



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 23, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2012, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jody Carreiro presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Carreiro
Michael Nellums
Charles Armstrong
Greg Adams
Dianne Curry
Melanie Fox
Norma Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Holmes, Superintendent of Schools
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Carreiro called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call. Mr. Armstrong arrived at 6:00 p.m. The teacher and student representatives to the board were not present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Holmes made brief opening remarks regarding the successful opening of school. He thanked the staff members who worked tirelessly to ensure everything was ready for the students' arrival on the 20th.

Kimberly Dade, drama teacher at LRCHS, was present to make an announcement regarding the upcoming *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*. This production will take place on Monday, September 24, at the Arkansas Repertory Theater. Melinda Beith, co-director of the play, was also present. LRCHS students are participating in the nationwide production. Present at the meeting were Randy Lee as Thomas Jefferson and Will Nicholson as Benjamin Franklin, who presented a scene known as "*The Roast*."

B. Remarks from Citizens

Odessa Darrough addressed the board regarding the South End Civil Rights Summit, to be held on Saturday, September 8. Community members have formed a partnership, and for the sixth year will present forums focusing on education, transformation of finances, community activities for seniors and youth, and other social services.

Pablo Valarezo, a father of students in the LRSD, addressed the board, stating he served in many volunteer capacities, including as a *Watch Dog Dad* at Roberts Elementary, as president of his neighborhood association, as a soccer coach, and as a volunteer with the "Make a Wish" Foundation. His comments were representative of the community at large, requesting the board purchase land in zones 4 and 5 to build a middle school. He stated pride in the diversity of the student population at Roberts, noting there were 22 different languages represented. His concern and comments were geared to the lack of public school options for students once they leave elementary school. He reminded the board of a commitment in January of 2008 to purchase the land for a middle school, and he asked the board to move forward with that promise.

C. City of Little Rock – Love Your School

Michael Drake with the City of Little Rock presented a report on the city's *Love Your School* initiative. Each board member received a packet of information on the program and viewed the DVD which had been presented at a national conference regarding the program at Western Hills Elementary.

D. Little Rock PTA Council

No one from the PTA Council made comments; however it was noted the first PTA Council meeting would be held at the LRSD administration building at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11.

E. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler addressed the board, first commenting on the middle school initiative and the importance of making the middle schools a success. She encouraged making all the district's middle schools strong and successful so that parents will be proud to send their children to school in the LRSD middle schools. She also commented on Dr. Holmes' efforts to halt bullying in the schools, and she expressed support for those efforts.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Adams comments were toward the strategic plan and its' focus on student achievement. He noted the importance of achievement, but asked for consideration also on improving the district's facilities. Many of the schools need renovation, some need additional classrooms or portable buildings, and there is a need for new schools in the western part of the city. He expressed a need to review and act on the districtwide plan for improving facilities.

Ms. Curry concurred with Mr. Adams on his comments, and expressed a desire to continue to focus on closing the achievement gap in all of our schools.

Mr. Armstrong also agreed with Mr. Adams' comments, and he suggested the board consider asking the community to pass a millage increase in order to fund the facilities needs. He complimented John Daniels for the successful start at Hall High School.

Dr. Nellums welcomed students back to school and commended everyone for their efforts toward a smooth start. He especially thanked employees in the transportation department for getting students to and from school safely. He agreed with comments on the need for schools in areas of the community where there is growth, but also agreed it would require a community-wide campaign to facilitate the needed improvements to the buildings and campuses.

Ms. Fox thanked the administration and school staff for the successful school opening. She stated this was the first year she didn't get calls with issues or complaints on opening day. She was pleased to know administrative staff was deployed to the schools on the first day to ensure everything was ready for opening.

Ms. Johnson was also pleased with the good start of school. She thanked the staff who worked over the summer and she asked the community to become involved in the activities in the schools. She also asked parents to set a good example for their children and to understand children model the behavior they witness at home.

Mr. Carreiro thanked the staff for the positive first day of school, noting the updates on Facebook. He asked listeners to have their Facebook friends to "like" the LRSD. He made brief comments regarding the receipt of a SIG grant at McClellan, and reported he and Dr. Holmes had attended a meeting with Commissioner Tom Kimbrell regarding the grant and expectations that go with receipt of the grant. He noted the ADE was impressed with the thoroughness of the application from McClellan, especially with the inclusion of community members and teachers in the formulation of the application. Implementation of the SIG grant at Hall High has been used as an example for other schools applying for these funds, and people from around the state are using it as an example.

Dr. Holmes responded to the comments requesting a west Little Rock middle school and the need for funding to provide upgrades to existing facilities. He stated that he would advocate for a middle school in the west, but that it would take a city-wide effort to make it a reality. He also stated a need for a new high school in southwest Little Rock.

Dr. Holmes also addressed some expressed concerns regarding bullying, not just among students, but also at the teacher and administrator level. He asked that all comments and concerns regarding bullying be brought to him for resolution.

B. Update / Review: Flexibility Plan / Priority Focus Schools

At the August 9 agenda meeting, Dr. Holmes introduced administrators to present the district's plan for addressing academic deficiencies at LRSD schools which were designated by the state as "in need of academic school improvement." The Arkansas' plan is now termed the "flexibility plan" under ESEA.

