



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 23, 2014**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2014, 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 5:34 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Curry arrived at 5:50 p.m. The teacher ex-officio, Bridget Shinn from Fulbright Elementary was present at the agenda meeting; but was absent for the regular board meeting. The Student representative, Kelia Smith from Hall High was present for both meetings.

To begin the meeting, Mr. Carreiro was asked to read the board goals as approved in August 2013. Student representative Kelia Smith was asked to read the district's Cultural Imperatives.

**II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A. Partners in Education**

At the agenda meeting, Debbie Milam introduced one new school and business partnership:

**Chicot Primary School**, represented by *Ms. Sherry Chambers, Ms. Amy Cooper, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Maria Romero*, in partnership with **Hola Media Group** represented by *Maura Lozano-Yancy*

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the new partnership; Ms. Fisken seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Remarks from Citizens**

**John Walker** addressed the board, and was given additional time by three others who ceded their three minutes to him for his remarks. He stated the board must live with the decisions they make or they must change their decisions. He believes bad choices are being made, and he was critical of the board for choosing the current superintendent. He said the superintendent had a “lack of credentials and a lack of credibility.” He made remarks regarding the Indianapolis school district and contended it was a “failing school district.” “Those in the inner circle of the current superintendent have no credentials or track record of success.”

### **C. Donations of Property**

The student ex officio Kelia Smith read the list of recent donations to the district. Ms. Curry made a motion to accept the donations. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**. The donations are listed in the following chart:

#### **DONATIONS**

<b>SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DONO</b>
Central High School	\$150.00 cash to the Baseball Team	Robert H. Adams of UALR
Central High School	\$150.00 cash to the Baseball Team	Emily Passini
Central High School	\$100.00 cash to the Baseball Team	James H. and Patricia Bates Abraham
Central High School	\$300.00 cash to the Baseball Team	Stuart's Brake Shop #2
Forest Heights Middle School	20- \$50 gift cards total value \$1000.00 for teachers and student incentives	Keith Saveall of Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market
Pulaski Heights Middle School	\$150.00 cash to Band Program and \$150.00 to Dance Program	Donald and Audrey Evans
LRSD	Property at 1619 South Maple St. Little Rock, AR 72204	Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Metropolitan Career-Technical Center	\$75.00 gift card to the Skills Fest \$1,000.00 cash to the Skills Fest	Wal-Mart Cameron

#### **D. Little Rock PTA Council**

Beverly Broadnax Thrasher, first vice president of LRPTA Council, greeted the board and reminded the audience of the upcoming American Education Week and Founders Day events.

#### **E. Little Rock Education Association**

Cathy Kohler urged the board to support the contract agreement with transportation employees when it comes to the board for approval. She read a prepared statement regarding the history of the schools in Little Rock.

### **IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **A. Remarks from Board Members**

Mr. McAdoo greeted the audience and stated the board was here to serve and be inclusive of all children. He discussed the past and encouraged everyone to make sure you are making a difference by encouraging positive relationships within the LRSD.

Mr. McAdoo then asked to make a privileged motion to go into an executive session. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Adams ruled it out of order, and asked for clarification on the appropriate use of the executive session from our attorneys.

Ms. Fiskén expressed appreciation for district employees who work hard to make the district operate smoothly. She especially commended the district's athletics programs and the coaches who work with the students and others who make the athletic programs work.

Ms. Curry welcomed the audience and then offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. McAdoo seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Ms. Curry and Mr. McAdoo withdrew their motions.

Mr. Eddings provided guidance on the appropriate use of executive sessions for specific personnel reasons. The motion must be specific as to employment, appointment, demotion or resignation of any public official or employee. The purpose of the session has to be specified by the motion.

Mr. McAdoo made a motion to convene an executive session to discuss a "personnel matter of demotion." Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **passed 4-3**, with Mr. Adams, Mr. Carreiro, and Ms. Fiskén voting no.

The executive session convened at 6:13 p.m. The board returned at 7:15 p.m. and reported no action was taken.

Students who were waiting to make a presentation from the STAND Anti-bullying committee left the meeting at 7:00. Their report will be presented at the February agenda meeting.

Mr. Adams reminded the audience that fifty years ago civil rights legislation was passed to ensure sustainable changes in education. In a large, multiracial, multicultural organization it is a challenge to function smoothly with such wide ranging diversity. There has been a history of injustice and neglect, and we are trying to do something here that has not been done before. There will be conflicts, and disagreements, there will be passionate arguments, and sometimes difficulty. But it is our job to try to do the best we possibly can, achieve something new, and move forward.

