



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 24, 2014

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2014, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. Vice President Norma Johnson presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norma Johnson
C. E. McAdoo
Jody Carreiro
Dianne Curry
Tara Shephard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Greg Adams
Leslie Fiskén

ALSO PRESENT:

Dexter Suggs, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Muldrew and Beverly Griffin, Records of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Mr. Adams and Ms. Fiskén were absent. The teacher ex-officio, Teresa Gordon, from Jefferson Elementary, and the student representative, Nakita Das from Central High School, were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Citations and Commendations

At the agenda meeting, Pamela Smith made an announcement regarding the upcoming *Artistry in the Rock* celebration of student performance and visual arts. Daniel Hannibal, a senior at Metropolitan, submitted the winning entry in the *Artistry* logo contest and received a gift card for his achievement. There were over 300 entries in the logo contest.

At this meeting, a number of students were recognized for academic and athletic achievements.

- Tyler Mann, Central High School, 4-time National Champion in Wrestling, was recognized for previous awards and accomplishments including:

3-time USA National Champion, 4-time USA National Wrestling All-American, Fila Cadet All-American, 4-time Arkansas Wrestling State Champion, 4-time 6A-7A Conference Champion, 4-time Arkansas All-State Wrestler, 3-time Most Outstanding Wrestler Award at State, 3-time Arkansas Freestyle State Champion; 3 year Member Arkansas National Team, 2-time Win magazine Wrestler of the year, Army Midlands National Champion, 4 year Varsity Wrestling Captain, 3 year Varsity Cross Country, 3 years Varsity Track, and 2 years Varsity Football,
- Six students from the Central High School swim team and their coaches were recognized. It was noted this was their third year getting runner-up to Bentonville High. Present were: Coaches: Mary Jo Heye and Adele Simmons; Team members: Blair Bish, Marquez Dean, Christopher Heye, Thomas Heye, Alex Tytarenko, and Lucas Utley. Their sponsor is Kim Burleson
- The Parkview Patriots boys' and girls' basketball teams were introduced and congratulated on their performance in the State Championship finals. It was noted the boys' team ended their year 14-0.
- Students who participated in the UAPB Saturday STEM Program were introduced.
- The student ex officio representative, Nikita Das, and teacher ex officio, Teresa Gordon, were presented certificates of appreciation for their service.

B. Partners in Education

Debbie Milam announced the upcoming ViPS Evening for the Stars to be held on Tuesday, April 15th. It will be held at the Scimitars Shrine Temple on the I-30 frontage road.

One new partnership was presented for the board's approval:

- **Cloverdale Middle School**, represented by *Dr. Angela Dallas*, in partnership with **Bridge to Success**, represented by *Rev. Ronald Wilkerson*

C. Remarks from Citizens

Nancy Settle, a teacher at McClellan since 1987, requested assistance with concerns she has at McClellan High School. She stated that faculty members are being bullied by the building administrator, and students are being given the authority to be abusive to teachers. Teachers don't feel safe in their classrooms, and administrators are not responding to their concerns.

Mike Reynolds, a special education teacher at Hamilton Learning Academy, requested assistance at Hamilton Learning Academy; he provided a list of concerns to the board members for review and follow up.

Richard Reynolds, a special education teacher at Hamilton, requested assistance for handicapped students in the LRSD. He believes the LRSD is failing our disabled children. The IEP process isn't being followed and compliance issues are being ignored.

Dustin Dearman congratulated the Board for jumpstarting the STEM program; he expressed concern and asked questions regarding the proposed middle school in West Little Rock and where the Board was in planning for that area of town.

John Walker called the District “dysfunctional,” and continued by calling the schools abysmal. He expressed concern that comments from the public receive no response and he asked the Board to develop a policy and procedures for addressing citizens concern.

Sherita Williams, a Hall High parent, expressed concern regarding an incident with a security guard at that school. She provided a written summary for board review.

Nicole Gilbert, parent of a student at Hamilton Learning Academy, expressed concerns regarding parent notification of situations involving her child. She believes her child is being harassed over incidents that happened at school previously. She doesn’t believe the students at Hamilton are safe in their learning environment.

Sonya Juniel expressed concern with the behavior of staff at Hall High School. She doesn’t believe the principal is taking parents’ concerns seriously. She expressed concern regarding the lack of parental involvement at Hall.

Andre Guerrero, representing the members of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) also expressed concerns with Hall High School and plans for serving Latinos in the Newcomers’ Centers. Additional teachers are needed to be trained to serve the population of students who are identified as ESL. He requested a plan of action within 60 days from the Board and Superintendent.

