

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

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on April 25, 2012 p.m. at 6:00 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.

Closed Session

At 6:02 p.m., Briggs moved, Trask 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) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline of specific employees,
- Section 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees,
- Section 2(c)(9) Student disciplinary cases, 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 when the public body finds that an action is probable.

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

Motion carried.

Return to Public Session

At 6:58 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett 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.

Maulson moved, Briggs seconded, to find student #001016600 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois School Code and the Evans Jr. High School Student-Parent Handbook on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, by knowingly bringing a box cutter to his bus stop and on his school bus and displaying it to other students, in violation of Board Policy 7.190. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Mickens-Baker moved, Pritchett seconded, to expel student #001016600 from McLean County Unit School District No. 5 effective immediately and continuing for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year and the entire 2012-2013 school year. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Maulson moved, Briggs seconded, to find student #410354960 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois School Code and the Normal Community West High School Student-Parent Handbook by creating a Facebook profile, using that to make threats and participate in making threats against other students, impeding the investigation of the Normal Community West High School administration by not disclosing his involvement in the Facebook threats and attempting to shift the focus of the investigation to another student, and by creating a substantial disruption at Normal Community West High School, in violation of Board Policy 7.190. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Mickens-Baker moved, Pritchett seconded, to expel student #410354960 from McLean County Unit School District No. 5 effective immediately and continuing for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year and the entire 2012-2013 school year. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Recess

At 7:01 p.m. the Board took a short recess.

Return to Public Session

At 7:06 p.m., the Board returned to public session.

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, Jason Ruyle, Neil Finlen, Kevin Enderlin, Marty Hickman, Dianne Fazio, Latisha Baker, Alanna Santiago, Jeanette Nuckolls, Hilary Ruyle, Carrie Stevens, Steve Myers, Georgia Myers, Ron Hofbauer, Jerry James, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Student and Good News Reports

- NCHS students Dayo Ajayi, Muddassir Bahri, Ragan Pierce, Deanna Qiao, Danny Splittstoesser, Ayna Bliss-Hosack, and Georgia Myers attend the Multicultural Leadership Program
- NCHS student Alanna Santiago ~ Illinois Department of Transportation Office design contest winner
- Beyond the Box Grant recipients Hilary Ruyle, Carrie Stevens, Molly Stolfa, and Kevin Enderlin
- The Good News Report for Javelin Lawrence was postponed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Organization of the Board

Puzauskas moved, Briggs seconded, to appoint Superintendent Niehaus to serve as temporary chair until election of a new Board president. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Election of Board President, Vice President, and Secretary

Niehaus called for nominations for the office of president. Mickens-Baker nominated John Puzauskas. Hearing no further nominations, Niehaus declared nominations for the office of president closed. As John Puzauskas was the only candidate nominated he was declared president by acclamation.

Puzauskas called for nominations for the office of vice president. Briggs nominated Jay Reece. Hearing no further nominations, Puzauskas declared nominations for the office of vice president closed. As Jay Reece was the only candidate nominated he was declared vice president by acclamation.

Puzauskas called for nominations for the office of secretary. Reece nominated Mark Pritchett. Hearing no further nominations, Puzauskas declared nominations for the office of secretary closed. As Mark Pritchett was the only candidate nominated he was declared secretary by acclamation.

Actions

Selection of Day, Hour, and Place for Board Meetings

Briggs moved, Trask seconded, to set the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month as the official Board meeting days, with meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m. and the official meeting place to be the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Set Elementary School Hours for 2012-2013

Trask moved, Reece seconded, to set the hours for Unit 5 elementary schools at 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. effective July 1, 2012 as recommended. 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

- March 14, 2012 Closed Session
- March 14, 2012 Regular Session
- April 4, 2012 Closed Session
- April 4, 2012 Special Session

Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment # 1)

- April 12, 2012
- April 20, 2012
- April 25, 2012

Financial Reports (Attachment #2)

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

Approve Resolution Ratifying an Agreement with Illinois State University to develop the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network and Authorizing and Directing the Superintendent to Provide Easements to ISU to Construct the Network (Attachment #3)

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans from the Working Cash Fund to other Funds as permitted under the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/20-5) (Attachment #4)

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans from Fund Reserves to other Funds as permitted under the Illinois School Code (105ILCS 5/10-22.33) (Attachment #5)

