

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
January 25, 2012

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on January 25, 2012 p.m. at 7:01 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

Roll Call

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Maulson, Meta Mickens-Baker, Mark Pritchett, Jay Reece, Mike Trask, and President John Puzauskas. Members absent: None.

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, Attorney for the District M. Curt Richardson, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, Dayna Brown, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Ryan Denham of WJBC, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Vickie Mahrt, Kristin Starks, Kenja Moorehead, Jackie Dellamano, Renee Nestler, Annette Arnold, Denise Holmes, Julia Schoonover, Cristie Koechle, David Neill, Sandy Wilson, Liz Betancourt, Bill Radford, Loren Baele, Cary Lampert, Dioselina Bauer, Jeanne Calhoon, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Student and Good News Reports

- Glenn Elementary School teachers Denise Holmes and Cristie Koechle

Public Comments

The following addressed the Board regarding transportation issues including contracting and outsourcing for student bus services:

- Jeanne Calhoon, Bloomington IL
- Dioselina Bauer, Bloomington IL
- Liz Betancourt, Bloomington IL
- Bill Radford, Normal IL
- Kristin Starks, Normal IL
- Kenja Moorehead, Normal IL
- Cary Lampert, Hudson IL
- Renee Nestler, Bloomington IL
- Jackie Dellamano, Bloomington IL

Actions

Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Superintendent to Contract with a Third Party for Transportation Services

Niehaus provided information on extending the resolution to contract for transportation services for an additional 90 days. Niehaus noted the extension will give administration an opportunity to continue negotiations with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Pritchett moved, Trask seconded, to adopt the Resolution of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, authorizing and directing the Superintendent to contract with a third party for the purpose of augmenting the current transportation workforce in an emergency situation as presented. (Attachment #1) Niehaus reported that the District has held two job fairs and continues to screen applicants. Board members noted that the cost to contract for additional emergency services should not exceed \$500,000.00. 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.

Approval of Minutes

- December 14, 2011 Closed Session
- December 14, 2011 Regular Session

Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment # 2)

- January 13, 2012
- January 18, 2012
- January 25, 2012

Financial Reports (Attachment #3)

- Treasurer's Report (December)
- Statement of Expenditures (December)
- Statement of Revenues (December)
- Investments Reports

Approve Overnight Trips (Attachment #4)

- NCHS Images Winter Guard Midwest Color Guard Circuit
 - January 28/29, 2012 to St. John, IN and Naperville, IL
 - March 3/4, 2012 to Roselle, IL and Aurora, IL
 - March 31/April 1, 2012 to LaPorte, IN

Approve Board Policies, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits (Attachment #5)

- Policy 2.250 Access to District Public Records
- Policy 3.60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal
- Policy 5.200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- Policy 5.240 Suspension
- Policy 6.60 Curriculum Content
- Policy 6.150 Home and Hospital Instruction
- Policy 6.190 Co-Curricular Activities
- Administrative Procedure 2.250-AP1 Access To and Copying of District Public Records
- Administrative Procedure 5.240-AP1 Suspensions
- Exhibit 2.250-E3 Recurrent Requester Notification

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

Reports

Six Month Budget Analysis and Forecast

Bush presented the six month budget analysis and forecast. (Attachment #6) Bush noted that the District continues to manage funds responsibly and conservatively. Bush provided a comparison of the first 6-month budget to projections for the next six months. Discussion also included but was not limited to information on revenues and expenditures in the Education, Operations/Maintenance, and Transportation Funds. Bush also reported that the projected need for Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN) is roughly \$7 million which is down from \$18 million two years ago. He also commented that the use of the notes will occur later in the 2011-2012 fiscal year than in previous years. Bush stated that the District's financial goal continues to be to move away from using the notes due to high interest costs. Bush stated there is still a concern about receiving payments due from the State and management will continue to be conservative.

Digital Conversion Update

Sandy Wilson and Loren Baele reported on the District's framework for digital conversion. (Attachment #7) Challenges include creating and equalizing opportunities for every student and the District continues to focus on this in all instructional settings. Upgrades have included WiFi in all facilities, Smart Boards, Netbooks and tablet computers for pilot schools, and laptop computers for all certified staff. Steps in planning have included a visit to Mooresville, North Carolina by administrators, a Board member, and teachers to observe the 1:1 digital concept. Discussion also included the organization of a task force to study instructional practices, professional development opportunities for staff, communication plan, and staffing and maintenance needs.

1st Reading 2012-2013 School Calendar

Braksick presented the 2012-2013 school calendar for review. (Attachment #8) Braksick noted that the calendar will have 14 late-start days for the next school year. The calendar will be scheduled for Board approval at the February 8 regular meeting.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Facilities Review Committee ~ The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 27.
- Policy Review Committee ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 30. Discussion will include policies related to curriculum.
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ The foundation has approved \$30,000 for mini and standard awards. Additionally, up to \$10,000 is available for the Beyond the Box grant. Applications are due by April 13, 2012.
- Wellness Committee ~ The committee met on Thursday, January 19. Discussion included improving communication to parents.
- Unit 5 Foundation Board of Directors ~ The committee has met twice since the first of the year and is currently working on establishing a Board of Directors. Discussion included the mission and vision of the Foundation which parallels the Unit 5 mission of educating each student to achieve personal excellence.
- Community Connections Committee ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ The committee met on Friday, January 20. Discussion included the 6-month budget and forecast analysis report.
- Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association ~ The last meeting was held on Wednesday, January 18. Discussion included Unit 5's dissolution with the Association which is on track to occur in June, 2012.
- District Core Team ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9.
- Jay Reece agreed to represent the Board and participate in meetings regarding the east side highway development.

Announcements/Comments

- Chris Koch, Illinois Superintendent of Schools, will recognize nine Unit 5 schools at a special program on Tuesday, January 31 at Sugar Creek Elementary School.
- The PTO parent representatives will meet with Board Members and Dr. Niehaus for lunch on Thursday, January 26.
- Niehaus attended a meeting on Tuesday, January 24 in Chicago with the Illinois State Board of Education where Governor Pat Quinn signed a law to overhaul the school performance reporting school report cards to help parents and the community measure performance.
- Board members and administrators attended the 36th annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. awards program on Saturday, January 14. It was noted that NCHS student Atticus Francken received the Town of Normal Human Relations Commission's "I Have a Dream" award.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

**Mark Pritchett, Board of Education Secretary
Approved Date: February 8, 2012**