## **B. Legal Update**

Mr. Eddings provided a list of all cases currently in litigation. Board members were asked to contact Mr. Eddings or Mr. Heller if they had any questions.

Mr. Heller also reported that, as agreed to in the desegregation settlement, he filed a motion to withdraw the charter school appeal in the Eighth circuit court.

He also reported briefly on the efforts underway to develop defined agreements which will allow legal transfers for students in Pulaski County. Discussions are underway and Dr. Suggs is convening a meeting next week to determine the best way to facilitate the 30 legal transfers from each district as specified in the settlement. There are also discussions as to how we can expand the number of students who could come into the LRSD or remain in the LRSD if they are already attending one of the magnet schools.

## **C. Annual Report from the LRSD Anti-Bullying Committee: STAND Committee**

The report from the STAND Committee was tabled for February.

## **D. Magnet School Program Update**

At the agenda meeting, Dr. Sadie Mitchell provided a report on the elementary inter-district magnet programs. She acknowledged Donna Creer for her years of hard work and involvement in the development of the magnet school program in Little Rock. Ms. Creer passed away last year.

Pamela Smith provided an overview of the secondary magnet programs and introduced individuals from the magnet schools.

## **E. Update: Community Truancy Board Annual Report**

Angelia Tolbert, a member of the LRSD Community Truancy Board, provided the committee's annual report. They meet on the third Thursday of each month, at 11:30 a.m. She thanked Dr. Fields and Mr. Merritt for the administrative support they provide to the committee.

In addition to the LRSD, there are numerous partners on the CTB, including the City of Little Rock, juvenile justice system judges and mental health providers. The City of Little Rock is providing financial support for some of the initiatives, including street signs publicizing the Truancy Hotline and other city-wide efforts in support of the prevention of truancy. Ms. Tolbert noted that Mr. Becker also assists the CTB and is helping to identify sites for installation of the street signs.

As of December 2013, 375 truancy referrals were made to the city attorney's office. At the high school level there were 188 referrals, with 52 being from Hamilton Learning Academy. Thirty six referrals were made at the middle level, and 101 were received from the elementary level.

#### **F. Update: Facilities Review – Fanney Howey**

Ed Schmidt provided an overview of the facilities review progress, and provided examples of feedback received from principals, students and parents. Troy Glover reported briefly regarding the development of the facilities review website, which will be linked to the LRSD website.

#### **G. Update: Forest Heights and Geyer Springs Transformation Committee Report**

The committee had no report, but Dr. Mitchell was present to respond to questions.

Ms. Johnson asked for information on the students who have recently been in news reports to see if they had excessive absences or trancies, and how they were performing in school.

Ms. Johnson also asked for information on the schools providing meals in the summer and whether some learning opportunities could also be provided when they come in for the free breakfast or lunch.

Information was requested on the schools that had at one time operated year-round in the LRSD. Dr. Mitchell briefly reported on Stephens, Woodruff and Mabelvale Elementary Schools. In addition, more formal reports were to be provided in the board's weekly update.

Mr. McAdoo asked if the Fanney-Howey group had evaluated Forest Heights to ensure it was suitable for teaching younger elementary aged students. That information will be included in their facilities review.

Mr. Adams had questions regarding staffing for Forest Heights. The positions will be posted, and all staff members will be considered "displaced." None of them will be unemployed, but the candidates will be screened for the required STEM credentials. Some of the positions will be advertised nationally. Notifications will go out in late February or early March.

The Geyer Springs proposal will be revised and brought back to the Board for action at a special meeting in February.

### **III. CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the consent agenda seconded by Ms. Curry. The Personnel section was removed from the consent agenda at the request of the board. The motion **carried unanimously**.

#### **A. Minutes**

Minutes from the December 19, 2013 and January 9, 2014 board meetings were provided and approved.

## **B. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker was present to respond to the monthly auditor's report.

***Removed from the consent agenda:***

## **C. Personnel Changes**

There was a discussion regarding the positions listed on page 5 of the agenda item, "budget reduction / staff realignment."

Dr. Suggs reported these positions were provided on the agenda as notice for the board. He explained the notification process would be followed before the changes would take place. Mr. Heller responded to questions regarding the notification of employees when there was to be a change in the terms of their contract.

