



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 25, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2013, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dianne Curry presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dianne Curry
Norma Johnson
Tommy Branch
Jody Carreiro
Leslie Fisker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Greg Adams
Michael Nellums

ALSO PRESENT:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call. Mr. Adams and Dr. Nellums were absent. The teacher ex-officio Angela Saine from Baseline Elementary School and student representative Janai Reynolds from J. A. Fair High School were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendents Citations & Commendations

Anbriencia Pelayo, student at Bale Elementary School, was recognized for winning an award in the Great America Cleanup in Arkansas Youth Poster Contest.

Students from Rockefeller and Pulaski Heights Elementary Schools were recognized for their efforts in promoting recycling on their campuses. Ginny Kurrus made brief remarks and introduced Linda Kay Smith, the education director for the U. S. Green Building Council. Rockefeller and Pulaski Heights were Silver level winners and received a check for \$250.00 and a trophy.

Teachers from Pulaski Heights and Rockefeller, Pat Yeats and Debbie Gross, made brief video presentations highlighting their students' recycling projects, which included production of infomercials, school wide assemblies, collection of recyclables, field trips, and McArthur Park clean-up activities. Waste Management participated in their efforts and assisted in providing incentives.

Dr. Lloyd Sain, director of leadership and professional development, provided certificates of recognition to principals and assistant principals who had completed stages one and two of the Framework for Teaching Proficiency. Under ADE requirements, principals and assistant principals have until December 31, 2013 to satisfy this requirement. Those recognized included:

Darryl Powell, David Smith, Misti Sims, Connie Green, Barbara Anderson, Diane Rynders, Ricky Woole, LaGail Biggs, Roberta Mannon, Stephen Fuller, David Bernard, Dr. Suzanne Ross, Dr. Lloyd Sain, Michael Anthony, Jonas White, Karissa Nichols, Tom Noble, Donna Hall, Shoutell Richardson, Dr. Sharon Cauley, Cynthia Collins, Barbara Griggs, Mary Barksdale, Judith Milam, Anna Lloyd, Linda Kindy, Sandra Register, Eric Henderson, Judy Zink, Donald Richardson, Wanda Ruffins, Regina Ezell, Donna Muldrew, Stephen Ewings, Donna House, Rhonda Hall, and Shameka Montgomery

Dr. Sadie Mitchell was recognized for receiving the Reading Recovery Council Leader Teacher Award. She was the only teacher recognized this school year, and she will travel to Washington D.C. in June to receive her award.

Students from several schools performed a Cinco de Mayo dance. Steven Young from Booker Magnet Elementary School is their sponsor.

Ms. Curry invited Carrie Stewart, a teacher at Watson Intermediate School, to provide an update on achievement strategies and successes at Watson Elementary School. Ms. Stewart asked the board to consider supporting the budgetary items which have proven to be successful in meeting students' need for additional instructional support. Among the recommended requests was reinstatement of the reduced (1:18) class size, providing a longer instructional day, and placing a permanent ESL teacher.

At the agenda meeting on April 18, citations were presented to:

- Heidi King, teacher at Terry Elementary, who participated in a national conference on Common Core standards.
- Jefferson Elementary School Mathlete Champions for the 2nd year.
- The Artistry in the Rock logo winner, Keisha Thai of McClellan High School
- Carver Elementary School teachers, Charlotte Cook, Karen Banks and Gene Williams, who were recipients of the 3M Ingenuity Grant
- Hall and McClellan EAST lab winners
- Parkview Chemistry award winners, Wyatt Williams and Deborah Rookey. These students will compete in the National Chemistry Olympics.
- Parkview Optimist Oratory contest winners
- Parkview Arkansas Young Artist Awards winners
- Central High School Science Fair winners
- Parkview Science Arkansas math and science fair winners

Mr. Burton reported on his attendance at a press conference at Forest Park, which was a celebration of their new recreational pavilion construction plans. He had also attended a press conference at Parkview with the Little Rock Fire Department announcing the Junior Cadet Firefighters Program to be implemented through a partnership with Metropolitan Career & Technical Center.

B. Remarks from Citizens

Larry Oates addressed the board regarding treatment of bus drivers. He felt it was unfair for his pay to be docked for not providing extra runs. He referenced the First Student contract agreement provision for the rate to be paid for their daily routes and extra runs.

C. Legal Update

Chris Heller provided information regarding the new school choice law, Act 1227, which was signed April 16. The law would allow students to transfer among districts; however, one limitation was in regards to districts engaged in desegregation cases. Districts, like the LRSD with desegregation litigation history, can be exempt from the law. The request for exemption would have to be made on an annual basis. He recommended the LRSD declare and request the exemption in order to remain consistent with the legal position we have taken in the past. School choice should not be allowed to undermine existing desegregation efforts. The ADE will be providing guidelines to request the exemption.

Mr. Heller also briefly discussed a case pending before the Arkansas Supreme Court involving a small school district in Arkansas. They have argued that the state of Arkansas and the legislature have failed to comply in certain respects to the obligations and mandates of the Lakeview decision. The State has argued the issues cannot be raised again since they were decided in the Lakeview case. Mr. Heller has filed a brief supporting the smaller school district's position, and the court will likely decide whether to consider our brief next week. There has been no opposition from the State to consider our motion.

