

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION OF BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 87 AND MCLEAN COUNTY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 5

August 31, 2005

6:30 P.M.

Farm Bureau Building

The Boards of Education of the Bloomington Public Schools, School District 87, and McLean County Unit District No. 5 (Unit 5), McLean County, Illinois, met in Special Session.

Ms. Marianne Clancy, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following Members were present: Mrs. Janet Smith, Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Mr. Keith Davis, Mr. John Hanson and Mr. John Dirks, Board President. Mrs. Millicent Roth and Mr. Uvaldo Herrera were absent.

Present from Unit 5's Board were Ms. Gail Ann Briggs, Ms. Meta Mickens-Baker, Mr. Martin O'Connor, Mr. John Puzauskas, Mr. Jay Reece, Mr. Steve Whittington and Mr. Scott Lay, Board President.

Present from District 87's administrative staff were Dr. Robert Nielsen, Mr. Barry Reilly, Mrs. Sally Tucker, Mr. David Wood, Mr. Jim Peterson and Mr. Jim Cooper.

Among those present from Unit 5's administrative staff were Dr. Alan Chapman, Superintendent, Mr. John Pye, Assistant Superintendent of Operations/Human Resources, Mr. Todd Altenberg, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Mr. Jim Braksick, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction, Ms. Cory Tello, Director of Special Education-Instruction, Ms. Cathy Greene, Director of Elementary Education, Ms. Donna Lutkehaus, Director of Technology/IMC and Ms. Megan Leiseberg, HR/Community Relations.

Ms. Linda Aschenbrener, District 87 Public Relations Facilitator, and Mrs. Cynthia Prescher, Unit 5's Clerk of the Board, were also in attendance.

Present from the news media was Ms. Phyllis Coulter, The Pantagraph, Mr. Erik Stock, WJBC Radio Station, Ms. Melissa Dunton, WEEK-TV and Ms. Melissa Wahl, TV10 News.

Mr. Dirks called the meeting to order. Each Board Member introduced themselves and stated their years of service on their Board.

Discussion included the following topics: 5 year Fall Housing Reports, Existing Cooperative Ventures, Achievement Gap Task Force and Impact Fees.

- Enrollment Data - 5 year Fall Housing Reports: Dr. Nielsen reported that District 87's enrollment will decline slightly, but overall will remain fairly stable over the next few years.

Dr. Chapman reported that Unit 5 will continue to see enrollment increases of 2-3% each Fall.

- Existing Cooperative Ventures: District 87 and Unit 5 currently collaborate and cooperate in the following areas:
 - Communication between Superintendents, Principals and Special Education directors
 - Pre-K and ELL/Bilingual grants; staff development for Standards Aligned Classrooms (SAC)
 - Association in the Bloomington Normal Educational Alliance (BNEA), which oversees the Minority Teacher Recruitment Project, Technology Committee and

Students in Technology;

- Shared educational programs such as the Bloomington Area Vocational Center, Alternative Education and Reading Unites Book Award program
- Technology infrastructure
- Joint purchasing power for paper and school supplies
- Support and resources via association in Large Unit District Association (LUDA)
- Beyond the Books Educational Foundation
- Representation in the Coalition for School Funding Reform

Board of Education Members from each district offered suggestions regarding further collaborations, including: addressing student mobility rates between districts, sharing of utility costs, video conferencing in classrooms, sharing speakers, emergency preparedness resources/plans, staff development opportunities, sharing library materials, shared athletic facilities, Grounds and Maintenance staff collaboration, increased support for "at risk" students and further commitments to address diversity and multiculturalism.

• Achievement Gap Task Force:

As announced last Spring, the internationally known McKinsey Group has offered to provide their services pro bono to District 87 to help close the Achievement Gap. Initial interviews with community leaders resulted in questions of why Unit 5 was not involved. It was announced during the meeting that Unit 5 will join District 87 efforts.

• Impact Fees:

Both Districts are considering asking the City of Bloomington to charge impact fees on new housing and commercial developments. Monies collected would help to offset the costs of constructing, enlarging and/or maintaining our schools. The Town of Normal currently charges \$650 per plot to be applied for new construction purposes only.

Mrs. Willie Halbert, community member, asked the districts to institute a reading and math program after school with tutoring done by community members. Mrs. Halbert asked about the process for moving a student to the Alternative Ed program. Both Dr. Nielsen and Dr. Chapman stated that each student is evaluated on a case by case basis. Mrs. Halbert also asked both Districts to hire more minorities.

Mr. Mike Williams, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Bloomington/Normal Chapter President, commended State Farm for funding the McKinsey Group to help with the Achievement Gap Taskforce. Mr. Williams stated that he was pleased that Mr. Willie Brown, State Farm, would be chairing the Achievement Gap Task Force. He also stated that he was very pleased with the Kingsley Program, a mentoring program in Unit 5, and that Dr. Lynette Mehall, Kingsley Junior High School Principal was very committed to the program.

Mr. Dirks stated that McKinsey was not being funded by State Farm, but was working on the Taskforce pro bono.

Mr. Otis Evans, Chairman of the Bloomington/Normal Human Relations Commission, stated that the next Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon will be

held on January 14, 2006 with guest speaker Mr. Alan Paige. Student of the Year Forms will be available soon. He also stated that tickets for this event will be available in October for \$15.00 each.

Mr. Buddy McCree, community member, stated he had three grandchildren in Unit 5 schools and appreciated how the children were treated in their schools.

Ms. Barbara Stuart stated that she would like to see the Minority Committees in both Districts be combined. She also stated that parents of students at the lower end of the achievement gap should be considered to be part of the Achievement Gap Taskforce.

Mr. Lay stated that we need to see how the two Districts can work together on this Taskforce.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the goal for this taskforce is to have representatives of the entire community. The next meeting of the Taskforce will be on October 11, 2005.

Mr. Lay and Mr. Dirks thanked everyone for coming.

Dr. Chapman stated that he felt very fortunate to be part of this community.

Dr. Nielsen stated he echoed Dr. Chapman's sentiment and that there is a healthy rivalry between the two school districts.

There being no further business to come before the Boards, Mr. Lay adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary