

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**May 11, 2011**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on May 11, 2011 at 6:06 p.m. at George L. Evans Jr. High School, 2901 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, Illinois.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Maulson, Meta Mickens-Baker, Mark Pritchett, Jay Reece (entered at 6:15 p.m.), Mike Trask, and President John Puzauskas. Members absent: None.

**Closed Session**

At 6:06 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" and specified as follows:

- Section 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees,
- Section 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, and
- Section 2(c)(11) Litigation when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent.

Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

**Return to Public Session**

At 7:04 p.m., Briggs moved, Trask seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session.

Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None.

**Motion carried**

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Nate Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Braksick, Business Manager/Treasurer Erik Bush, Director of Operations Joe Adelman, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, Sandy Wilson, Dayna Brown, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Michelle Mantel of WJBC, Bruce Weldy, Mark Robinson, David Hirst, Ondray Hume, Nathan Titus, John Titus, Carmen Bergmann, John Lutes, Marylynn Meredith, Jama Lindahl, Patty Ryan-Fouts, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Shelli Lord, Laura O'Donnell, K.C. DeCremer, Jody DeCremer, Denise Schuester, Deb Torrence, Carla Hanson, Leslie Wagner, Kevin Suess, Jeanette Nuckolls, Tom Hunter, Harrison Meece, Cameron Baker, Keith Baker, Isela Jacquez-Williams, Amy O'Donoghue, Sean O'Malley, Ryan Everly, Tarush Khorana, Chris Eder, Kris Pennington, Apsara Sorensen, Robyn Perry, Janine Peacher, Tom Eder, Craig Montgomery, and others.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Focus on Students and Good News Reports**

- NCHS student Nathan Titus ~ Golden Apple Scholar
- NCHS Mock Trial Team members Cameron Baker, Emma Blanchard, Blake Cecil, Alec Gramm, Tom Hunter, Tarush Khurana, Harrison Meece, Sean O'Malley, Chris Varney, Taylor Wiese, Coaches Kevin Suess and Jake DiCuala
- Prairieland student K.C. DeCremer
- Prairieland teacher Marylynn Meredith
- NCWHS Foreign Language Department members David Hirst, Jama Lindahl, Patty Ryan-Fouts, Leslie Wagner, Isela Jacquez-Williams, Shelli Lord, Sue Strauch, Amy O'Donoghue, and Monika Grove
- Unit 5 custodian Ondray Hume

**Reports**

Illinois State Board of Education Academic Excellence Recognition

Braksick presented the Illinois State Board of Education Academic Excellence 2010 Honor Roll Awards to Fox Creek, Grove, Northpoint and Prairieland elementary schools. (Attachment #1)

### **Public Comments**

NCHS students Tarush Khurana, Sean O'Malley, and Ryan Everly ~ Saturday, May 21 ~ Lost Boys of Sudan Charity Concert, raffle and food sales to benefit United Families for Sudan.

### **Actions**

#### Approve Bid for NCWHS Scoreboard

Bush reported on the bid process for the NCWHS scoreboard and noted that requests for formal bids were sent to various vendors. (Attachment #2) Bids were received from Nevco and Daktronics. It was the recommendation of the Facilities Review Committee to award the bid for the scoreboard to Daktronics. Pritchett moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to award the bid for the Normal Community West High School scoreboard to Daktronics for a total bid amount of \$79,089.00 and to include the following specifications for funding:

1. Board approval of a budgeted amount of \$25,000 from McLean County Unit District No. 5 for scoreboard infrastructure,
2. Board approval of a donation for the remaining \$54,089 from the Normal Community West Grid Iron Club not including any further modifications, and to
3. designate the scoreboard as property of McLean County Unit District No. 5

Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None.

#### **Motion carried**

### **Consent Agenda**

Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda.

