

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
December 8, 2010

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on December 8, 2010 at 6:02 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

Roll Call

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Scott Lay, Wendy Maulson, Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas (entered at 7:32 p.m.), Jay Reece, and President Meta Mickens-Baker. Members absent: None.

Closed Session

At 6:02 p.m., Briggs moved, Reece 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)(5) The purchase of real property for the use of the public body,
- Section 2(c)(9) Student disciplinary cases,
- Section 2(c)(11) Litigation when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular 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, and
- Section 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed.

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

Return to Public Session

At 6:18 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session.

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

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Nate Cunningham, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, and attorney for the District Curt Richardson.

Action From Closed Session

Pritchett moved, Reece seconded, to find student #865589109 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois School Code and the Normal Community West High School Student Handbook by knowingly possessing and distributing cannabis to another student at NCWHS on Monday, November 22, 2010, a violation of Board Policy 7.190. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Maulson, Pritchett, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Pritchett moved, Lay seconded, to expel student #865589109 from McLean County Unit School District No. 5 effective immediately and continuing for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year and the entire 2011-2012 school year. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Maulson, Pritchett, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Return to Closed Session

At 6:19 p.m., Briggs moved, Maulson seconded, to return to closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Maulson, Pritchett, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Return to Public Session

At 7:08 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session.

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

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Nate Cunningham, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, and attorney for the District Curt Richardson.

Action From Closed Session

Pritchett moved, Lay seconded, to find student #1013455 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois School Code and the Normal Community High School Student Handbook by:

1. possessing a look-alike handgun at NCHS on Friday, November 19, 2010; and
2. by threatening other students on Thursday, November 18, 2010, when he posted a list of students on his Facebook status and subsequently messaged that he intended to shoot the people on the list; both of which are a violation of Board Policy 7.190. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Maulson, Pritchett, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Pritchett moved, Briggs seconded, to expel student #1013455 from McLean County Unit School District No. 5 effective immediately and continuing for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year and the entire 2011-2012 school year. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Maulson, Pritchett, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

At 7:09 p.m., the Board took a brief recess.

At 7:16 p.m., the Board returned to public session.

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, Dayna Brown, Mike Trask, Vickie Mahrt, Brett Howe, Vicki McCain, Kevin Cook, Paul Lemek, Jane Collins, Jason Ruyle, Sandy Wilson, Loren Baele, Carol Frericks, Peggy Decker, Jeff Monahan, Carter Collins, Samantha Collins, Dawn Sheppelman, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Michelle Mantel of WJBC, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Chuck Hartseil, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Students and Good News Reports

- Grove Elementary School Teacher Connie Stanczak ~ Ronald McDonald grant recipient
- Decker Industries Unit 5 Vocational Training Center and Jane Collins, Dawn Sheppelman, Hilary Ruyle, Shirley Boykin, Susan Haag, Lewis Dickinson, Vicki McCain, Laura Gaffney, and Jill Ziebarth

Public Comments

Vickie Mahrt, Normal IL ~ American Education Week

Board member John Puzauskas entered at 7:32 p.m.

Truth in Taxation Hearing on Proposed Tax Levy

Bush reported that the total proposed property taxes to be levied for 2010 would be \$100,718,307. It was noted that the notice for this hearing had been officially posted to the public and the hearing this evening will meet the requirements of the Truth and Taxation Law. There were no questions from the audience regarding the proposed levy.

Action

Approve Resolution for Levying Taxes and Authorizing Certificate of Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Bush presented the Resolution for Levying Taxes and Authorizing the Certificate of Tax Levy. (Attachment #1) Pritchett moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve the Resolution Levying Taxes for Community Unit School District No. 5 McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois for the year 2010 and authorizing the filing of a Certificate of Tax Levy for the following direct annual taxes for the year 2010: corporate and special purpose property taxes in the sum of \$83,323,230 and debt service and public building commission lease property taxes in the sum of \$17,395,077 as presented or an amount sufficient to meet legal debt service requirements. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Maulson, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Approve Notice of Publication for Adopted Tax Levy

The Board took no action on this item. Bush noted that the District is not required to publicize the Notice for Adopted Tax Levy unless a change was made from the original Resolution for the Estimated Amount to be Levied for 2010-2011. This notice was previously approved by the Board at the October 27, 2010 meeting and no changes were made since that date.

