

**Minutes**  
**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session**  
**June 10, 2009**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 5, McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois met in regular session on June 10, 2009 at approximately 5:07 p.m. at the District Office, 1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Gail Ann Briggs, Wendy Cannell, Mark Pritchett, John Puzauskas, Jay Reece, and President Meta Mickens-Baker. Members absent: Scott Lay.

**Closed Session**

At approximately 5:06 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the following matters according to the exceptions provided in the "Open Meetings Act" specified as follows:

- Section 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel,
- Section 2(c)(9) Student disciplinary cases,
- Section 2(c)(11) Litigation against, affecting or on behalf of McLean County Unit District No. 5 which has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or is probable or is imminent,
- Section 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters with employees or their representative or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, and
- Section 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed.

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

**Return to Public Session**

At approximately 6:02 p.m., Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Pye, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, and attorney for the District Dennis Triggs.

**Action From Closed Session**

Pritchett moved, Puzauskas seconded, to find student #001020377 engaged in gross disobedience or misconduct under Section 10-22.6 of the School Code, including but not limited to the following actions:

- (a) possessing and displaying a knife on school grounds on May 29, 2009,
- (b) engaging in aggressive and threatening behavior by threatening to harm another student while displaying a knife in a threatening manner to the other student on school grounds on May 29, 2009, and
- (c) engaging in an activity that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, all in violation of Board Policy 7.190.

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

**Return to Closed Session**

At approximately 6:05 p.m., Briggs moved, Cannell seconded, to return to closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**Return to Public Session**

At approximately 6:33 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Pye, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, and attorney for the District Dennis Triggs.

### **Action From Closed Session**

Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to expel student #001020377 from McLean County Unit District No. 5 for the 2009-2010 school year and the 2010-2011 school year. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### **Return to Closed Session**

At approximately 6:40 p.m., Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to return to closed session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### **Return to Public Session**

At approximately 7:13 p.m., Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to come out of closed session and return to public session. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Also present: Superintendent Gary Niehaus, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Braksick, Chief Financial Officer James Gillmeister, Director of Operations Joe Adelman, Clerk of the Board Donna Evans, Dayna Brown, Jim Fitzpatrick of WJBC, Phyllis Coulter of *The Pantagraph*, Steve Robinson of the *Normalite*, Jon Butler, Kurt Swearingen, Suzy Marcum, Darrin Cooper, Richard Ach, Jeff Monahan, Neil Finlen, Steve Bushue, and others.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Report**

#### **Construction Update**

Richard Ach of Turner Construction Company presented a summary of District construction projects (Attachment #1) Aerial photographs were provided. Discussion included but was not limited to the following:

- Sugar Creek Elementary School
  - Spring phase demolition and renovation has been completed
  - Summer phase will include floor work, masonry, and interior ceiling and classroom work
- Cedar Ridge Elementary School
  - Well drilling operation has begun
  - Perimeter footings complete
  - Mason mobilized and underway at gymnasium
  - Foundation walls have been completed around the gymnasium
- Benjamin Creek Elementary School
  - Mass grading has begun
- Evans Jr. High School
  - Mass grading operation is underway
  - Due to weather there has been an issue with getting the soil dry

Board members requested monthly updates with aerial photographs.

### **Action**

#### **Accept Bids for Construction Work at Evans Jr. High School**

Ach presented information and a recommendation for the following contractor for construction work for Evans Jr. High School: (Attachment #2)

- Commercial Floor Covering ~ Bid Package #7 for flooring, carpet, resilient, ceramic tile, terrazzo and resinous. Bid Award: \$930,715.00

Cannell moved, Briggs seconded, to approve Bid Package #7 for flooring, carpet, resilient, ceramic tile, terrazzo, and resinous for construction project at George L. Evans Jr. High School site as recommended.

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

Accept Bid for Chiddix Jr. High School Bus Lane Improvements

Neil Finlen of Farnsworth Group presented information and a recommendation for the following contractor for construction work for Chiddix Jr. High School: (Attachment #3)

- McLean County Asphalt Company ~ Bid Award: \$214,525.32

Briggs moved, Reece seconded, to accept the bid for Chiddix Jr. High School bus lane improvements as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None.

