



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

**FACILITIES WORKSESSION  
&  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
April 22, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a facilities work session at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2013, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. After the worksession, a special meeting was called to order. President Dianne Curry presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dianne Curry  
Greg Adams  
Norma Johnson  
Tommy Branch  
Jody Carreiro  
Leslie Fisker  
Michael Nellums

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Marvin Burton, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

**I. FACILITIES WORKSESSION / DISCUSSION**

A roundtable discussion was held with board members, district administrators, and community members. Darral Paradis, director of procurement, reviewed the process used to develop an RFP to select a consultant or independent contractor to provide a districtwide facilities review. Mr. Paradis explained the difference between an RFP (Request for Proposals) and an RFQ (Request for Qualifications).

The board asked for a copy of the 1995 RFP where 3DI was selected to conduct a facilities study. They also asked for a copy of the more recent North Little Rock School District RFP.

Five areas for concentration:

- 1 – inspection of all educational facilities
- 2 – inspection of all athletic facilities
- 3 – estimate of the amount needed for recommended improvements
- 4 – capacity of each building and demographic analysis

The board discussed the possibility of having the consultant include an executive summary and projections of what the district will look like in 10 years. Mr. Paradis suggested including recommendations on possible closing of facilities, altering the current use of facilities, and possible future construction recommendations.

In discussing the timeline, Mr. Paradis reported an RFP would need to remain open for at least 4-6 weeks. A tentative schedule would be developed along with a legal ad for publication, and time allowed for input, questions and interviews prior to award of the contract.

Additional discussion included the possibility and feasibility of a millage election and strategies for involving the community.

### **CONSIDERATION OF LAND PURCHASES:**

Kelsey Bailey and Stuart Mackey with The Hathaway Group reviewed in detail several properties available in southwest and west Little Rock for future construction of a new school.

In southwest Little Rock, where consideration is being given to construction of a new high school, the board viewed a map of properties available on:

- Richsmith Lane
- Baseline Road
- Geyer Springs and Mabelvale Cut-off
- Mann Road.

In west Little Rock, where the board has considered construction of a new middle school, the board received information on properties on:

- Katillus Road
- Rummell Road
- Cantrell & Taylor Loop West

## **II. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

After the conclusion of the board's worksession, Ms. Curry called to order a special meeting at 8:13 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call.

## **III. CONSIDERATION OF LAND PURCHASES**

Based on the review of available properties, board members were given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Mackey.

Dr. Nellums expressed concern regarding the presentation of information without allowing advance public awareness, and stated he would not be ready to make a decision or vote in favor of purchasing any land at this time.

Mr. Branch agreed with Dr. Nellums, and also stated he had some concerns regarding purchasing land at this time. He asked for additional time to review options.

Mr. Carreiro requested a recommendation from the administration and based upon the price comparisons provided by Mr. Mackey, Mr. Bailey recommended southwest Little Rock property on Richsmith Lane and two parcels of property in west Little Rock on Katillus Road

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to adopt the administration's recommendation to purchase these properties as presented. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion.

Dr. Nellums spoke in opposition to the motion, saying there was not enough information provided, not enough transparency, and not enough notice to the community.

Ms. Fisken and Mr. Adams spoke in support of the motion and thanked Mr. Mackey for his work in identifying land available. Mr. Adams stated he had asked questions, received information and answers from the administration, and was well prepared to vote in support of purchasing the land.

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Curry spoke in support of the motion. Ms. Curry referenced board discussions on land acquisitions dating back to 2007. She spoke to the specific goal which stated the board would begin the implementation of a multi-year facilities plan to address new construction, including a new middle school in west Little Rock and a replacement for McClellan High School in southwest Little Rock. The board has been in agreement to work in the best interest of the district.

The board voted **6-0-1 to approve** the motion, with Dr. Nellums abstaining.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

APPROVED: 04-25-13

Originals Signed by:  
Dianne Curry, President  
Norma J. Johnson, Secretary