

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**October 26, 2011**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on October 26, 2011 p.m. at 6:32 p.m. 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 6:32 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)(9) Student disciplinary cases and
- Section 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act.

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

**Motion carried.**

**Return to Public Session**

At 6:51 p.m., Mickens-Baker 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, Superintendent of Human Resources Nate Cunningham, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, and Attorney for the District Curt Richardson.

Trask moved, Pritchett seconded, to find student #1016794 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois School Code by knowingly possessing, displaying, and threatening other students with a knife while on his bus on the way to school on Monday, October 17, 2011, and by knowingly bringing the knife to Evans Junior High School on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, in violation of the Evans Junior High School Student-Parent Handbook and Board Policy 7.190. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Trask, Reece, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Trask moved, Pritchett seconded, to expel student #1016794 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, Trask, Reece, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

The Board took a short recess.

At 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, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Tom Eder, Steve Mintus, Chris Eder, Sarah Edwards, Jim Stonecipher, Kimberly Martin-Boyd, Jakiah Jolly, Chris Golick, Myung Wan Suh, Kaylin Richards, Susie Pratt, Craig Montgomery, Kristin Techmanski, Nancy Wojtanowski, John Daugherty, Patty Daugherty, M.J. Schenk, Kathy Lowe, Alison Hampton, Amy Scott, Vickie Mahrt, Debra Meyer, Kathy Starkey, Cari Steggall, Patsy Bowles, Julia Hinman, Beth Smith, Shelly Erickson, and others.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Focus on Students and Good News Reports**

- Those Who Excel Recipients
  - Classroom Teacher: Nancy Wojtanowski, Parkside Elementary

- Student Support Personnel (Certificated): Kim Page, Pepper Ridge Elementary
- Educational Service personnel (Non-certificated): John Burton, Prairieland Elementary
- School Administrator: Steve Mintus, NCHWS
- Team: NCWHS Art Team, Julia Hinman, Beth Smith, Grace Traynor
- Early Career Educator: Cari Steggall, Carlock Elementary
- Community Member/Board Member: Scott Lay, Board Member (retired)
- Pepper Ridge Elementary School Staff
- Pratt Music Award Recipients ~ NCWHS student Shelby Bays, EJHS Student JaKiah Jolly, CJHS student JD Martin, Fox Creek Elementary School student Kaylin Richards, and KJHS student Myung Wan Suh

### Public Comments

Kristin Techmanski, 38 Pebblebrook Ct., Bloomington IL ~ Busing schedules and delays

### Report

#### Preliminary Report on the Tax Levy

Bush reported on the projected 2010 Property Tax Levy. (Attachment #1) Bush noted that the Truth in Taxation Act requires all taxing district to determine the estimated amount of taxes necessary to be levied. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2011 are \$103,150,336. The District will hold a public hearing at the December 14, 2011 regular meeting to approve a proposed property tax increase. Bush noted that documents will then go to the county clerk's office if approved by the Board. Bush reported that the deadline to file the tax levy is Tuesday, December 27, 2011.

### Actions

#### Adopt the Resolution for Estimated Amount Necessary to be levied for the year 2011 and set the Date for a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

Maulson moved, Briggs seconded, to adopt the resolution for the estimated amount necessary to be levied for the year 2011 for the amount of \$103,150,336 and to approve the public notice of a Truth in Taxation hearing on the proposed tax levy increase to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at the Unit 5 District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Trask, Reece, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

#### Award Bid for Emergency Student Transportation Services

Niehaus reported that the Board had previously approved the Resolution Authorizing the Superintendent to Contract with a Third Party for the Purpose of Augmenting the Current Transportation Work Force in an Emergency Situation at the October 12, 2011 regular meeting. A Request for Proposals for Emergency Student Transportation Services was publicized on Thursday, October 13, 2011. Bids were submitted to the District on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 from Illinois Central School Bus and First Student. Reece moved, Pritchett seconded, to authorize Unit 5 administration or superintendent to negotiate a contract or contracts, with the lowest responsible bidder or bidders to provide Unit 5 with up to 40 drivers for a maximum of 90 days, to provide emergency student transportation services, at a cost not to exceed \$500,000.00. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Trask, Reece, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### Consent Agenda

Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda.