#### Personnel Matters (Attachment #3)

#### Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #4)

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#### Financial Reports (Attachment #5)

- Treasurer's Report
- Statement of Expenditures
- Statement of Revenues
- Investments Update

#### Authorization to Use Fire Prevention and Safety Funds (Attachment #6)

- NCWHS Restroom/Storage Room 143B
- NCWHS Exterior Doors
- NCHS Exterior Building Entrance

#### Requests for Overnight Trips (Attachment #6)

- NCWHS Illinois FFA Convention June 15-16, 2011 in Springfield, IL

#### Requests for Donation (Attachment #7)

- KJHS Stage Curtains
- KJHS White Oak Tree Arbor Day Celebration
- Prairieland Staff Lounge Remodeling
- NCWHS Track and Field Discus Cage
- NCHS Concession Stand Sink Installation

#### Board Members Assignments to Committees and Councils (Attachment #8)

#### Agreement between Unit 5 Board of Education and ISU Elementary Professional Development School

Coordinator Gloria Jameson effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (Attachment #8)

#### Resolution Designating Hazardous Traffic Conditions in Areas of School Attendance Centers (Attachment #9)

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

### **Reports**

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Update

Bush provided a brief update on the 2010-2011 budget including discussion of the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures reports. Bush noted that the percentage of budget received should be at approximately 75% for the third quarter. Those funds that are property tax funded remain under the 75% range; however, the tax payment due to the District in June will increase the percentage of budget received. Bush believes

the District will end the fiscal year with the spending plan authorized by the Board. Bush reported that the State owes Unit 5 close to \$6 million which if not received prior to June 30, 2011 will affect the District's ability to bring in a balanced budget. A balanced budget is income over expenses as well as remaining within the boundaries of the authorized spending plan. Bush noted there is some concern regarding the revenue side but does not expect to exceed the authorized spending plan.

#### Enrollment Update

Cunningham presented the monthly enrollment figures including elementary section ranges and class averages by grade for all secondary schools. (Attachment #10) Total enrollment for April 28 is 13,048.

#### Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation ~ Briggs reported that the Cooks Tour fundraiser netted over \$10,000. The readers for the grant applications have conducted their evaluation. A total of 45 grants will be funded this year for a total dollar amount of \$27,495. Unit 5 educators will receive \$21,963 to implement 32 grants during the 2011-2012 school year.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ The administrative team will meet on Wednesday, June 8.
- Community Connections Committee ~ The staff appreciation program is scheduled for Thursday, May 12. Briggs noted that 21 retirees will be recognized at the event. The *Those Who Excel* nominees selected have agreed to submit the required paperwork. The announcement of the Unit 5 winners in all seven categories will be announced sometime in August or September. The Illinois State Board of Education's dinner recognition will be held at the Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.
- Wellness Committee ~ The Wellness newsletter was recently e-mailed to all staff.
- District Core Team ~ The team met on Tuesday, May 10. Agenda items included the analysis of the staff satisfaction survey. The student survey will be administered the week of May 16 and a parent survey sometime in the fall. Administrators will discuss the first draft of the District scorecard this summer and a report will be scheduled at the August 24 Board meeting. Mickens-Baker reported that membership for 2011-2012 will include 50% of current members and 50% will be new members.
- Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association ~ The Association's Council will meet Wednesday, May 18. Discussion will continue regarding the dissolution of the cooperative.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ The committee has established a schedule of meetings for Fridays preceding the second Board meeting of the month. This schedule will be posted to the District website.

#### **Announcements/Comments**

- Adelman provided a brief update on construction projects and noted that Jeff Monahan will retire in 11 months.
- Adelman reported that Holly Knollenberg was hired as the EJHS food service manager.
- Mickens-Baker commented on the success of the NCHS after prom event.
- Maulson and Reece attended the KJHS 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra, band, and choral concert on Tuesday, May 10.
- Cunningham recently attended the Spring Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN) Conference in St. Charles, Illinois. Diana Weekes, Michelle Lamboley and Sandy Wilson also attended the event.
- Braksick reported that a parent meeting was held at Fairview Elementary School on Tuesday, May 10. Fairview was named an ISBE Choice School for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Niehaus recognized the accomplishments of the Literacy coaches throughout the District and invited Board members to visit the elementary schools to observe the changes in culture as a result of this program.
- A public hearing on the amended budget for 2010-2011 will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 22 at the District Office.
- Congratulations were given to the Director of Secondary Education Sandy Wilson on receiving her doctorate degree.
- Dayna Brown and Tom Laxton have been selected by the Illinois Association of School Boards to present a panel presentation at the Joint Annual Conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO in Chicago November 18 – 20, 2011. The topic of the presentation will center on the District's Promise Councils.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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**John Puzauskas, Board of Education President  
Community Unit School District No. 5  
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois**

**ATTEST:**

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**Mark Pritchett, Board of Education Secretary  
Approved Date: June 8, 2011**