D. Donations of Property

Student Janai Reynolds read the donations as listed in the following chart. Ms. Fiskien moved to approve and accept the donations. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Brady Elementary	\$500.00 cash to provide incentives and materials for students and staff	Exxon Mobile Foundation
Central High School	\$2000.00 cash to benefit needy families	Bakery Feeds / Griffin Industries
Forest Heights Middle School	HP printer, valued at \$145.50 for the art department	Carol Woodruff

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Hall High School	\$10,000.00 cash to be applied toward the purchase of Boys and Girls basketball championship rings	Jeff and Melanie Fox
Williams Magnet School	\$500.00 cash	B-B Oil Company, Inc. / Exxon – Conoco Educational Alliance

E. Little Rock PTA Council

Mr. Becker provided information on the upcoming State PTA Council meeting to be held at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock.

F. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler made brief remarks regarding continued collaboration with district administration. She encouraged the audience to attend *Artistry in the Rock* to support the arts, the students and to enjoy the performances, especially the LREA Gospel Choir.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Carreiro reminded listeners of the upcoming Crystal Awards banquet and Artistry in the Rock, saying he was proud to participate in the events recognizing the hard working teachers in our district.

Mr. Branch thanked the administrators for their hard work at this time of year, especially Mr. Burton and his staff during this transitional time.

Ms. Fiskien thanked Dr. Suggs, Mr. Burton and Mr. Bailey for attending a press conference this week at Forest Park Elementary School. The supporters of Forest Park have raised \$300,000 over the past year to build an athletic pavilion on the school grounds.

Ms. Curry commended the administration for bringing forward the recognitions of student and employee successes. She thanked Mr. Burton, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Glasgow for leading the district until Dr. Suggs takes office in July.

Mr. Carreiro thanked the staff at Forest Heights for making sure students were safe during an incident in the community near the school this morning. Traffic was rerouted while crime scene investigations were taking place.

Ms. Saine, the teacher representative, thanked Carrie Stewart for her presentation earlier in the meeting regarding efforts at Watson to remediate students who were not achieving at grade level. She noted that her students at Baseline share some of the same demographics and learning obstacles, so she was proud of the efforts at Watson to bring good information and recommendations to the board for consideration.

B. Middle School Presentation: Pulaski Heights

Students from the Pulaski Heights Middle School broadcast journalism and EAST lab reviewed a video directed and produced by the students. Present were Addison Stone, project director, along with Dixie Watson, Lauren Berry, and their teacher Ms. Wilson.

C. Update on Priority Schools

Dennis Glasgow, Sadie Mitchell, and Judy Bryant, the assigned representative from Pearson, provided a status report on the Priority Schools in the LRSD. Priority Schools are defined by the ESEA Flexibility Plan as those where achievement levels from 2009 to 2011 ranked them in the bottom 5% of all public schools in the state. Eight (8) of the state's forty-eight (48) Priority Schools are in the LRSD. They are Hall, Fair and McClellan High Schools, Henderson and Cloverdale Middle Schools, and Baseline, Geyer Springs and Wilson Elementary Schools.

A School Improvement Specialist from the Arkansas Department of Education and an ADE-approved external provider, Pearson School Achievement Services, was selected by the district. Resources are provided through a web-based tool to assess, plan, implement and monitor student progress.

Katina Ray, principal of Baseline Elementary School, and Jeremy Owah, principal at Fair High School, reported briefly on progress in their schools. It was noted that an ESL specialist was assigned to assist at Baseline, Hall and McClellan, and additional support was provided in science at Cloverdale to support the school's aerospace technology program.

D. Arkansas Minority Health Commission Pilot Program

Ayanna Trotter and Kendle Booker presented information on a pilot program to provide health services support for students within the Central Little Rock Promise Neighborhood. Partnerships have been established between Hall High and Forest Heights Middle School and UAMS, Leadership Education in Neuro-Disabilities and other medical services providers. It was noted that the Arkansas Minority Health Commission, Public Health Leaders Roundtable, will cover all expenses incurred by the program.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the partnership establishment in these two schools. Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

E. Update: Reading by Third Grade

Karen James provided an oral update and Powerpoint Presentation on progress being made in achieving one of the goals of the District's Strategic Plan - - to have all students reading at grade level by the third grade. A copy of Dr. James' presentation was provided in the board's agenda.

F. Internal Auditors Report

The monthly auditor's report was provided in the board's agenda. No additional information was requested.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on March 28 and from a special meeting held on April 22, 2013 were presented for review and approval. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A. Second Reading: Board Policy Revision – IKEC Award of Credit

The board approved policy IKEC – Award of Credit on first reading at the March board meeting. No additions or changes were requested, and it was presented for second reading approval. Mr. Glasgow and Ms. Young were available to respond to questions.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the policy on second reading; Ms. Fisker seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Arkansas Department of Education: Grant submission for 21st Century Community Learning Center Applications

Linda Young provided information on applications to the ADE for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants which are due on May 15th. Several schools at the secondary level had decided to withdraw this year for various reasons, mainly due to the length of the school day and the obstacles of keeping students late into the evening. Alternate funding sources are being reviewed to cover some after school programs at those schools. The elementary schools were moving ahead, and included Bale, Baseline, King Rockefeller and Wilson.

