Music Parents Association

**Action**

Approve Additional Enhancements to the Medical Insurance Benefits and Premium Amounts for 2008-2009 Policy Year

Gillmeister provided a copy of the recent proposal from the Insurance Committee. (Attachment #1) Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to postpone the vote on the Insurance Committee recommendations until the November 12, 2008 meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**Recess**

There was a recess from 5:15 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.

**Work Session on Redistricting Guidelines**

Lori Laughlin and Julia Turner of Custom Training Services facilitated a work session to help the Board of Education set guidelines to use for redistricting. Discussion included but was not limited to the following:

- Objectives of the meeting – goals, guiding principles, establishing timelines
- Need for diversity in each building and balancing demographics
- Commitment to neighborhood schools
- Busing issues i.e. splitting apartment complexes, using major roads for boundaries, minimal busing of students
- Need for open attendance areas
- Special education needs
- Adelman and Pye will lead a committee on redistricting
- Make-up of committee – Board members, Administrators, community members, and staff
- Grandfathering students
- Define pathways for students
- Alternative educational opportunities – charter schools
- Continued communication to community members

After discussion, Board members determined major areas to use as guiding principles. Those areas were:

- Commitment to neighborhood schools
- Cost
- Diversity
- Equal class size
- Special education placement
- Future needs and changes after five years

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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: November 12, 2008**