Consent Agenda

It was the consensus of the Board to remove the item authorizing a settlement agreement with State Farm Insurance, City of Bloomington, McLean County, Bloomington District 87, Unit 5, Heartland Community College, Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District, Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority, City of Bloomington Township, City of Bloomington Library, and City of Bloomington Township Assessor from the Consent Agenda for further discussion and action. Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the amended Consent Agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- October 13, 2010 Closed Session
- October 13, 2010 Public Session
- October 27, 2010 Closed Session
- October 27, 2010 Public Session

Personnel Matters and Staffing Needs (Attachment #2)

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

Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment #3)

- November 22, 2010
- December 8, 2010

Financial Reports (Attachment#4)

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

Service Order and Subscriber Agreement with SchoolReach, a Division of GroupCast LLC (Attachment #5)

Amendment to the Agreement between McLean County Unit District No. 5 and YouthBuild McLean County (Attachment #6)

Approve Statement of Completion for Health/Life Safety Amendments for Northpoint, Parkside, and Prairieland Elementary Schools (Attachment #7)

Secondary Course Description Book and Course Changes for 2011-2012 School Year (Attachment #8)

Approve School Improvement Plans for McLean County Unit District No. 5 and Fairview Elementary School (Attachment #9)

Approve School Library Grant (Attachment #10)

Approve Reading Recovery Implementation Applicant Agreement with Training Sites for Princeton Elementary School District 115 and Cerro Gordo Community Unit School District No. 100 (Attachment #11)

Letter of Understanding ~ Reading Recovery Teacher Leader (Attachment #12)

Requests for Establishment of Student Activity and/or Convenience Fund Accounts

- Colene Hoose Elementary School: Chess, Vending, Kindergarten, Goeken, Gifted Seminar
- Glenn Elementary School: Music, KJHS, Gifted, Team 7-3
- Towanda Elementary School: Bates Classroom

Requests for Dissolution of Student Activity and/or Convenience Fund Accounts

- Colene Hoose Elementary School: Bennett, Kennedy

Approve Board Policies, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits (Attachment #13)

- Policy 7.20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- Policy 7.30 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
- Policy 7.50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- Policy 7.70 Attendance and Truancy
- Policy 7.150 Agency and Police Interviews
- Policy 7.180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidations, and Harassment
- Policy 7.90 Student Discipline
- Policy 7.210 Expulsion Procedures
- Administrative Procedure 7.30-AP1 Attendance Exception
- Administrative Procedure 7.50-AP1 Student Admissions and Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- Administrative Procedure 7.150-AP1 Agency and Police Interviews
- Delete Administrative Procedure 7.30-AP2 High School Redistricting Attendance Exception

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

Action

Authorize Settlement Agreement with State Farm Insurance, City of Bloomington, McLean County, Bloomington District 87, Unit 5, Heartland Community College, Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District, Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority, City of Bloomington Township, City of Bloomington Library, and City of Bloomington Township Assessor (Attachment #15)

Niehaus reported that administration has been working with the taxing bodies since August to reach an agreement with State Farm Insurance. The agreement will help to stabilize the loss of real estate tax dollars for Unit 5. It was also noted that Bloomington District 87 Board of Education will be voting on the agreement at their meeting this evening. It was the consensus of Board members currently employed by State Farm Insurance Company to abstain from voting on the agreement. Lay moved, Maulson seconded, to authorize Superintendent Niehaus to execute the amended settlement agreement with State Farm Insurance, City of Bloomington, McLean County, Bloomington District 87, Unit 5, Heartland Community College, Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District, Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority, City of Bloomington Township, City of Bloomington Library, and City of Bloomington Township Assessor as presented. (Attachment #14). Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Lay, Maulson, and Reece. Nays: None. Abstain: Pritchett, Puzauskas, and Mickens-Baker. **Motion carried.**