Dennis Glasgow, Leon Adams, Shekita McKissick, Karen Broadnax, and Sadie Mitchell made presentations and responded to questions. Information contained in the presentations was attached to the board's agenda.

C. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided in the board's agenda. He announced October 6th as the next Computer Power Day. As before, it will be held at Henderson Magnet School. Additional Information will be provided on the LRSD website.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on July 26, 2012, were presented for review and approval. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the minutes; Dr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. School Improvement Grant – Success Academy Hall High School

Linda Young presented a recommendation for submitting a grant for continuation of the *Success Academy* at Hall High School. The program targets students who are 17 years or older, but who do not have enough credits to graduate as a traditional student. Using credit recovery strategies to increase the credits earned, the focus is on reducing the dropout rate and increasing the graduation rate at Hall. The program provides support during the summer and after school. Linda Young was available to respond to questions.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the submission of the SIG grant application. Ms. Curry seconded the motion. **It carried 6-0.** (*Dr. Nellums was out of the room at the time of the vote.*)

Dr. Nellums requested we have the Success Academy staff from Hall High School to attend a future board meeting to respond to questions regarding the program.

B. School Improvement Grant – Teacher Attendance Incentive

Linda Young presented a recommendation to continue the teacher attendance incentive, with a request to increase the amount of the incentive. This School Improvement Grant funds incentives to teachers and staff at Hall, J. A. Fair, and Cloverdale. Payments of \$100 per nine-week period were made to teachers and staff who missed no more than one day per quarter. A request to increase the payment to \$200 was requested.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the grant submission. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried 6-0.** (*Dr. Nellums was out of the room at the time of the vote*)

Mr. Adams requested the statistics from previous year teacher attendance rates at these schools to see if there was a significant difference prior to the grants being awarded.

VI. SCHOOL SERVICES

A. Summer Programs Update

Dr. Sadie Mitchell reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of elementary summer programs. Karen DeJarnette reviewed the statistical results of the evaluation, and a report was attached to the board's agenda.

Mr. Burton reviewed the secondary summer programs and provided an overview of the report, which was also attached to the agenda.

VII. STUDENT SERVICES

A. CARE Program Tuition Increase

Martha Rogers presented a request and recommendation for a rate increase in the CARE before- and after-school program. The program operates solely on tuition paid by parents and from vouchers paid through the Department of Human Services for students who are eligible. The recommendation included an increase in the registration fee from \$40 to \$45, and an increase from \$175 to \$185 for before and after school tuition for 5 days a week. Other increases included the returned check fee, a late payment fee, and a reinstatement fee for students who leave and return from the program. Ms. Curry made a motion to approve the requested rate increase. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Creation of Positions: Classroom teachers, Instructional and Central Office

Dr. Fields reviewed staffing recommendations for the student services division and truancy office. The recommendation included appointing one truancy specialist, two truancy monitors, and one mental health coordinator. Existing staff members working with the truancy program include Philip Wilson, Angela Munns, and Reginald Merritt. The only additional staff person would be the mental health coordinator.

Ms. Fox moved to approve the mental health coordinator position; Dr. Nellums seconded the motion. The motion **carried unanimously**.

To support the student services division, it was recommended the addition of two student accountability specialists in computer information services. These employees would report to Mr. Bailey, and would support the school-based master scheduling staff. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the addition of these positions. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

The Mathematics Department requested an additional secretarial administrative support person on an interim basis. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nellums.

Ms. Fox spoke in opposition to the additional of a clerical support position at this time; Mr. Armstrong suggested waiting until a survey is completed to determine if existing staff is being utilized fully and whether additional positions are necessary. The motion and second were withdrawn. No action was taken.

The administration requested the addition of two interim elementary education supervisors to work with Dr. Mitchell in the school services division. Dr. Mitchell made a brief presentation in support of the request. Dr. Nellums made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **passed unanimously**.

Lori Altschul presented a recommendation for employment of seven Gifted & Talented teachers at both elementary and secondary level. Ms. Fox made a motion to ratify the recommended positions; Ms. Curry seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

B. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were provided in the board's agenda. Ms. Fox moved to approve; Dr. Nellums seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

In addition, Mr. Hartz requested the addition of one position not previously included in the agenda: school psychology specialist, Marie Lopez. As part of the agenda, the administration recommended Anna Lloyd as assistant principal at Fulbright Elementary and Alicia Troutman as assistant principal at Mabelvale Middle School. Ms. Fox moved to approve the recommendations for personnel appointments. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The monthly financial statements were provided as part of the board's agenda. Mr. Bailey responded to questions.

IX. CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Carreiro closed with a recap of upcoming meetings currently scheduled:

- Budget workshop Thursday, August 30, 5:30
- Parent Academy Saturday, August 25, at Parkview
- PTA Council meeting on September 11, 11:30 a.m.
- Agenda Meeting on Thursday, September 13
- Middle School Open Houses, September 13
- Elementary School Open Houses, September 6
- Election day for Zones 6 and 7, September 18
- OK Program at Dunbar Middle School, August 25

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

APPROVED: 09-27-12

Originals Signed by:
Jody B. Carreiro, President
Charles Armstrong, Secretary