



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**August 27, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2009, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dianne Curry presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dianne Curry  
Charles Armstrong  
Jody Carreiro  
Mike Daugherty  
Melanie Fox  
Baker Kurrus  
Katherine Mitchell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Linda Watson, Superintendent  
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Mr. Carreiro arrived at 5:42 p.m. The student ex officio Catherine Trotter from Central High School was also present. The teacher representative did not attend.

Ms. Curry welcomed members of the audience and asked Dr. Watson to proceed with the citations and commendations.

**II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**A. Superintendent's Citations & Commendations**

Superintendent Watson paid tribute to the district's school nurses by introducing a few of those who have achieved special honors or recognitions. First, **Margo Bushmiaer**, Coordinator of our Health Services Department, was recently was appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Association of School Nurses. The appointment was made based on leadership skills, critical thinking and ability to work well with others.

**Amy Stuff**, the school nurse at Dunbar Magnet Middle School, was recently named LRSD School Nurse of the Year. She was nominated by her peers for this honor for her willingness to go above and beyond the regular job duties. She conducts weight loss programs for Dunbar students and staff, monitors staff blood pressure and diabetes and promotes general wellness.

The school nurse at Mann Magnet Middle School, **Kathy Haynie**, was recently elected president of the Arkansas School Nurse Association. Kathy's clinical skills and leadership will guide school nurses both in Little Rock and throughout the state to a higher level of excellence.

Several nurses were recognized for being true "life-savers:"

- **Terrie Ellington**, the school nurse at Wakefield Elementary, attended to a student who was away from school on a field trip. The student had a severe allergic reaction, and was brought back to the school. Nurse Ellington administered medication and called 911. The student spent several days in the hospital, but the cause of the allergic reaction was never discovered.
- **Doug Harrison**, nurse at Chicot Primary School, recognized signs of a severe allergic reaction including hives, itching, wheezing and difficulty breathing. He immediately administered an Epi-Pen. The student was allergic to fresh fruits and vegetables, and had eaten salad during lunch. The student was transported to the hospital.
- **Deb Marple**, nurse at Franklin Elementary, also administered Epinephrine to a student with an allergy to chocolate. The student admitted eating chocolate cake one day and returned the next morning after having had chocolate milk for breakfast. The student recovered after a period of time in the hospital.
- **Linda Yarbrough**, nurse at Central High School, saw a ninth grade student who exhibited wheezing and difficulty breathing. Nurse Yarbrough administered medication and notified the student's mother. The student's symptoms progressed, his blood pressure dropped and his breathing was compromised. Nurse Yarbrough called an ambulance to take the student to the hospital.
- **Debbie Johnson**, nurse at Forest Park Elementary, recognized symptoms of an allergic reaction in a student who had just returned to school from an appointment with his allergist. The student's mother took him to the health room where Nurse Debbie called the student's allergist and administered medication as ordered. The student's symptoms progressed, and the doctor recommended that he return to his office. Nurse Johnson administered additional medication and accompanied the student and his mother to the physician's office for additional care.

The Superintendent expressed appreciation to the ex-officio student representative for the month of August, **Katharine Trotter** from Central High School. The teacher representative did not attend.

At the conclusion of the citations and commendations, Dr. Watson reviewed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the district's successes over the past year, including a review of individuals who had been recognized by the board, test score comparisons from 2008 to 2009 and a review of "next steps" which are plans for growing the successes.

## **B. Remarks from Citizens**

None.

### **C. Partners in Education**

Debbie Milam presented new partnerships for the board's review and approval. She reminded the audience of the upcoming, National Day of Service on September 11, as designated by President Obama and Governor Beebe. On this day, volunteers will visit schools and read to students. In addition, the annual ViPS Jane Mendel Reading day will be held on November 17, 2009. Partnerships included:

**Watson Elementary**, represented by *Betty Mosley*, in partnership with the **Southwest Little Rock Hometown Health Coalition**, represented by *Joan Brush, Valeria Tate, Cynthia Wilborn, James Duffy, Nakisha Buchanan, Vera Threet, Peter Noonan, and Gaylon Anderson*

**Forest Heights Middle School**, represented by *Wanda Ruffins*, in partnership with **St. Vincent Health System**, represented by *Peter Noonan and Peter Banko*

Mr. Carreiro moved to accept the partnerships presented. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **D. Little Rock PTA Council**

Patty Barker, President of the Little Rock PTA Council, reported to the board and stressed the importance of purchasing an annual membership in the PTA. She also encouraged parental involvement activities at the schools, and as an example noted that the Pulaski Heights Middle School would be hosting a barbecue supper on Friday night as a parental involvement effort.