#### Approval of Minutes

- September 28, 2011 Closed Session
- September 28, 2011 Special Session

#### Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment # 2)

- October 14, 2011
- October 26, 2011

#### Financial Reports (Attachment #3)

- Investments Update

#### Request for Donation (Attachment #4)

- NCWHS Scoreboard removal

#### Request for Authorization of Fire Prevention and Safety Funds for NCHS Bleachers (Attachment #5)

Approve semi-annual review of closed session minutes of meetings lawfully closed according to the exceptions provided in the Open Meetings Act

Approve destruction of audio recordings of meetings closed to the public where minutes of said closed meetings dated between September 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010 have been approved by the Board of Education

Resolution Authorizing the Periodic Transfer of Amounts from the Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association to Unit 5 for Reimbursement of costs incurred by the District due to delays in receipt of grant funds by the Association (Attachment #6)

Approve Letter of Understanding with Unit Five Education Association on SMART Cohort Learning Opportunity (Attachment #7)

Adopt Resolution Designating Certain Unit 5 Equipment as Surplus (Attachment #8)

Trask moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Bush reported that some items designated as surplus will actually need to be destroyed. It was suggested that certain equipment be considered for donation to other school districts as needed. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

## Reports

### ISBE School Report Cards Summary

Braksick reported on the 2011 School Report Cards. He noted that it is a goal of the District Core Team to tie the District Scorecard together with the School Report Card. Braksick reported that the target AYP this year was at 85% and will be at 92% next year for meeting and exceeding state goals. District initiatives for improvement include Literacy, Professional Learning Communities, reading workshops, use of data walls in the elementary schools, and establishing common assessments at the high school level. Areas of concern include the two sub groups, Special Education students and economically disadvantaged students. The report cards are available to the public on the District website at [www.unit5.org/departments/curriculum](http://www.unit5.org/departments/curriculum).

### Tax Agreement with State Farm Insurance Company

Niehaus reported that in December 2010, the District had entered into a settlement agreement with State Farm Insurance Company and various Bloomington/Normal municipal corporations. In the agreement, State Farm Insurance would not seek to reduce its assessed value for property tax years 2011 – 2014. Niehaus noted that no formal action is required this evening. He noted that formulas are in place and the McLean County Clerk will use the figures stipulated in accordance with this agreement.

### Requests for Information

Niehaus reported that the District had received and processed requests for information from the following:

- Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Washington D.C.
- Jacob Long-WMBD News, Bloomington IL
- MDE Data Quality, Shelton CT

### Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Board Policy Review Committee ~ The committee met on Monday, October 17. Policies, administrative procedures, and exhibits will be presented for 1<sup>st</sup> reading at the November 9 regular meeting.
- Facilities Review Committee ~ The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 28.
- Wellness Committee ~ The committee met on Thursday, October 20. It was reported that wellness teams in buildings are promoting various programs on health and wellness. The next meeting is scheduled for after the first of the year. A committee report will be presented in January.
- Illinois Association of School Boards ~ The annual conference will be held in Chicago November 18 – 20, 2011. Comments or suggestions regarding the proposed resolutions for the delegate assembly should be directed to Gail Ann Briggs.
- District Core Team ~ The team met on Tuesday, October 18, 2011. Discussion included the Smart Goals, MAP Testing, the School Report Cards and data driven decision making. Satisfaction surveys were completed last week by approximately 2,100 parents. The results of the staff, student, and parent surveys will be presented to the Board in the near future.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ The committee met on Friday, October 21. Discussion included the levy and the budget for 2012-2013.

## Announcements/Comments

- The Citizens Advisory Council met on Wednesday, October 19 at Northpoint Elementary School.
- NCHS and NCWHS will play in the State high school football playoffs this weekend.

- NCHS and NCWHS will present their annual *Hauntcert* musical concert on Thursday, October 27.
- Both NCHS and NCWHS high school bands will be participating in the ISU band competition on Saturday, October 29.
- Niehaus, Reece, and Unit 5 administrators and teachers recently attended the One on One Digital Conversion Conference in Mooresville, North Carolina.
- The ISBE Those Who Excel awards banquet, held on Saturday, October 22 at the Marriott Conference Center in Normal, was attended by members of the Board and administration for the recognition of those honored during the meeting earlier this evening. Congratulations to Nancy Wojtanowski for being one of nine finalists for Teacher of the Year.
- A Board member and administrators attended the NAACP banquet on Sunday, October 23.
- On Tuesday, October 25, Briggs represented the Board at NCHS for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's open forum with students.
- The Unit 5 Vocational Training Center will host an open house on Thursday, November 3.
- Cunningham and Puzauskas will attend the GL Turn Conference in Chicago on November 2 – 4.
- On Monday October 24, Bush reported that he was present to testify at Lieutenant Governor Simon's first Classroom Commission's hearing. Bush addressed the commission on the topic of increasing efficiency in education. Bush made three recommendations to the commission:
  - 1) that the State focus on at risk students and funding for early childhood education,
  - 2) provide the District with a two-year commitment for state level of funding, and
  - 3) that the ISBE moves away from menu planning for setting goals and achievement as far as food service programs.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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: December 14, 2011**