

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

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on December 14, 2011 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 6:00 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)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, 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.

At approximately 6:30 p.m. the Board of Education recessed. The Prairieland Elementary School choir preformed for the Board of Education, administration, and community members.

Return to Public Session

At 7:01 p.m., Briggs 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, 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, Michael Schenk, Doris Buxton, Vicki McCauley, Dawn Sheppelman, Candice Adams, Amy Newton, Mary Renollet, Henry Walker, Jeanette Nuckolls, Tom Parton, Winter Williams, Tom Eder, Darrin Cooper, James Shaw, Kathy Starkey, Ruth Seymon, Jane Legner, Bill Radford, Tom Dixon, Ron Goben, J.B. Johnson, Kent Deauchamp, Mirna Betancourt, Tom Kiper, Jane Collins, Charles Cunningham, Peg Modglin, Tina Fogal, Karen Highland, and others.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Focus on Student and Good News Reports

- Oakdale Elementary School Landscaping Renovations ~ ISU Horticulture Department Staff Dr. David Kopsell and Jessica Chambers
- Steve Knuth, Retired Vice President of Quality Assurance at Electrolux
- Alexander Manufacturing Company's Partnership with the Unit 5 Vocational Training Center, Decker Industries
- Fairview Elementary School Staff ~ Family Reading Nights Program
- NCWHS Teachers Tom Parton, Mary Walker, Peg Modglin, Laura Stephenson, Kristi Probst, Deann Collins, and Karen Highland ~ It Takes A Village Award.

Public Comments

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

- Michael Schenk, 3010 Hyacinth, Bloomington IL

- Vicki McCauley, 308 Felmley, Normal IL
- Ron Goben, 1006 N. Oak. St., Bloomington IL
- Tom Dixon, 1212 N. Timber Ridge Ct., Normal IL
- J.B. Johnson, 1812 C. Street, Normal IL
- Kent Deauchamp, 615 S. 2nd St., Springfield, IL

Public Hearing

Truth in Taxation Hearing on the Proposed Tax Levy Increase

Bush reported on the proposed property taxes to be levied for 2011. 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 public comments regarding the proposed levy.

Actions

Approve Resolution for Levying Taxes for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and Authorize Certificate of Tax Levy

Maulson moved, Briggs seconded, to approve the Resolution Levying Taxes for Community Unit School District No. 5 McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois for the year 2011 and authorize the filing of a Certificate of Tax Levy for the following direct annual taxes for the year 2011: corporate and special purpose property taxes in the sum of \$85,117,626; and debt service and public building commission lease property taxes in the sum of \$18,032,710 as presented or an amount sufficient to meet legal debt service requirements. (Attachment #1) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Superintendent to Solicit Bids for Transportation Services

Niehaus provided information on the Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Superintendent to Solicit Bids for Transportation Services. (Attachment #2) Niehaus stated that the resolution being considered this evening will provide an opportunity to review options for transportation services and compare to current District procedures. Niehaus reported that District administration will continue to meet with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 31 (AFSCME) representatives regarding contract negotiations for transportation department employees. Discussion also included employee absenteeism, turnovers, and recruitment. Trask moved, Pritchett 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 solicit bids for transportation services as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Maulson, Mickens-Baker, Pritchett, Reece, Trask, Puzauskas. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Resolution Conditionally and Partially Abating Property Tax for Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC

Niehaus reported that the opportunity to participate in the proposed resolution along with other local government entities was originally presented to the District by the Economic Development Council. Niehaus reported that the process will bring additional employment opportunities and growth to the area by allowing Bridgestone to expand their facilities and operations. Reece moved, Briggs seconded, to adopt the Resolution of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois, conditionally and partially abating property tax for Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC as presented. (Attachment #3) 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

- October 12, 2011 Closed Session
- October 12, 2011 Regular Session
- October 26, 2011 Closed Session
- October 26, 2011 Regular Session
- November 9, 2011 Closed Session
- November 9, 2011 Regular Session
- November 17, 2011 Closed Session
- November 17, 2011 Special Session

Personnel Matters (Attachment #4)

Payment of Bills and Payrolls (Attachment # 5)

- November 15, 2011

- November 22, 2011
- December 2, 2011
- December 14, 2011

Financial Reports (Attachment #6)

- Treasurer's Report (October and November)
- Statement of Expenditures (October and November)
- Statement of Revenues (October and November)
- Investments Reports

Approve Renewal of Service Order and Subscriber Agreement with SchoolReach, A Division of GroupCast LLC (Attachment #7)

Request for Establishment of Student Activity Funds

- EJHS: School Store, IMC, Yearbook, Field Trips, Concessions, Volleyball, and Wrestling

