



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 15, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 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
Melanie Fox
Dianne Curry
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 5:34 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call. In addition, teacher ex officio, Terri Cross from Williams Magnet **Elementary School** and student ex-officio, Paul McIntosh, from **McClellan High School** were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

At the agenda meeting on March 8, 2012, Dr. Holmes presented a citation to *Claire Avery* from Otter Creek Elementary School. A fifth grade student, Claire designed the winning entry for the **Artistry in the Rock** logo contest. Claire's design will be featured in all print media and on billboards around the city.

Linda Kindy was recognized for her recent appointment to the **Little Rock Workforce Investment Board**. She will represent students in the Adult Education department of the LRSD.

Dr. Betsy Kaye from the Elementary Literacy Department was recently chosen as one of five internationally recognized educators to review the latest edition of an observation survey of early literacy achievement. The assessment is used around the world by teachers of beginning readers and has been recognized as the highest rated screening tool by the National Center for Response to Intervention. Dr. Kaye is the only representative from the U.S. to serve on this international committee.

At the March 15, 2012, meeting LRSD Theatre students performed brief excerpts from their spring presentations in recognition of “**Theatre in Our Schools**” month. In addition to students from all five high schools, students from Mann Magnet Middle were also present.

Board Member Johnson invited Dale Ellis to the meeting to make a brief presentation on the 529 Plan which allows individual contributions to a tax deferred account to be used for college expenses. Mr. Ellis is the 529 Project Coordinator for the Arkansas Treasury of State. Packets of information were provided for the public.

The student ex officio for March was **Raga Brown** from **McClellan High School**. **Terri Cross and Lori Hoyt** from **Williams Magnet Elementary** shared the teacher ex officio service for the month of March.

B. Partners in Education

At the agenda meeting on March 8, Ms. Milam presented one new partnership for the board’s consideration and approval.

Jefferson Elementary School represented by *Brenda Dorman* in partnership with **Calvary Baptist Church**, represented by *Pastor Simpson*

Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the partnership; Ms. Fox seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

W.J. Monagele VIPS Board president was present at the agenda meeting and recognized Linda Kindy as the newest appointee to the Workforce Investment Board. He reported the GED program awards ceremony would be held the following night.

Ms. Milam announced the upcoming annual VIPS awards program, Evening for the Stars, Tuesday, April 17th, at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center. Lawrence Hamilton will be the emcee for the program. It was noted next year is the 40th anniversary of VIPS, and planning for a special program to celebrate this milestone has already begun.

C. Remarks from Citizens

Carl Farr addressed the board regarding “Reach Farr, Say Yes to E-Go” program. This program works with students to mentor and develop character and career goals.

D. Legal Update

Attorney Chris Heller provided an overview of ongoing legal actions and issues. A hearing will be held on March 29, before Judge Marshall on the topics of charter schools, transportation, and student achievement. It is our responsibility to convince the judge that the LRSD should either win the case on the basis of information already presented or convince him there is enough evidence to warrant a trial.

He also reported continuing to work with Metroplan to further develop the election zone map proposals which need to be submitted to the Pulaski County election commission. He was scheduled to meet with them on Monday, and expected to have another map by the middle of the next week.

Mr. Heller reported briefly on two EEOC claims, one which is in arbitration and one which is being reviewed by the Office of Civil Rights. There is also a pending suit involving an injury from a bus accident case. None of the cases involve significant financial risk to the district.

In addition, there is one pending "teacher fair dismissal" case, and another pending suit involving a group of employees in the maintenance department. The trial is scheduled in November 2012.

E. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. Mr. Nellums made a motion to accept the donations; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	German classroom texts and supplies valued at \$350.00	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Galek
	\$500.00 cash to the Debate Team	Mangaraju Chakka and Kanthi Dasari
Mann Magnet	\$60.00 cash to the art department for supplies	Pat Henry
Roberts Elementary	\$500.00 cash to the EAST program to assist with expenses for students attending the EAST conference in Hot Springs	Bancorp South
Wilson Elementary	Donation of 70 dinners, valued at \$350.00 to be used during Neighborhood Awareness Night and Student Talent Show	Popeye's Chicken #4643, Mr. Sampson Clary, Manager

F. Little Rock PTA Council

No report.

G. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler wished the audience a restful spring break, and she reported looking forward to completing the contract negotiations process.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Johnson thanked students from Central High School who participated in a citywide cleanup program on Saturday morning. She encouraged Hamilton parents to support their children in their education . . . “just because your child attends an alternative learning center, don’t give up. Children make bad choices, but parent should continue to encourage and push.” She announced that Hamilton PTSA would be granting scholarships to students from Hamilton who pursue higher education after graduation.

Ms. Fox wished everyone a restful spring break.

Mr. Nellums congratulated student athletes, especially from Parkview and Hall, for claiming the state basketball championships. He thanked the coaches and staff for working with the students to make them successful. He suggested the district make a contribution to purchasing the students’ championship rings.

Mr. Armstrong commented on Mr. Farr’s presentation and thanked him for assisting students in setting goals. He encouraged him to keep up the good work. Mr. Armstrong also congratulated Hall and Parkview for winning the state basketball championships.

Ms. Curry also thanked Mr. Farr for the information presented. She reported participating in the Cloverdale mock interviews, working with students who were working toward setting career goals.

Mr. Adams reported participating in a Health Fair at LR Central High, and he thanked members of the mental health and medical community for participating. He also visited a debate class and met with students who would be participating next month in mock trial competitions. He thanked members of the middle school task force and expressed appreciation for their time and efforts in listening to the concerns of the community.

Mr. Carreiro reported attending the ADE meeting where the Charter School issues were discussed. He noted the required request by the LRSD to amend the Cloverdale Middle School charter to change to the 8 period day which will be implemented in other middle schools across the district. He reported attending a panel discussion and workshop with the Arts Director for the National Endowment for the Arts. He expressed pride in that the LRSD is providing a high quality arts education, and he thanked Dr. Routen for her work.

B. Revised Drug Testing Handbook

Dr. Holmes reviewed the proposed revisions to the employee drug testing handbook and asked the board to develop a clear policy in the future to ensure employees in transportation, security, and any position that requires operation of a district vehicle be subject to strict drug testing guidelines. Ms. Fox moved to accept the drug testing handbook; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Nellums casting the no vote.

Mr. Bailey reported briefly and thanked the people who served on the review committee. Attorney Eddings participated in the review and considered the “reasonable cause” component of testing employees. Bobby Jones responded to questions, and noted the LRSD has been drug testing employees 20 years. Part of the practice has been to encourage employees to voluntarily submit to treatment if they have a problem and to enter a drug testing program in order not to jeopardize their employment.

C. Report: Minority Vendors

Dr. Holmes asked Mr. Becker to provide information on the draft of proposed revisions to board regulations regarding employing and utilizing minority vendors in the LRSD. The district’s policies and regulations are being updated and reviewed for specificity. Mr. Becker is working with procurement and others to collaboratively develop a plan to identify eligible minority vendors.

Darral Paradis responded to questions and provided a handout for the board’s information. Mr. Nellums and Mr. Armstrong encouraged additional utilization of minority contractors, businesses and restoration companies. Ms. Curry suggested participating in minority business recruitment fairs.

D. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker’s report was printed in the board’s agenda. No other information was requested.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on February 23 and from a special meeting held on March 8 were presented for review and approval. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

V. GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A. Rezoning of Board Election Zones

Mr. Heller provided brief information earlier in the meeting regarding the proposed maps for rezoning the school district election zones in Little Rock. Mr. Carreiro read a portion of an email sent to the board by Mr. Heller; he asked for consensus from the board to agree to allow Mr. Heller to continue the process of coming up with an alternative map that would further define the boundaries of neighborhoods, especially those in zones 6 and 7.

Mr. Carreiro requested a motion to eliminate several of the draft map proposals and to only keep for consideration the map marked Option 5 of the current maps along with the new map Mr. Heller will present next week. Mr. Armstrong made the requested motion; Mr. Nellums seconded, and it **carried unanimously**.

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

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

In addition, the board was asked to approve the recommendation to employ Pamela Smith as the district's new director of communications. Ms. Curry moved to approve, Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey provided a brief update in conjunction with the monthly financial statement review. He reported some progress on preparing for the upcoming 2012-13 budget season, and agreed another worksession would be held when additional information was available. He noted some major changes to the budget as staffing patterns are reconfigured at the middle schools to accommodate the eight-period school day.

B. Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial reports were provided in the agenda.

VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Holmes reminded listeners of the upcoming week of spring break.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

APPROVED: 04-26-12

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