Adopt Resolution Appointing a Board of Directors to the Unit 5 Educational Foundation: Dale Avery, Neil Finlen, Ron Hofbauer, Loren Lay, Jennifer Lowrance, Tom Ochs, Jr., Julie Payne, Julia Turner, and Stacey VanScoyoc (Attachment #6)

Appoint members of the Board of Education to District and community councils, committees, commissions, or boards (Attachment #7)

Approve Request for Dissolution of Student Activity Funds for PJHS

Approve Student-Parent Handbooks for 2012-2013 (handbooks are available on the Unit 5 website)

Approve Board Policies, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits (Attachment #8)

- Policy 5.100 Staff Development Program
- Policy 5.210 Resignations
- Policy 5.220 Substitute Teachers
- Policy 8.30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- Administrative Procedure 5.220-API Substitute Teachers

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

On-Line Registration

Kurt Swearingen provided information about online registration. The new process will be available to elementary students on May 1, middle school students on May 21, and high school students on June 8. Swearingen noted that new process has come together as a result of several different pilot programs. The online registration will be available to all current Unit 5 students as well as 2012-2013 pre-registered kindergarten students. Swearingen demonstrated functions including but not limited to login and password data, verification of student data such as address, phone numbers, etc., consent forms for field trips, use of computers, etc., student registration fees, and transportation information.

Third Quarter Budget Report

Bush presented the third quarter budget report. (Attachment #9) Bush stated the Education and Tort Funds remain on budget; however, the year-end projection will be dependent on state funding received. Bush also noted the State is currently behind in payments to Unit 5 in the amount of \$3.3 million. The report shows that there have been additional personnel spending since the start of the year including hiring four teachers and 17 paraprofessionals. Bush noted that the District needed to add personnel for class size management and also due to legally-required IEP demands. Bush reported that Unit 5 is keeping current year expenses in line with the decreasing revenues and provided a breakdown of total spending by all funds. Bush noted that the Education and Tort revenue loss was due to reduced federal and state funding. Tort Fund spending includes workers compensation and unemployment benefits as well as health insurance and pension obligations. Bush also reported that the Board previously authorized refinancing a portion of debt at a

lower interest rate by keeping the same terms. This refinancing resulted in a return of about \$1.1 million in what would have been debt expenses to the public. It was noted in the report that the Operations and Maintenance Fund is trending to balance revenues and expenditures by year-end even with unanticipated expenses due to the Chiddix Jr. High School asbestos abatement and relocation. Bush reported that the Transportation Department is working with the same revenue as the previous year. Total spending in relation to the budget is slightly ahead due to payments to Illinois Central Busing. These will be included in the amended budget and a slight surplus is possible. Bush summarized material changes the District has faced this fiscal year including an increase in food costs due to federal excise tax. In conclusion, Bush reported that spending will continue to be tight and the District will remain vigilant and continue to monitor year-end activity.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ The committee met on Friday, April 20. Discussion included the third quarter budget report.
- Facilities Review Committee ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 27. Discussion will continue on the CJHS asbestos abatement and renovations.
- IASB Corn Belt Division ~ The next division meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10. Board Members were asked to notify Donna Evans if they will be attending. The IASB/IASA/IASBO Annual Joint Conference is scheduled for November. Board members were asked to consider their representative to the delegate assembly. Delegate Assembly resolutions are due June 30. Any suggestions should be submitted to Briggs. Unit 5 was selected to make a panel presentation titled Literacy-One Page at a Time Transforming Literacy in the K-12 Classroom for the fall conference.
- Wellness Committee ~ The committee met on Thursday, April 12.
- Community Connections ~ The PTO leaders met for lunch on April 16. Discussion included the later start times for elementary schools. The Back to School Alliance program was presented to the officers to help solicit support for back to school supplies.
- Unit 5 Educational Foundation ~ The Foundation Board of Directors were named in the Resolution this evening. There will be additional information about the Directors, by-laws, and Foundation roll-out to come.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ The committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 14.
- District Core Team ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10.

Announcements/Comments

- Board Members and administrators thanked all Unit 5 Administrative Professionals, especially on this Administrative Professionals Day.
- The Those Who Excel recommendations are currently being solicited.
- The Staff Appreciation program will be held on Thursday, May 17 at ISU Bone Student Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- 100 Black Men of Central Illinois held their annual gala on Friday, April 20.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 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: May 23, 2012**