Request for Establishment of School Convenience Accounts

- KJHS: Special Education, ESL

Request for Dissolution of Student Activity Funds or School Convenience Accounts

- Colene Hoose Elementary School: Kennedy, Gardner, Boyd, Bennett
- NCWHS: Band, Class of 2009/2010/2011, Golf, Softball, Baseball, Volleyball, and Track Invitationals, Baker Memorial, BTW, Calculators, Coca-Cola, Combo Class, Drama, Environmental Club, FHCC, Fish Club, Freshman Baseball, Hach Grant, HCC, Horticulture Class, International High School, International Relations, Niepagen memorial, Jazz Band, Latino Block Party, Locks, Mathletes, NFL, N.O.T., Physics Club, SADD, Skating, Smoking Survey, Software, Step Club, Student Planners, Taste of Soul, WestCo, and Wildkit Camp

Approve Overnight Trips (Attachment #8)

- NCHS Choir and Orchestra Trip to new York, NY May 31 – June 6, 2012
- NCHS and NCWHS Band, Choir and Orchestra students to attend the IL Music Educators Association State Conference for January 26-28, 2012 in Peoria, IL

Secondary Course Description Book and Course Changes for 2012-2013 School Year (Attachment #9)

Adopt Resolution Appointing District Hearing Officer for Suspension Review and Expulsion Hearings (Attachment #10)

Approve Board Policies, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits

- Policy 5.20 Workplace Harassment prohibited
- Policy 5.50 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace
- Policy 5.90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- Policy 5.185 Family and Medical Leave
- Policy 6.250 Community Resource persons and Volunteers
- Policy 7.50 Student Admissions and Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- Policy 7.340 Student Records
- Policy 8.20 Community Use of School Facilities
- Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP6, E1 Incident Report Procedure
- Administrative Procedure 7.50-AP1 Student Admissions and Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- Exhibit 4.170-E1 Incident Report Form

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.** Niehaus announced that David Bollmann will replace Dr. Jeanette Nuckolls as principal of Normal Community High School and Tina Fogal will replace John Lutes as principal of Grove Elementary School, both effective July 1, 2012. Nuckolls and Lutes will retire at the end of the school year.

Reports

First Steps Towards Digital Conversion

NCWHS teachers Angie Codron and April Schermann, Benjamin Elementary School teacher Jennifer Gibson, and Evans Jr. High School teacher Sean Mullins presented a summary of student involvement in activities using digital conversion. It was noted that students have embraced the new technology and projects being offered throughout the District. Niehaus stated that Unit 5 stands in a position of leadership as other schools throughout the State also look at making this conversion.

Public Comments

Vicki Mahrt, Unit Five Education Association President, addressed the Board on the topic of American Education Week. Information presented included school activities involving Board members, community representatives, and elected officials.

Reports

Enrollment Update

Cunningham reported on monthly enrollment figures. (Attachment #11) He noted that current enrollment is 13,263. A report on enrollment projections will be provided at the next regular meeting.

Freedom of Information Request (Attachment #12)

Kathy Robinson, AFSCME Council 31 Springfield, IL

1st Reading Board Policies, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits

Briggs presented the following policies, administrative procedures, and exhibits for 1st reading. These will be scheduled for 2nd reading and adoption at the January 11, 2012 regular meeting.

- Policy 6.260 Suggestions or Objections to Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs
- Administrative Procedure 6.250-AP1 Request for Securing and Screening Resource persons and Volunteers
- Administrative Procedure 6.260-AP1 Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials
- Exhibit 6.250-E1 Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability
- Exhibit 6.260-E1 Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Form

IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference

Information on the Joint Annual Conference can be found online at www.iasb.com. Congratulations were given to Sarah Edwards, Tom Laxton, and Dayna Brown for their conference panel presentation on the topic of Promise Council schools. It was noted that applications for panel presentations for the 2012 conference are due in February.

Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Facilities Review Committee ~ The next committee meeting is Friday, December 16.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ The next policy meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 19.
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Grant applications, guidelines, and rubrics will be available online Thursday, December 15. The three grant categories include: Beyond the Box (\$10,000 available); Standard (\$301 - \$5,001); and Mini (300 or less). All applications are due by April 13 and awards are scheduled to be presented in May.
- McLean County Regional Planning Commission ~ Superintendent Niehaus was the featured speaker at the Wednesday, December 7 meeting. Discussion included digital conversion, District growth and enrollment projections, and potential school sites.
- District Core Team ~ The committee met on Thursday, December 8. Agenda items included the District elementary, junior high, and high school parent satisfaction survey, M.A.P. testing, and a report by Business Manager Erik Bush.
- Unit 5 Foundation Board of Directors ~ The committee is requesting names of individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. The next committee meeting will be held in January.

Announcements/Comments

- Board members and administration welcomed Curt Richardson.
- Adelman announced that custodial/maintenance staff will be painting at NCWHS during winter break.
- Board members were reminded to complete the online training regarding the Open Meetings Act.
- Former Board member Ben Gildersleeve was recognized at a recent Rotary Club meeting.
- Former Board member Robert Rinehart recently passed away.
- A 100th birthday celebration was held for Dorothy Benjamin at Benjamin Elementary School on Thursday, December 8.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 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: January 25, 2012**