

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**JANUARY 21, 2016**

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Minutes of a regular public meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 5, Ford, Champaign, McLean and Livingston Counties, Illinois, held in the Board Room at 307 North Sangamon Avenue, Gibson City, Illinois, in said School District at 6:55pm., on the 21st day of January, 2016

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, and upon the roll being called, Phil Whitehouse, the Vice President, and the following members were physically present at said location: Adam E. Elder, Miranda Leonard, Steven Lee Swearingen, Tyler P. Young and Jamie Zbinden. Also present were Susan Riley, Ross Brown, Tim Evans, Steve Kelly, Steve Arends High School Principal Chris Garard, Middle School Principal Jeremy Darnell, Elementary School Principal Justin Kean, Curriculum Coordinator Erin Nuss, FCSEC Director Rick Brackmann, District Superintendent Anthony Galindo, and Board Secretary Sarah Sarantakos.

No member was not permitted to attend the meeting by video or audio conference. The following members were absent and did not participate in the meeting in any manner or to any extent whatsoever: Josh Johnson

At 6:55 pm., the Vice President announced that the next agenda item for the Board of Education was a public hearing (the "*Hearing*") to receive public comments on the proposal to sell \$1,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds (the "*Bonds*") for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District and explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto.

The Vice President opened the discussion and explained that the reasons for the proposed issuance of the Bonds were as follows to:

- \*Increasing the working cash fund of the District
- \*Increasing the debt service extension base of the district

The Vice-President asked for additional comments from the members of the Board of Education. No (none) additional comments were made.

Written testimony concerning the proposed issuance of the Bonds was read into the record by the Secretary and is attached hereto as *Exhibit I*. No (none) written testimony were received.

The Vice-President asked for oral testimony or any public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Bonds. Statements were made by the following:

Mr. Steve Arends addressed the board, questioning what was the dollar amount of the bond, and if the district was going to issue that entire amount. Vice President Whitehouse responded, the bond is for \$1,000,000.00 but at this time the district is only going to issue \$500,000.00. Mr. Arends stated, hasn't the district spent over \$900,000.00 in legal fee on One Earth Energy? Whitehouse further stated that the bond was not for legal fees in the Tort fund. The bond is for our Working Cash Fund. Mr. Arends continued to questioning the board's decision on One Earth Energy. Mr. Arends also questioned how much has the district received so far from One Earth Energy, it was explained neither side will receive anything until the case is settled. Vice President Whitehouse informed Mr. Arends that the district currently holds over \$3,000,000.00 in escrow that the district could potentially receive if the case is settled in our favor and went on to say the district did not set the assessed value of One Earth Energy, but that the Ford County Assessor does that. We are at this place now because One Earth Energy appealed their assessed value with Ford County. Mr. Arends stated that the district had 242 employees and he felt we should look at cutting staff and programs rather than selling bonds. Mr. Arends asked why we need to increase the levy when the district reported decreased expenditures each year over the past several years. Mr. Arends was informed that, while we have decreased our spending, that the revenue from the State of Illinois and the Federal Government sources have been cut every year.

The Vice President then announced that all persons desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Bonds.

Board Member Young moved and Board Member Zbinden seconded the motion that the Hearing be finally adjourned. After a full discussion thereof, the Vice President directed that the roll be called for a vote upon the motion.

Upon the roll being called, the following members **Voted AYE:** Adam E. Elder, Miranda Leonard, Steven Lee Swearingen, Phil Whitehouse, Tyler P. Young and Jamie Zbinden.

The following members **Voted NAY:**

The Vice-President declared the motion carried and the Hearing was finally adjourned.

Other business was duly transacted at said meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

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Board Vice President

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Secretary, Board of Education