D. Donations of Property

Nakita Das, student ex officio, read the list of recent donations to the district. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to accept the donations; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**. The donations are listed in the following chart:

DONATIONS

| SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT | ITEM | DONOR |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Pulaski Heights Middle School | \$40.00 cash to the Testing Program for snacks for ACTAAP | Nikolai and Leslie Fisken |
| Pulaski Heights Middle School | \$60.00 cash to the Testing Program for snacks for ACTAAP | Jeffrey and Allison Hatfield |
| Pulaski Heights Middle School | \$25.00 cash to the Testing Program for snacks for ACTAAP | Darren and Laura Reeves |
| Pulaski Heights Middle School | \$50.00 cash to the Testing Program for snacks for ACTAAP | Samuel and Shelly Rayburn |
| Stephens Elementary School | \$500.00 cash for student incentives, awards, snacks, and/or special recognition | Mr. Billy Shore, Founder of Share Our Strength |

| SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT | ITEM | DONOR |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Metropolitan Career Tech Center | Sponsor participation fee for the Cooking up Change National Cooking Contest valued at \$10000.00 | The PEW Foundation |
| Operations and Maintenance Department | Donation of two 17" wheels for Chevy or GMC truck valued at \$560 | Peter and Nancy Kousta |

E. Little Rock PTA Council

No comments

F. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Koehler addressed the board regarding the LREA Custodial Agreement and communication among district administration and the negotiating team. She also addressed specific sections of the Student Handbook related to 45-Day removals of children and students who make obscene gestures and physical or verbal abuse towards personnel. She provided handouts regarding her concerns.

IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Shephard commented on Mr. Walker’s concerns related to feedback from the district and agreed the Board and administration needs to do a better job of responding to concerns brought forth in Board meetings. She acknowledged Ms. Koehler’s concern with students’ behaviors, but stated she would not condone criminalizing students for their language or minor misbehavior. She had attended the spring play at Parkview, and thanked Mr. Booth and the students for their success.

Mr. Carreiro announced that he had spent much of the day at the Metroplex where students participating in ‘Artistry in the Rock’ were present. He commended the district staff members who had worked to coordinate the efforts this year and he reminded listeners to attend the Friday evening event where they will have an opportunity to purchase student artwork and support the LRSD arts scholarship fund. He also stated he had some ideas for providing follow up by the Board and administrators when the citizens comments require a response. He suggested a discussion at the agenda meeting to determine how best to ensure follow up.

Mr. Mc Adoo stated we should focus on “living language” and speaking life into situations by working together to ensure our children graduate from high school, and encourage each other in the present to prepare for the future. Regarding concerns expressed before the Board, he suggested a 24-hour time to reply to those people who bring questions and concerns.

Ms. Curry thanked the other board members for their comments and “dittoed” their remarks. She thanked the speakers who brought their concerns, and she agreed the board should have a policy for responding to questions and concerns. She thanked the custodial group who were present.

Ms. Curry also thanked Dr. Andre Guerrero for his statement and concern for the Latinos in the district. She asked the audience to make a difference by being involved in the lives of the children in the District.

Ms. Johnson expressed appreciation for the comments made. She asked listeners to help by building relationships and removing barriers that hinder student success. It is important to find what will work to reach the students where they are, and access each individual situation to find what will work.

B. Legal Update

Mr. Heller spoke briefly regarding the pending decision to be made by the Arkansas Department of Education regarding Quest Charter School's request to relocate the school. Quest purchased a building for \$3.9 million prior to receiving approval for the move. The charter authorizing panel has agreed to review the request to move, but the final decision will be made on May 8th. There were major concerns regarding incorrect statements made to the charter authorizing panel and conflicting information in their application.

He also reported that the Magnet Review Committee and the Office of Desegregation Monitoring were both winding down their operations in light of the release from desegregation monitoring. Pulaski County will report periodically to the State Board of Education, and there will be additional review of the formation of a school district in Jacksonville.

In response to a question from Ms. Curry, Mr. Heller reported he is working with Dr. Fields on the development of a policy and guidelines for LRSD school choice options. A process is in place, and students are applying to enter or leave the district based on the school choice laws.

C. Update: Facilities Review – Fanning Howey

Carl Baxmeyer and Troy Glover were present at the agenda meeting to provide a brief overview of the upcoming community meetings to be held in all schools. They discussed the planning process and stated another worksession with the board would be held after completion of all community meetings.

D. Update: Hamilton Learning Academy and Alternative Program Mental Health

Willie Vinson, coordinator at HLA presented an overview report of the services provided to students assigned to Hamilton Learning Academy. Lisa Williams, the district's mental health coordinator was also present.

Board members requested information by race and gender on the recidivism rate and a follow up on where students go once they exit the program at Hamilton. Are they successful in their return to school or do they drop out? How many get their diploma or a GED? Information was to be provided in the next Friday update to the board.

