



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Greg Adams presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Adams
Joy Springer
Jim Ross
Dianne Curry
Leslie Fisker
C. E. McAdoo
Tara Shephard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Curry arrived at 5:15 p.m.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to consider items being prepared for presentation to the Arkansas Department of Education Committee on Academic Distress. The agenda contained two topics:

- A. Report to the ADE on Academic Distress Schools
- B. LRSD Presentation to the ADE

ACTION AGENDA

Board members received a handout from the Accountability Department and Mr. Glasgow read the cover page and addressed the board regarding the improvement strategies developed by the teams at each of the six schools in academic distress.

The board discussed the student populations in the identified schools with questions concerning the ability to meet the needs of the ESL and Special Education populations. Dr. Suggs discussed the possible option of reconstituting all six of the schools under academic distress, including a complete vacancy of positions and realigning the staffs as was done at Forest Heights and Geyer Springs. Ms. Springer spoke in favor of allowing the superintendent to select the leadership and faculty of the schools.

Additional discussion will take place at a curriculum and instruction worksession planned for February. Topics of discussion for upcoming worksessions included Academic Distress and the reconstitution of schools; the evaluation process, team building and strategic planning.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Adams provided a draft governance statement in response to the ADE regarding their questions surrounding the board's operations, governance, and the ability to work together as a team. Board members provided input on the draft and authorized Mr. Adams to incorporate their comments for submission to the ADE.

Mr. McAdoo made a motion to adopt the statement as revised for submission to the ADE. Dr. Ross seconded the motion, and it **carried 6-1** with Ms. Fisker voting no.

Presentation to ADE

Chris Heller reported to the board and responded to questions concerning a statement he was preparing for presentation to the State Board of Education. He reported that he had worked in collaboration with Dr. Suggs and Mr. Glasgow, and had requested information from the state. It was his belief that the District had a good argument against the possible state takeover in that the entire district is not in academic distress. If anything, only the six affected schools are vulnerable to being under state control.

It was agreed by consensus that Mr. Heller would present the legal position and Mr. Glasgow and Dr. Suggs would present the academic position in the hearing before the State Board on Thursday. The District has twenty minutes for comment. Board members would be available to respond to questions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. A facilities worksession convened immediately following the meeting.

APPROVED: 01-22-15

Originals Signed by:
Greg Adams, President
Jim Ross, Secretary