



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT
810 WEST MARKHAM STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
November 18, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special board meeting on Monday, November 18, 2013, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Greg Adams presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Adams
Norma Johnson
C. E. McAdoo
Jody Carreiro
Dianne Curry
Leslie Fisker
Tara Shephard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Dexter Suggs, Superintendent of Schools
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called for further discussion and approval of the desegregation settlement agreement.

III. ACTION AGENDA

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Ms. Curry moved to suspend the rules to consider a resolution presented in draft form by the LRSD legal counsel. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

RESOLUTION:

Chris Heller provided information on a resolution presented to board members in draft form. Board members provided input in the development of the resolution, and Mr. Heller was present to respond to questions. The resolution was in response to questions regarding funding in the fourth year of the settlement agreement, which is earmarked specifically for facilities. The resolution placed a specific commitment to schools in southwest Little Rock. The facilities study, which is just underway, will determine the schools of "greatest need" and prioritize facilities improvements in those schools. Mr. Heller was asked to read the resolution as drafted.

Dr. Suggs recommended the board adopt the resolution as read. After a great deal of discussion, and suggestions for edits, Ms. Curry made a motion to approve the resolution as edited. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion **carried 6-1**, with Ms. Fiskens voting no.

DESEGREGATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The board met on November 14, 2013 to approve a settlement agreement developed in collaboration with the State of Arkansas, the Pulaski County Special School District, the North Little Rock School District, the Little Rock School District, and the Joshua Intervenors. Mr. Heller reviewed the highlights of the settlement and responded to questions from the board. The agreement was the result of several months of negotiations, and Mr. Heller expressed belief the agreement, once approved by the courts, would be in the best interest of the children in the LRSD. Mr. Heller stated the importance and the requirement on the part of the state for the LRSD Board to approve the settlement agreement with or without the Joshua intervenors. The North Little Rock and Pulaski County Special School Districts had approved the settlement to move forward without the agreement from Joshua.

Dr. Suggs recommended approval of the settlement agreement, with or without the Joshua Intervenors. Ms. Fiskens moved to approve the agreement to move forward without Joshua, with the hope that Joshua would join in. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and also expressed hope that Joshua would join.

Mr. Walker requested time to speak to the board. As this was a special meeting, the request would require a suspension of the rules and a unanimous vote to include comments from the floor. Mr. McAdoo made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Walker to make a statement. Ms. Curry seconded the motion. Mr. McAdoo withdrew his motion, and Ms. Curry withdrew the second.

Mr. McAdoo made a motion to suspend the rules to allow speakers from the floor to have 3 minutes to address the board. Ms. Curry seconded the motion. The motion would allow anyone present in the room an opportunity to speak on the matter at hand. The **vote was 6-1**, with Ms. Fiskens voting no. The **motion failed**, as it required a unanimous vote.


On the original motion to approve the settlement agreement with or without the Joshua Intervenors, the board **voted unanimously** in favor of the motion.

Each board member had an opportunity to speak regarding the significance of this action. The board members thanked the superintendent, the attorneys and all other parties who worked to develop an agreement that will ensure the future success of the district. Each board member expressed their personal commitment to work together in the best interest of the students.

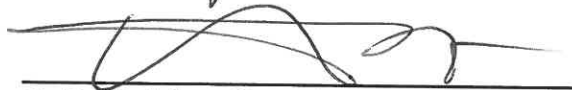
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

APPROVED: 11/21/13



Greg Adams, President



C. E. McAdoo, Secretary

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a fair determination of LRSD's facilities needs based on a facilities study is due to be completed mid spring, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the facilities study will be to identify facilities needs in the Little Rock School District, and

WHEREAS, the Board has begun to address those needs by committing to a new southwest Little Rock high school and is preparing to seek a millage for this project and others such as a west Little Rock middle school, and

WHEREAS, the Board remains committed to the remediation of academic achievement disparities, and to provide and maintain equitable and adequate facilities to schools attended primarily by below basic and basic students, and

WHEREAS, the board has agreed to a settlement of issues arising from the 1989 Settlement Agreement in the Pulaski County Desegregation Case, and

WHEREAS, the settlement will provide LRSD \$37.3 million in facilities funding from the State of Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LRSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS that the LRSD will use the \$37.3 million in facilities funding from the settlement to address the needs identified in the facilities study, and to equitably address the needs of southwest Little Rock Schools, by giving priority to the schools with the greatest needs.

APPROVED at a special meeting of the Little Rock School District Board of Directors on the 18th day of November, 2013.



Board President



Board Secretary