

Minutes
McLean County Unit District No. 5
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session
September 14, 2011

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on September 14, 2011 p.m. at 6:02 p.m. the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

Roll Call

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Maulson (entered at 6:40 p.m.), 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, Mickens-Baker 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)(9) Student disciplinary cases, and
- Section 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act.

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

Return to Public Session

At 6:20 p.m., Briggs moved, Mickens-Baker seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

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

Trask moved, Briggs seconded, to find student #15000212 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois School Code and the Kingsley Jr. High School Student Handbook by knowingly possessing a stainless steel kitchen knife at Kingsley Jr. High School on Friday, September 2, 2011, in violation of Board Policy 7.190. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Trask, Reece, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Briggs moved, Trask seconded, to expel student #15000212 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, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Trask, Reece, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

The Board took a short recess.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., the Board resumed 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, Lora Boyd, Ryan Denham of WJBC, Kate Kram, Renee Swierczewski, Michelle Solesky, Robert M. Reardon, Jr., Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Todd Krzykowski of Mesirow Financial, Erin Sullivan, Scott Smith of PMA Securities, Inc., Elizabeth Blankenship, Sandy Wilson, Scott Peters, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Student and Good News Reports

Sugar Creek Elementary School Teachers Erin Sullivan and Lora Boyd ~ Pepsi Challenge Grant on behalf of the District's Early Learning Program

Public Comments

Elizabeth Blankenship, 17 Cameron Ct., Bloomington IL ~ Transportation issues

Consent Agenda

Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- August 10, 2011 Closed Session
- August 10, 2011 Regular Session
- August 24, 2011 Closed Session
- August 24, 2011 Regular Session

Personnel Matters (Attachment #1)

Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment # 2)

- August 31, 2011
- September 7, 2011
- September 14, 2011

Financial Reports (Attachment #3)

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

Approve Donations (Attachment #4)

- Unit 5 Vocational Training Center
- KJHS Baseball Dugout
- PJHS Maple Tree

Overnight Trips NCWHS FFA (Attachment #5)

- FFA Made for Excellence Leadership Conference January 20-21, 2012 in Oakbrook, IL
- National Convention October 20-21, 2011 in Indianapolis, IN
- Farm Bureau Leadership Conference April 2-3, 2012 in Springfield, IL
- Illinois FFA Convention June 13-14, 2012 in Springfield, IL

Overnight Trips NCWHS Speech and Theatre Groups (Attachment #6)

- Speech Tournament December 2-3, 2011 in Peoria, IL
- Speech Tournament January 20-21, 2012 in Downers Grove, IL
- IHSA State Speech Tournament February 17-18, 2012 in Peoria, IL
- IHSA Sectional Drama and GE Tournament March 16-17, 2012 in Charleston, IL
- State Drama and Group Interpretation Tournament March 22-24, 2012 in Springfield, IL
- National Speech Tournament June 9-17, 2012 in Indianapolis, IN

Accept Citizens Advisory Council Study Topics for 2011-2012

- Alternative Methods To Finance School Construction
- Best Practices/Wellness Initiatives
- Technology As A Second Language – Incorporating Technology Into the K-12 Curriculum
- Social Networking – How Does Social Networking Fit With Learning

Request for Establishment of Student Activity Funds

- Oakdale Staff Needs
- Oakdale Music
- EJHS Band B
- EJHS Gateway to Technology
- EJHS General
- EJHS Band
- EJHS Cheerleading
- EJHS Teams 6A, 6B, 8A, and 8B
- EJHS Choir
- EJHS Cross Country
- EJHS Dance
- EJHS Unity Committee
- EJHS Planners for Registration
- EJHS PE Clothes
- EJHS Softball
- EJHS Orchestra
- EJHS Locks

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

Reports

Debt Review and Series 2008 Refunding Opportunity

Scott Smith of PMA Securities, Inc. and Todd Krzyskowski of Mesirow Financial provided information on the Series 2008 bonds and refunding opportunities available to the District. (Attachment #7) Discussion included but was not limited to the following:

- Investments in Illinois GO Bonds
- Risks including interest rates and State of Illinois GO Bonds liquidity
- Refunded bonds and new refunding bonds both count against the District's debt limit
- Credit rating scales and definitions
- Debt profile and legal debt margin

It was the consensus of the Board to have the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee continue discussion on this matter with administration and representatives from PMA Securities, Inc.

Enrollment Update

Cunningham reported on enrollment figures. (Attachment #8) Total enrollment as of August 31, 2011 is 13,249. Cunningham noted that enrollment numbers to be used for State reporting will be finalized September 30.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Facilities Review Committee ~ The committee met on Friday, August 26. Minutes of the meeting were previously distributed to Board members.
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation ~ There will be a press conference at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 20 to announce the Beyond the Box grant winner.
- Illinois Association of School Boards Corn Belt Division ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6.

Announcements/Comments

- Trask spoke to Towanda Elementary School students at their opening day assembly.
- NCHS homecoming parade and activities are scheduled for Friday, September 16.
- Dedication ceremony for Evans Jr. High School will be held on Sunday, September 18 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m.
- It was announced that Unit 5 teacher Nancy Wojtanowski is one of the Illinois State Board of Education's *Those Who Excel Teacher of the Year* finalists. The winner will be named at a special program to be held at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Normal on Saturday, October 22.
- Evans Jr. High School will hold its first music concert on Tuesday, October 11.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 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: October 12, 2011**