### **E. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association**

Cathy Koehler acknowledged the great loss to our country with the passing of Senator Ted Kennedy. She expressed the desire for all involved in the District to help and encourage students to be successful. She distributed a copy of the first issue of the CTA newsletter and introduced members of the CTA who were present at the meeting.

Ms. Koehler expressed appreciation to the members of the negotiating teams who were able to come to an agreement quickly by focusing first on what is best for students. She encouraged the board members to vote in favor of the contract agreement presented, and she reported that the teachers had ratified the agreement at a meeting last week.

Ms. Koehler closed by announcing that President Obama would be addressing students in a national address on the importance of education, setting goals, working hard and taking responsibility for their education.

## **IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Remarks from Board Members**

**Ms. Fox** congratulated school administrators and teachers on a wonderful opening day.

**Dr. Daugherty** encouraged parents to keep their children home from school when they are ill in order to prevent the spread of disease. He thanked Dr. Watson for the presentation made earlier in the meeting.

**Mr. Carreiro** thanked the administration for a smooth opening of school and commended the Student Registration office staff for the work they do. He was pleased to find that they were able to address any problems that came to him with professionalism and courtesy.

**Dr. Mitchell** also commended the employees in the student registration office and thanked school employees for the smooth opening. She reported that she had attended the Principals Institute and noted that she had requested that Dr. Watson review the PowerPoint presentation made earlier in the meeting. She expressed pride in the progress we have made and she encouraged parents to get involved in their children's education. She asked that parents take a day from work, go to the school, meet their child's teacher and principal and to form a partnership so that children will realize that we all want them to be successful.

**Mr. Kurrus** agreed with previous comments regarding the successful opening of school. He reported that Donna Morey president of the NEA had visited Metropolitan, and he encouraged listeners to visit that school. He thanked the staff at Metro and encouraged communication with the students to find out first hand how attendance at Metro is making a difference in their lives.

**Mr. Armstrong** echoed comments made previously regarding the successful opening of school. He encouraged parents to stay involved in their student's education, and he encouraged the business community to allow employees time off to become involved in the school system.

**Ms. Curry** commended Dr. Watson and the school district staff on a great school start. She announced her retirement and stated that she would be more involved and available for school visits. Ms. Curry commended Parkview Magnet School students for their performance on AP tests and receipt of awards from Exxon Mobile. She encouraged other students to participate in AP or pre-AP courses and to take the AP exams.

## **B. Legal Update**

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to reorder the agenda to move item *VII. A. Enforcement of Settlement Agreement* to this point in the meeting so that it could be considered and included as part of Mr. Heller's legal update. Dr. Daugherty seconded, the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Mr. Heller reported that he had received a settlement offer from the state last week, and that in terms of dollars, all three districts in Pulaski County had agreed that any settlement with the state should be aligned with Act 395. The last offer made by the LRSD would have been worth approximately \$459 million and the current offer from the state is in the amount of \$396 million.

Mr. Heller stated that the Attorney General had reported to the desegregation resolution task force that he would recommend a settlement that would allow the districts to come away from the desegregation lawsuit in a financially stable way. He noted that the state would be willing to pay more money if that would enable the districts to come out at the end of seven years with a financially stable future.

Mr. Heller reported that the district had asked for relief related to charter schools in the last proposal, but that the Attorney General had declined to consider anything related to the state's approval of charters.

Mr. Heller felt that the other issues could be negotiated and that the state representatives were willing to talk about a settlement transition period, with a specified starting date subject to negotiation. The major issues still to be resolved include the inter-district transfers of students, magnet school assignments, and the continued provisions for M-M transfers. Mr. Heller reported that he was preparing information to present to the board, and working with Mr. Bailey on the financial impact of the settlement in terms of staff, students, and programs. He expected being able to provide a written report within a week to ten days. He asked board members to contact him individually if they would like to review the information or provide input on the recommendations.

The Pulaski County and North Little Rock districts are waiting to see the LRSD proposal to determine whether they are in agreement. Mr. Heller closed by reported that he would submit his briefs to Judge Miller before the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

No action was required on the item moved up by action of the board to enforce the settlement agreement. Mr. Heller recommended waiting to see if any additional action was necessary.

**C. Update: Student Registration**

An enrollment report was provided as part of the agenda.

**D. Update: Strategic Planning Commission**

The Commission did not report, as they had met with the board on the previous Monday.

**E. Update: Summer School 2009**

Dr. Sadie Mitchell provided an overview of the summer school programs provided at the elementary schools this summer. Karen James, Sabrina Stout, Glenda Nugent, Karen Broadnax, and Beth Clifford participated in the presentation.