**Motion carried.**

Accept Bid for Northpoint Elementary Site Improvements

Neil Finlen of Farnsworth Group presented information and a recommendation for the following contractor for construction work for Northpoint Elementary School: (Attachment #4)

- Stark Excavating Inc. ~ Bid Award: \$181,964.50

Pritchett moved, Puzauskas seconded, to accept the bid for Northpoint Elementary School site improvements as recommended. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Summary of Unit 5 Insurance Renewals

Steve Bushue provided a summary of changes regarding renewal of several Unit 5 insurance policies. (Attachment #5) He noted that each of the policies is scheduled for review and renewal each year at this time. Bushue highlighted the current premium and renewal premium comparisons.

Approve Unit 5 Renewal for Property and General Liability Insurance

Puzauskas moved, Briggs seconded, to approve Unit 5 insurance renewal effective July 1, 2009 for the following lines of coverage as presented: property, general liability, crime, boiler and machinery, inland marine, and umbrella. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Approve Unit 5 Renewal for School Board Liability Insurance

Briggs moved, Puzauskas seconded, to approve Unit 5 insurance renewal effective July 1, 2009 for the following lines of coverage as presented: school board liability. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Approve Unit 5 Renewal for Workman's Compensation Insurance

Reece moved, Cannell seconded, to approve Unit 5 insurance renewal effective July 1, 2009 for the following lines of coverage as presented: workman's compensation. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Approve Unit 5 Renewal for Automobile Insurance

It was noted that this policy will provide coverage for all District vehicles. Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve Unit 5 insurance renewal effective July 1, 2009 for the following lines of coverage as presented: automobile. Niehaus reported that the District will also acquire a new State Farm insurance agent assigned with the policy carrier. Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Approve Unit 5 Renewal for Employee Group Medical Insurance

Gillmeister noted a presentation was provided to the Insurance Committee and members of the UFEA negotiation team for renewal of previously approved medical insurance and benefits with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Per agreement with UFEA, if a contract was not ratified prior to June 30, 2009 those improved benefits would sunset and would revert back to the benefits of the last year. Reece moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve Unit 5 insurance renewal effective July 1, 2009 for the following lines of coverage as presented: group medical insurance. Information was provided to Board members regarding the equivalent rate development and projections for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009. (Attachment #6) Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Approve Resolution to Designate Interest Accumulated During Fiscal Year and All Prior Fiscal Years

Gillmeister provided an explanation on the resolution to designate interest accumulated during the current fiscal year and prior years. (Attachment #7) He noted that state statutes restrict the amounts and types of monies that can be transferred out of certain funds. Those funds include the education, transportation and operations and maintenance funds. In prior years the interpretation from the Illinois State Board of

Education was that interest was considered a separate item and was not subject to the specific transfer restrictions. ISBE has changed their ruling on this and required that interest be designated as interest monies otherwise those monies would be subject to the same transfer restrictions. The District does not have plans to transfer any of the interest monies; however, this will allow for future flexibility if needed. Briggs moved, Pritchett seconded, to approve the Resolution designating that interest accumulated during fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 and all prior fiscal years shall continue to be considered interest in accordance with Title 23 of the Illinois Administrative Code 100.500 (a-4). Roll call: Ayes: Briggs, Cannell, Pritchett, Puzauskas, Reece, Mickens-Baker. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### **Consent Agenda**

Niehaus reviewed and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda. Special recognition was given to Darrin Cooper who will be the new principal at Oakdale Elementary School.

#### Personnel Matters (Attachment #8)

- Resignations/Retirements/Terminations
- Employment
- Contract Revisions
- Leave Requests

#### Payment of Bills and Payroll (Attachment #9)

#### Other

- Approve Curriculum Department End of the Year Reports for 2008-2009
- Approve student fees for 2009-2010 (Attachment #10)
- Designate Commerce Bank as Depository for All District Funds
- Appoint James Gillmeister as Treasurer and Donna Evans as Clerk of the Board for the Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010
- Adopt Resolution Stating Prevailing Rate of Wages (Attachment #11)
- Approve District's Application to State of Illinois Records Commission for Certificate of Records Disposal (Attachment #12)
- Accept Bids (Attachment #13)
  - Trays
  - Milk
  - Gasoline Fuel
  - Custodial Supplies
  - Paper Towels/Tissue
- Approve Requests for Donations (Attachment #14)
  - Colene Hoose Elementary School PTO ~ Computer Cart, Headphones, and Reading Comprehension Games
  - NCWHS School Beautification Fund ~ Trellises
  - NCWHS Boosters ~ Brick landscape
- Approve Posting Notice of Board of Education 2009-2010 Meeting Schedule (Attachment #15)