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

B. Prekindergarten Parent Handbook Revisions 2013-2014

The Pre-K parent handbook was provided for review as part of the board's agenda. Dr. Karen James reported and responded to questions. After the handbook is approved it will be printed for distribution at Pre-K registration and will also be posted on the LRSD website. Ms. Fisker moved to approve the handbook; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. PRE Quarterly Report: April 2013

LRSD Policy IL with regulation IL-R requires an annual agenda of programs to be monitored during the school year. The evaluations are to determine the effect of the programs on student progress and achievement. Six program evaluations, approved by the Board of Directors in June 2012, are underway:

Middle School Intervention Classes
Gifted and Talented
Special Education

A+
English as a Second Language
K-3 Literacy and Math.

The third report of this school year was provided, including an update on data collection activities over the last quarter. Final reports will be submitted to the Superintendent and Board of Directors in July.

The proposed schedule of evaluations for 2013-14 will be presented for the board's review and approval in June. No action was taken

VII. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Approval of Student Handbook, 2013-2014

The student handbook is revised annually to incorporate modifications to school rules and district policies. For the 2013-14 school year, major modifications were recommended by a committee of administrators, teachers, parents, students, and community members. Dr. Fields provided the revisions to the handbook, and responded to questions from the board. Ms. Johnson requested specific information regarding SIP participation for student athletes. Each school has a SIP coordinator who tracks the student's progress and monitors participation in the SIP program.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the revised handbook; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were provided in the board's agenda. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve; Ms. Fisker seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Salary Equity Adjustments

Salary equity considerations are made periodically based on a review of similarly placed employees. Supporting documentation was attached for consideration of salary adjustments for Dora Cornner, in Safety and Security, Cassandra Green in Special Programs, Lisa Holiday in Maintenance & Operations, and Denise Nunnley in Human Resources. Detailed information was provided in the board's agenda.

Ms. Johnson moved to accept the adjustments presented. Mr. Carreiro seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

IX. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. First Student Contract Renewal

Mr. Bailey provided an update on the First Student transportation contract which had been presented for the board's consideration. Board members had expressed concerns regarding some of the complaints and issues presented and discussed by First Student drivers. Ms. Curry requested consideration to table the contract for approval after additional parent and staff surveys. Ms. Johnson moved to table; Mr. Branch seconded the motion. The motion **carried unanimously**.

B. Vendor Specialist Position – New

Mr. Bailey requested approval to create a new position to assist with efforts to increase minority vendor services in the procurement office. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the request. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Badgett Building – Excess Real Property

Board Policy DN, Disposal of Property, requires board action to declare when any real or personal property is no longer needed for school purposes. The board must vote to approve when the property is sold or exchanged for other property.

The administration requested the board declare the Badgett school property be declared as excess so that it can be marketed for sale. Once a purchaser makes an offer or bid to buy, the board would then vote to approve the sale. Ms. Fisker made a motion to approve the administration's request to declare the property as excess. Mr. Branch seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

D. Monthly Financial Statements

The April financial statements were printed in the board's agenda.

E. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey; reviewed a report from the newspaper regarding the state's facility assessments, and discussed reports provided in the board's agenda.

X. CLOSING REMARKS

A. Announcements and Reminders

Pamela Smith made a few closing announcements:

- Jody Carreiro and Danny Fletcher will be on KTHV Channel 11 in the morning to promote Artistry in the Rock. She displayed some student artwork which will be on display Sunday afternoon; there will be a silent auction on Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. All events will be held at the Metroplex on Colonel Glenn.
- KATV Daybreak will be at Roberts Elementary school at 5:30 a.m. tomorrow.

- There is a band and orchestra concert on the April 29th at Parkview;
- May 6 is the Crystal Awards Teacher of the Year banquet
- May 7 is the appreciation luncheon for clerical staff and the reception for retirees

Mr. Becker made an announcement regarding Computer Power Day, scheduled for Saturday, May 11. This one will be held at Metropolitan Career & Technical Center from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board took a brief recess prior to convening for student hearings.

XI. HEARINGS

A. EXPULSION REINSTATEMENT PETITION

Dr. Fields presented information for the board to reinstate JT, a 16 year old 11th grader. The board had a packet of documentation regarding the offense and sanctions to date. The student had been expelled for one full calendar year as required by law for possession of a firearm on a school campus. The recommendation from the administration was to assign him to Hamilton Learning Academy. Mr. Branch moved to reinstate JT based on the recommendation for alternative school placement. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

B. EXPULSION RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Fields reviewed information for student CM, a Hall High school 504 student. The district is required to continue educational services for the student due to his special needs status, therefore he is currently receiving homebound instruction, which will continue for one calendar year.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to support the administration's recommendation; Ms. Fisker seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

APPROVED: 05-16-13

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