Ms. Curry requested that budget reduction items be presented as a separate document, or asked if a disclaimer could be included with the agenda item. Dr. Suggs agreed to provide that disclaimer.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the personnel changes in the report listed prior to the budget reductions section. Mr. McAdoo seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

A separate agenda item was included for the appointment of an interim assistant principal at Hall High School. The administration recommended Yolonda Artis for that position. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. McAdoo seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **IV. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW**

### **A. First Reading: Board of Education Policy GBEBB Staff Dress Code**

Revision of policy GBEBB had been approved on first reading in September 2013, and it was pending second reading approval in October when it was placed on the table for additional review. It was returned to first reading at the request of the board.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the policy on first reading with the insertion of wording "working in collaboration with the association." Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. First Reading: Board of Education Policy BBEB Unexpired Term Fulfillment / Vacancies**

The administration recommended a revision of a 1999 policy which contained an error as to which governmental entity would be involved in filling any vacancies on the board. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the revision on first reading; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

**C. First Reading: Board of Education Policy Revisions: BEB Special School Board Meetings; BEDDB Suspension of Rules of Order; BEDF Voting Method**

The revision of board policy BEDF was a result of a discussion with the Arkansas School Boards Association attorney regarding the declaration of a “majority” vote when establishing a quorum. Mr. Heller requested an opinion of the Arkansas Attorney General. The policies remained on the agenda as tabled for further consideration at a later date.

**V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**A. Arkansas Department of Education – Grant Submission: School Improvement Grant Funds 1003 (g)**

The administration recommended submission of two School Improvement 1003 (g) grants to the Arkansas Department of Education for priority schools Henderson Middle and Baseline Elementary. The school reform model recommended for each site is the “turnaround model” as prescribed by the USDOE.

Dr. Suggs responded to questions from the board regarding the competitive grant and reported only two schools will be selected from 28 applicants. The state will identify the schools which will receive the funding.

Ms. Curry made a motion to approve the submission; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

**VI. STUDENT SERVICES**

**A. Evening Career Center Proposal**

The superintendent recommended approval of a proposal to operate the Evening Career Center on the campus of Metropolitan Vocational-Technical Center. The Director of Career and Technical Education, Cassandra Norman-McGee, briefly described the collaborative efforts between the LRSD and the City of Little Rock. The program is an opportunity for students to become skilled in a vocation after high school. Students up to age 25 will participate. A Career and Technical Education presentation will be made in February.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the partnership with the City of Little Rock for the Evening Career Center. Ms. Shephard seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **A. Facilities Master Plan – Fanney Howey**

The contract with Fanney Howey for the completion of the facilities master plan was presented for the board's review and approval. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the contract. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Ten-Year Facilities Master Plan**

Act 1426 of 2005 requires each school district to submit a Ten-Year Facilities Master Plan, approved by the Board of Directors bi-annually. The Master Plan identifies potential improvement projects and maintenance and custodial services provided by the District. A copy was provided in the board's conference room, and Mr. Bailey was present to respond to questions. Ms. Fiskin made a motion to approve the plan for submission. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. Budget Update**

Mr. Bailey was present to respond to questions. He and Dr. Suggs will be working on a proposed timeline for budget preparations over the next few weeks, and will provide that to the board when it is complete. Budget worksessions will be held as required.

### **D. Minority and Women Business Enterprise Monthly Report**

The monthly reports from procurement were provided as attachments to the agenda.

### **E. Monthly Financial Statements**

The monthly financial reports were provided as attachments to the agenda.

## **VIII. CLOSING REMARKS**

### **A. Superintendent's Comments**

At the agenda meeting, Dr. Suggs reminded the audience of the importance of reading to their students. He also asked the audience to support the athletic events across the district.

At the conclusion of the board meeting, Dr. Suggs encouraged parents to spend quality time reading with and to their children. He announced there would be an announcement soon regarding an initiative to improve literacy by the conclusion of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as noted in the board's goals.

### **B. Announcements & Reminders**

Pamela Smith announced an upcoming Instagram competition where students post their photos. Information has gone to the schools, and the winner of the contest will receive a visit from Superintendent Dr. Suggs.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

APPROVED: 02-27-14

Originals Signed by:  
Greg Adams, President  
C. E. McAdoo, Secretary