Junious Babbs provided an overview of the secondary summer program participation. Credit recovery programs operated at all high schools, a traditional summer program was provided at Dunbar and additional programs were held at the Adult Education Center, Cloverdale, Dunbar, Forest Heights, Henderson, Mabelvale and Pulaski Heights.

Complete information and the full presentation was provided as part of the board's agenda.

**F. LRSD Comprehensive Literacy Design K-5**

Dr. Jeanne Huddle addressed the board regarding the Pre K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade literacy design. Glenda Nugent and Pat Busbea provided supporting information.

**G. Budget Update**

Mr. Bailey addressed the board briefly and thanked them for attending the budget worksession held in conjunction with the August agenda meeting. He projected Wednesday of next week the draft budget for 2009-2010 would be ready for the board's review.

## H. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided in the agenda. No additional information was requested.

## V. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

### A. Donations of Property

The Board was asked to approve the acceptance of recent donations to the District. Katherine Trotter, student ex officio from Central High School, read the listed donations.

Ms. Fox made a motion to accept the donations as listed; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**. Donations are listed in the following chart:

#### DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Terry Elementary School	Landscaping, sports field, and other playground improvements in the amount of \$54,375.00	Immanuel Baptist Church and Terry Elementary School PTA

The board recessed briefly and returned at 8:13 p.m.

### B. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting of July 23, 2009 were presented for the board's review and approval.

Mr. Kurrus requested a revision of the minutes regarding his comments; it was noted that he is not opposed to spending funds for the improvement of athletic facilities or programs. That change was made prior to the approval of the minutes.

Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the minutes as revised; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## VI. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

### A. First Reading: Policy KBA – Title I District Wide Parental Involvement Policy and KBA-R Regulation

The administration presented a revision to update the district's existing Title I Parent Involvement policy to ensure alignment and compliance with state and federal parental involvement laws. Mr. Kurrus made a motion to approve the revised policy KBA on first reading. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### B. Second Reading: Policy Revision – BDH Consultants to the Board

Policy BDH was originally adopted by the board in January 1999. The recommended revision provides additional information regarding the process of retaining consultants and personal service providers. First reading approval was granted in July 2009. Ms. Fox moved to approve the policy on second reading. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion.

Prior to the vote, Dr. Daugherty requested clarification on the policy, section 4 to include the amount of \$25,000 in the initial sentence. After discussion, Ms. Young suggested a revision in the language which was agreed to by Dr. Daugherty.

Dr. Daugherty moved to amend the motion to include additional language in the first sentence of section 4. Ms. Fox seconded the amendment. The amendment to the motion **carried 6-1** with Dr. Mitchell casting the no vote. The motion as amended **carried 6-1** with Dr. Mitchell voting no.

### **C. Second Reading: Policy Revision – IG Curriculum Development, Adoption and Review**

Policy IG regulates curriculum development, adoption and review and was originally adopted in August 1999. Revisions were presented in July 2009, and were approved on first reading. Ms. Fox moved to approve IG on second reading. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **D. Second Reading: Policy Revision – JE Student Enrollment, Attendance, and Transfers**

Policy JE brings the district's policy on student enrollment, attendance and transfers into compliance with the school laws of the state of Arkansas regarding the birth dates for children to be kindergarten eligible. The revisions were approved on first reading at the July meeting. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the policy as presented. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. Enforcement of Settlement Agreement**

No action was taken on this item. Mr. Heller reported earlier in the meeting and stated that he would return with additional information if it becomes necessary to pursue legal remedies to enforce the settlement agreement with the State.

### **B. External Management Organization (EMO)**

No action was taken on this item which had been added by board members. The issue will be returned to the agenda if action is required in the future.

## **VIII. GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### **A. Approval of Truancy Board**

Ms. Curry asked that a list of individuals who have expressed interest in serving on a district truancy board be compiled and presented for the board's consideration and appointment. Dr. Daugherty moved to establish a truancy board. Names of the individuals would be listed and presented for the board's review and approval at a later time.

Mr. Kurrus moved to table action; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion to table and it **carried unanimously**.

## **IX. SCHOOL SERVICES**

### **A. Middle Level Conversion Charter School**

Mr. Babbs asked the board to approve the submission of a letter to the Arkansas Department of Education expressing the district's intent to explore the possibility of converting Cloverdale Magnet Middle School to a conversion charter with the aerospace theme.

Mr. Kurrus expressed his reservations regarding establishing a charter school within the district, and suggested there were other avenues that could be explored to turn around a school in year-six of school improvement.

Dr. Daugherty moved to approve; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **X. STUDENT SERVICES**

### **A. Agreement: LRSD and L.O.V.E**

Mr. Kurrus moved to suspend the rules to place the contract agreement between the District and Let Our Violence End (L.O.V.E.) before the board for consideration. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**. The contract agreement was part of the board's agenda.