E. Update: Geyer Springs and Forest Heights

Sadie Mitchell reported on progress made in the planning for Geyer Springs GT Academy and Forest Heights STEM Academy. Project Lead the Way grants were funded which will help set up classrooms. The position of principal has not been filled, and the application process has been reopened. Interviews are also being held for the assistant principal positions.

F. Discussion: Professional Negotiated Agreement for Custodial Educational Support Professionals

A draft of the PN Agreement for Custodial Employees was provided for the Board's review. Dr. Suggs did not recommend approval at this time, and asked the board to wait until the document was fully reviewed and edited into final form.

Board members considered approval in its' unfinished form, with Mr. McAdoo making a motion to approve. Ms. Curry seconded the motion. There was additional discussion whereby Mr. McAdoo and Ms. Curry withdrew their motions.

The final revisions will be made and the administration will present the agreement for approval at a special meeting after the agenda meeting in May. Mr. Carreiro requested copies of the terms of agreement that have been signed by each side.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

The Student Handbook Revision was listed with the consent items. Ms. Curry asked for it to be placed on the agenda for additional review and discussion in May.

Mr. McAdoo asked for the regulations on the dress code to be discussed further at the agenda meeting.

Mr. McAdoo moved to approve the remainder of the consent items. Ms. Shepherd seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

A. Minutes

Minutes from meetings held on March 20th, April 10th, and April 17th were attached to the agenda.

B. Second Reading: Board Policy KFA Joint Use of District Facilities

The administration recommended adoption of Board policy KFA – Joint Use of District Facilities on second reading. This policy regulates collaborative use of LRSD facilities by local government agencies, colleges, universities, and/or community organizations during non-school hours.

In January 2014, the district was awarded two Joint Use Agreement Grants through the Arkansas Department of Education. As part of the grant process, a Joint Use of Facilities policy was to be developed. The two funded projects include:

- Mabelvale Middle School in partnership with the Federation of Latino Basketball. Funded at \$28,000 for repair to the gym floor.
- Gibbs Magnet School in partnership with the City of Little Rock Parks and Recreation. Funded at \$13,000 to construct an oval walking track around the open practice field between Dunbar and Gibbs.

Linda Young was present to respond to questions. The proposed policy was approved on first reading at the March meeting. Administration recommended second reading approval, which was granted with the consent agenda.

C. Student Handbook Revisions

Proposed revisions to the student handbook were presented to the board for review. Dr. Fields responded to questions. It will be on the agenda again for discussion and review at the May board meeting. It was not approved with the consent agenda.

D. Personnel Changes

General personnel changes were printed in the Board's agenda. In addition, recommendations for administrative appointments were presented for approval. Approval was granted by consent.

E. Second Reading: Policy Revision – Board of Education Policy DJF Minority and Women Owned Enterprises

To comply and be consistent with the laws of the State of Arkansas, the existing policy *DJF Minority and Women Owned Enterprises* required revision to add a category "service-disabled veterans" to the Minority definition within contracts.

The policy was approved on first reading at the March board meeting. The administration recommended second reading approval. Approval was included in the consent agenda approval.

F. Board Regulation: GBEBA Staff Dress Code

Regulations for the administration of policy GBEBA were attached to the agenda. Board approval is not required. Mr. McAdoo requested additional discussion at the May meeting.

G. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's month report was included in the Board's agenda. No approval was required.

IV. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

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

The revisions to LRSD policies regarding voting methods remained on the table. An opinion has been requested from the State Attorney General to determine if LRSD policy, State Law, and Roberts' Rules of Order are in conflict.

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Arkansas Department of Education Grant Submission: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Ms. Linda Young attended the agenda meeting to present a summary of the applications for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant applications to the Arkansas Department of Education. If funded, community learning centers would be initiated at Hall High School, JA Fair High School, and Cloverdale Middle School. These are five-year grants would begin in September 2014, providing before school, after school, summer enrichment, and Saturday School opportunities.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve submission; Mr. McAdoo seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VI. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey reported briefly, and commented on expected decreases in federal funding and Title I. A budget worksession will be held within a few weeks for a more in-depth review of the expected reductions in operating funds. The May 1 budget worksession was set for 5:30 p.m.

B. Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Monthly Report

The monthly MWBE report was included in the Board's agenda.

C. Monthly Financial Statements

The monthly reports were included in the agenda.

VII. CLOSING REMARKS

A. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Suggs reported that recommendations for assistant principals for Forest Heights STEM Academy would be made at the May agenda meeting. He closed by encouraging parents to read to their children every day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

APPROVED: 05-29-14

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