

Little Rock School District

Community Advisory Board Meeting

May 31, 2018

Minutes

Today's meeting was held at the Metropolitan Career Technical Center in the Activity Center. The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Board Members Lupita Chavarria, Melanie Fox, Anthony Hampton, LaShannon Spencer and Jeff Wood.

- I. Welcome and Celebrations
 - a. Student Center Renovations at the Admin Building
 - b. Fair Park Pre-K Promotion
 - c. Title I Parent Involvement Parent Training Graduation, Thursday, May 30, 2018
 - d. One District One Book Culmination Celebration at the Clinton Center
 - i. \$2000 Prize from Chamber for Shark Tank Student Winners
 - ii. Author of CLEO present
 - iii. Three \$10,000 donations from community sponsors
 - e. Retirements:
 - i. Icipine Jones, Dodd EI, Principal
 - ii. Barbara Anderson, Roberts EI, Principal
 - iii. Dr. Dan Whitehorn, Assoc. Superintendent, Secondary Ed
 - f. New Appointments
 - i. Roxie Browning, Bale EI, Principal
 - ii. Melinda Modica, Dodd EI, Principal
 - iii. Steven Helmick, Roberts EI, Principal
- II. Student Assessment
 - a. Dr. Cummings presented an overview of the process for selecting a vendor/provider for student interim assessments.
 - i. Six companies were selected to present to the Assessment Selection Committee. Three of the six vendors were selected to present their demos to the team. The three companies were also interviewed by 39 people, which included the committee and other stakeholders. The group of 39 chose NWEA as the best solution. The Procurement Department and the Superintendent negotiated with NWEA to agree on a lower price than what was initially submitted to the committee.
 - b. Dr. Cummings reviewed some of the unique features of the selected NWEA Assessment product.
 - c. Dr. Cummings answered questions from the Board:
 - i. Explained how the new assessment product varies from the assessment product the district previously used (ACT Aspire Interim).
 - ii. How the new assessment will help students perform well on ACT Aspire.
 - iii. Explained the amount of flexibility of new assessment
 - iv. How the pricing is structured

- d. Melanie Fox moved to recommend the approval of the assessment. Hampton seconded. The vote was 5-0.

III. Policies

a. Second Reading: Section 3 – Licensed Personnel

- i. Renee Kovach and Jordan Eason were available to answer questions from the Board

- 1. Melanie Fox asked questions about Section 3.27 adding a parent or parents to the Calendar Committee and revision of the Employee Handbook to reflect new policy. Mr. Poore explained that the parent will be added and the Employee Handbook will be updated in alignment with the new policy.
- 2. Jeff Wood highlighted the section on employee appeals. He also asked for an explanation about section 3.9 (camera surveillance in the classroom). Mr. Poore, Jordan Eason, and Ron Self answered the questions specifically. The Board requested the exclusion of section 3.9 until the language about video surveillance is amended to reflect the District's actual practice.

- ii. Anthony Hampton moved to recommend the approval of Section 3 with discussed amendments (excluding changes to section 3.9). The vote was 5-0.

b. First Reading: Section 7 – Finance and Budget Management

- i. Mr. Poore introduced the policy

- 1. LaShannon Spencer requested clarification of the mileage reimbursement rate (Section 7.12).

- ii. Melanie Fox moved to recommend the approval of Section 7 with amended language of Section 7.12 in the first paragraph to clarify mileage reimbursement. Anthony Hampton seconded. The vote was 5-0.

IV. Student Handbook - First Reading

- a. Dr. Frederick Fields explained the composition process and presented highlights of the most significant changes to the student handbook:

- i. He explained that the new student handbook is an integration of the former student handbook policy (current practice) and the ASBA model policy.
- ii. Tardy Policies were made more definitive. The new policy created an eight-member tardy policy committee.
- iii. Cell Phone policy was also modified to allow parents to collect confiscated phones from schools.
- iv. Restorative Justice links were added (page 51)
- v. Student Based Intervention Teams (SBIT)
- vi. Made the handbook more user-friendly (fewer pages).

- b. Dr. Fields answered questions from the Board.

- i. Melanie Fox asked questions about make-up work for suspensions and in-school suspensions. Dr. Fields explained that the item was an issue that must be discussed with the LREA.
- ii. Jeff Wood asked about the prohibition of bullying outside of District venues/property. Dr. Fields explained that the District is under agreement with

the Office of Civil Rights so the language in the handbook is specific to that agreement. Mr. Wood also asked about changing the policy on physical restraint to say “to quell disturbance threatening learning in the classroom.” Mr. Poore offered explanations of some of the legal issues with physical restraint. Dr. Fields explained that the District is training personnel in CBI (Crisis Based Intervention).

- c. Board decided to table the vote on the Student Handbook to next week’s meeting 10 minutes prior to the next personnel hearing.
- V. Safety and Security Update
- a. Mr. Poore gave opening remarks about the purpose of tonight’s presentation, other security panels (governor’s, legislative, other), and input from LRPD Chief Buckner.
 - b. Ron Self presented a slide presentation which included the following topics:
 - i. Rave Panic Button
 - ii. 3-Year Incident Report
 - iii. School Parental Notifications (Warning Letters/Ban Letters)
 - iv. Patrol Activity (Call for Service 17,632)
 - v. CSSO (Commissioned School Security Officer) Cost Analysis (Total one time cost \$30,000; yearly stipend \$25,000; total first year \$55,000)
 - vi. CSSO Act 393 (Phase 1 – 8 hours – private security officer; Phase 2 – 16 hours - Commission Security Officer; Phase 3 – 36 hours – Commission School Security Officer)
 - vii. Additional Training (psychological exam, body cams, additional training (handcuffs, defensive tactics/verbal de-escalation, less than lethal)
 - c. Mr. Self answered questions/comments from the Board:
 - i. Liability – the District is tort-immune.
 - ii. Collaboration with LRPD, AR State Police, and other law enforcement agencies for a District Safety Plan
 - d. Mr. Poore reiterated that the information presented tonight is not new information, and the District will host community forums relating to any security proposals.
- VI. CAB Comments
- a. Temporary Personnel Hearings
 - b. Mr. Poore requested to move July CAB Meeting to July 12. The main topics will be Board Training, Policies, officer selections for Board, Individual School ESSA Goals.
 - c. There will not be a formal CAB meeting in June. Personnel Hearing meetings will be held at King Elementary. The July CAB Meeting will be at Metro. Members requested to add a 10 minute work session to the beginning of the personnel hearing meeting, June 7, 2018 to decide on policies that were not approved in this meeting.
 - d. Fox made the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.