Ms. Fox moved to approve the agreement as submitted. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **XI. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Approval of the 2009-2011 Professional Negotiated Agreement for Little Rock Classroom Teachers**

The revised PNA was attached to the board's agenda; however members of the board had requested additional information and clarification on some of the items included for consideration. Mr. Hartz requested that the board table action on the PNA for review and additional clerical revisions. Mr. Armstrong moved to table. Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Substitute Compensation Increase**

Mr. Kurrus made a motion to suspend the rules to place the administration's request for an increase in substitute teacher pay before the board for consideration. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

The administration recommended an increase from \$49.14 to \$55.00 per day for substitute teachers without a four-year degree, instructional aides and clerical substitutes. Subs with a four-year degree would receive \$60.00 per day, and long-term substitutes with a degree and teacher certification would receive \$90.00 per day. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the requested increases; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. School Improvement Specialists**

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Smart Accountability initiatives require the implementation of interventions for school in School Improvement (SI) years five and six. One of these interventions requires the hiring of School Improvement Specialists who would work with principals in an effort to improve student achievement.

The board previously approved four Instructional Accountability Coach positions which are similar in duties and responsibilities as the School Improvement Specialists. A job description was created to incorporate the district responsibilities and the requirements of ADE Smart Accountability and was presented for the board's review.

The administration recommended hiring three to four School Improvement Specialists as mandated by the ADE. Dr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the recommendation; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **D. Personnel Changes**

The administration presented the appointment of six assistant principals: Robin Baylark at Forest Heights, LaGail Biggs at Henderson, Sherkeyer Jackson at Otter Creek, Gregory Jones at Washington, and Darlene Little and Emma Nowden at McClellan, Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the school administrators as a group. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Routine personnel matters were printed in the board's agenda. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the recommendations as presented. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **XII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **A. Approval of ARRA Fiscal Stabilization Plan**

The ARRA Stabilization Plan was presented as part of the board's agenda. The administration's recommendation was to approve the plan as presented with the understanding that revisions may be proposed at a later date.

Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the superintendent's recommendation. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion.

During the discussion, Dr. Watson noted that the Strategic Planning Commission had requested that the district delay the submission of the stabilization plan in order to include recommendations from the commission. However, she also explained that any delay until December or January would be detrimental to the district because the plan includes some personnel costs for class reductions in some of the schools.

Ms. Fox expressed concern regarding the number of employees that would be hired as part of the plan when the funding is only guaranteed for two years. Mr. Kurrus agreed and spoke in opposition to the motion, saying that non-recurring revenue should not be spent on continuing expenses.

Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Daugherty spoke in support of the recommendation, asking the board to allow the district to meet the filing deadline and to allow the administrators to move forward. Dr. Daugherty stated that the district was obligated to the public to do as much as possible as quickly as possible in order to move students to the proficient levels. He noted that the motion was made in order to allow for adjustments if necessary, but he discouraged waiting for a later submission date.

Ms. Curry asked for the board's consideration of the possibility of making revisions to the proposal prior to board approval. Ms. Fox suggested hiring an external management organization which would fit in within the requirements of the plan and would meet the requirements for submission.

Mr. Carreiro made remarks regarding some of the allocations included in the stimulus proposal. He then offered a substitute motion to approve the 2009-10 portion of the proposal and to postpone action on the second year of the plan until the special meeting in September. He allowed that this would provide an opportunity for Dr. Watson to make some changes to the 2010-11 portion of the proposal and resubmit it to the board for approval. The substitute motion died for lack of second.

The original motion to approve the plan for submission **carried 5-2** with Ms. Fox & Mr. Kurrus voting no.

## **B. Purchase of Buses**

The administration recommended the purchase and financing of eight special needs transportation buses and requested authorization to proceed with the procurement process. This purchase would be in accordance with the established ten-year cycle of bus replacements, and the new buses would replace those purchased in 1995 and 1997. The \$90,000 per bus price would be financed over seven years with an annual payment of approximately \$122,000.

Ms. Fox moved to approve the purchase. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **C. Monthly Financial Statements**

The monthly financial reports for the period ending June 2009 were attached to the board's agenda.

# **X. CLOSING REMARKS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **A. Announcements & Reminders**

Dr. Watson reminded board members that the Strategic Planning Commission would meet on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Cooperative Extension Service office on South University.

Also, Dr. Watson reminded the board that a tour of the construction site of the new Don Roberts Elementary School had been planned for 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Fox, seconded by Mr. Carreiro.

APPROVED: 09-24-09

Originals Signed by:  
Dianne Curry, President  
Jody Carriero, Secretary