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

### **Reports**

#### Update from District Wellness Committee

Susann Marcum and Kurt Swearingen provided a summary of goals and recommendations for the 2009-2010 school year. Information provided included but was not limited to the following: (Attachment #16)

- Unit 5 Wellness Teams includes 11 facilities
- Additional education on nutrition to students, parents, and staff
- Improve foods available at school including snacks served in classrooms, vending machines, and concession stands
- Establish task force subcommittee to align nutrition goals for kindergarten through ninth grade

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Board Policies

Briggs presented the following policies for 1st Reading: (Attachment #17)

- Policy 8.10 Public Relations/Connection with the Community
- Policy 8.20 Community Use of School Facilities

- Policy 8.25 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities
- Policy 8.30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- Policy 8.40 Spectator Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Co-Curricular Events
- Administrative Procedure 8.20-AP1 Community Use of School Facilities
- Administrative Procedure 8.30-AP1 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- Exhibit 8.20-E1 Community Use of School Facilities
- Exhibit 8.25-E1 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities
- Exhibit 8.30-E1 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- Exhibit 8.30-E2 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

#### Enrollment Report and Comparison Report

Pye provided the enrollment and comparison reports as of May 31, 2009. (Attachment #18) Total enrollment is 12,523. He noted projections show that the District will maintain growth especially at the elementary level.

#### Board Representative Committee Meeting Reports

- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee ~ The committee met on Monday, June 9.
- McLean County Regional Planning Commission ~ Reece reported the commission met last week. There was no Unit 5 activity. He noted there was minimal discussion on the gravel pit issue.
- District Core Team ~ Mickens-Baker reported that the DCT met on Monday, June 8. A copy of a power point presentation was provided. (Attachment #18) The committee will schedule 3-hour meetings every other month.
- Redistricting Committee ~ The committee met on June 3 with a focus on junior and senior high school scenarios. The community forums are scheduled for June 16 at NCHS and June 17 at NCWHS. Both events will begin at 6:00 p.m. Input will be in written form.
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors ~ Briggs reported that the committee will meet on June 11. Discussion will include a proposal for change in the procedure for annual grant dollar allocation.
- Illinois Association of School Board Corn Belt Division ~ Briggs reminded Board members to submit their forms to IASB for the master school board awards. Forms need to be returned by July 31.
- Board Policy Review Committee ~ Policies were presented this evening for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and will be scheduled for Board approval at the next meeting.
- Community Connections Committee ~ The committee is scheduled to meet at the end of the month. It was noted that the Unit 5 *PRIDE* was distributed in the June 10 *The Pantagraph*.
- Facilities Review Committee ~ The next meeting will be Friday, June 12. Pritchett noted that the committee had previously reviewed the donations to Colene Hoose Elementary School and NCWHS that were presented for approval on tonight's consent agenda.

#### **Announcements/Comments**

- Board members expressed their appreciation for the success of this year's graduation ceremonies.
- The June 24 Board of Education meeting has been cancelled. The Board will also consider cancelling the July 22 meeting.
- Board members attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Grove on Kickapoo Creek and noted that the event was very successful.
- Youth Summit projects were presented by students and their mentors at State Farm Insurance Companies.
- Board members were asked to notify Mickens-Baker if they would be attending the July 4 parade in Towanda.
- Board members were asked to provide a schedule of committee meetings for the upcoming year to Donna Evans for posting purposes.
- Adelman noted that renovations were going well and custodial staff were progressing with the summer cleaning schedule.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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**Meta Mickens-Baker, Board of Education President  
Community Unit School District No. 5  
McLean and Woodford Counties, Illinois**

**ATTEST:**

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**Gail Ann Briggs, Board of Education Secretary  
Approved Date: July 8, 2009**