Reports

Reports on New Construction and Health/Life Safety Projects (Attachment #16)

- Turner Construction Company senior project manager Richard Ach provided an update on construction progress at Evans Jr. High School. Contractors will begin demobilizing the first week in January. It was mentioned that this update was Ach's last report to the Board about the construction projects since the buildings have all been turned over to the district.
- Loren Baele provided information on safety and security projects and completion plans for each.
- Niehaus and Jeff Monahan reported on the District health and life safety construction and maintenance needs, life safety amendments scheduled for processing, and projects scheduled for 2011 through 2016 school years.

Enrollment Update

Cunningham reported on the November enrollment figures. (Attachment #17) Current enrollment is at 13,067.

Freedom of Information Requests

Niehaus reported that the District had received and processed two requests for information (Attachment #18)

- Kathy Robinson, AFSCME ~ Springfield, IL
- Penny Richards, Vice President of Learning Disabilities Association ~ Palos Hills, IL

1st Reading Board Policies, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits

Briggs presented the following policies, administrative procedures, and exhibits for first reading:

- Policy 2.220 Board Meeting Procedures
- Policy 2.230 Public Comments at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
- Policy 2.260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- Policy 4.10 Fiscal and Business Management
- Policy 4.80 Accounting and Audits
- Policy 4.150 Facility Management and Building Programs
- Policy 4.170 Safety
- Policy 5.10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- Policy 5.30 Hiring Process and Criteria
- Policy 5.90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- Policy 5.120 Ethics
- Policy 5.185 Family and Medical Leave
- Policy 5.220 Substitute Teachers
- Policy 5.260 Student Teachers
- Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP2 Criminal Offender Notification Laws

- Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP6 Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at a Physical Fitness Facility
- Administrative Procedure 5.10-AP1 Workplace Accommodations for Nursing Mothers
- Administrative Procedure 5.30-AP1 Interview Questions
- Administrative Procedure 5.30-AP2 Investigations
- Administrative Procedure 5.120-AP1 Statement of Economic Interests for Employees
- Administrative Procedure 5.220-AP1 Substitute Teachers
- Administrative Procedure 7.20-AP1 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- Exhibit 2.20-E1 Waiver and Modification Request Process
- Exhibit 2.250-E2 Immediately Available Public Records
- Exhibit 7.30-E1 Attendance Exception Request Form

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs reported that guidelines for the 2011 grant application have been posted to the website. The Beyond the Box grant will be reviewed annually and offering this grant will be based on available funds.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ The committee meeting scheduled for December 9 has been cancelled.
- Community Connections Committee ~ It was noted that a future Board of Education meeting may be scheduled at Evans Jr. High School.
- Wellness Committee ~ The committee will meet on Thursday, December 9.
- Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association Council ~ The council held a special meeting on Wednesday, December 8. Discussion included the dissolution of the agreement between the Association and Unit 5.
- District Core Team ~ The team met on Tuesday, December 7. Discussion included the agenda for 2010-2011 team, long range goals, District score cards, and setting smart goals. It was also noted that the team is establishing a survey for staff, students, and parents.

Announcements/Comments

- The election for school board members will be April 5, 2011. The deadline for submitting nominating petitions is 5:00 p.m. December 20, 2010.
- Evans Jr. High School certified applicants have been screened and interviews will begin Wednesday, December 22. The selection of associate principal at EJHS will be announced at the January 12 Board meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

**Meta Mickens-Baker, Board of Education President
Community Unit School District No. 5
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois**

ATTEST:

**Gail Ann Briggs, Board of Education Secretary
Approved Date: January 12, 2011**