



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2009, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Charles Armstrong presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Katherine Mitchell

ALSO PRESENT:

Linda Watson, Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Armstrong called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call, Dr. Daugherty arrived at 5:35 p.m.; Dr. Mitchell was absent. The teacher representative, Kim Romain from Otter Creek Elementary, was also present. The student representative from McClellan High School did not attend.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Watson introduced Cheryl Chapman with UALR Children International. Ms. Chapman introduced the gospel choir from the after school programs at Bale and Wakefield Elementary Schools. The children performed several Christmas songs for the board and audience. Valarie Foster, Children International Gospel Choir Director and Kristin Koenigsfest, Children International Education Manager, were also present.

Cheryl Chapman provided an update on the Future Smiles Dental Clinic at Wakefield Elementary School. To date, \$12 million has been donated through Children International to LRSD students through summer camps, comprehensive health services, after school programs, and the school based dental clinic. Partners include the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, the Minority Health Commission, the Arkansas Dental Association, Children's Hospital, United Way and other community organizations.

Ms. Chapman reported that in addition to routine dental screenings, the volunteers from the UAMS dental school and supervising dentists have provided sealants, fluoride treatments, and emergency dental services to thousands of LRSD students. The Future Smiles Clinic is the only school based dental clinic in the state, and provides services to students at Bale, Chicot, Franklin, Stephens, Watson, Wakefield and Wilson. Children between the ages of 4 and 18 who are eligible for free and reduced lunch, and those who receive Medicaid or have no dental insurance are eligible for the services provided.

B. Remarks from Citizens

None

C. LR PTA Council

No report.

D. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association

Cathy Kohler addressed the board, and thanked Ms. Curry and Mr. Armstrong for attending a dinner honoring the district's educational support personnel. She also reported that she had attended Dr. Allan Odden's strategic planning conference in Washington, DC, and had seen some things there that might assist the LRSD. She expressed pride in the LRSD PTAS teacher evaluation system, stating that "we are way ahead of other districts in that arena."

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Carreiro announced that there was a girls' basketball tournament in progress at Hall High School, and he encouraged members of the audience to attend when the meeting ended. Funds raised through the tournament will go to a local charity. He congratulated all high school and middle school participants in the upcoming All Region Choir and All Region Jazz competitions. These events will begin on Saturday, November 21, 6:00 p.m. at Robinson Center Auditorium.

Ms. Fox thanked the district's security staff, noting that it was the annual appreciation day for security officers. She wished the audience a happy thanksgiving holiday.

Dr. Daugherty expressed appreciation to Senators Marion Berry and Vic Snyder for taking a step forward toward health care reform, stating that quality health care and the district's contribution for insurance premium are important to everyone.

Ms. Curry thanked Cheryl Chapman for her presentation and Children International for all the work they do to assist our students. She stated that three district employees had been involved in leadership academy and she stated that she would like for the district to provide financial support for this effort.

Mr. Kurrus reported that he had read in a first grade classroom at Dodd Elementary. He thanked Principal Brooks and the media clerk at Dodd for their efforts in making the day special for both students and volunteer readers.

Mr. Armstrong reported that he read at Wakefield Elementary to a class of third graders, stating that he enjoyed the experience and appreciated the community for participating in reading day. Mr. Armstrong had also attended a banquet for educational support personnel, and asked the administration to review what can be done about the low salaries paid to support personnel.

B. Legal Update

No report.

C. Quarterly Report to the Board – School Improvement Specialists

Dr. Phillip Clark addressed the board on behalf of the three school improvement specialists who are assigned to assist the staffs at Cloverdale, Watson, Chicot, Dunbar and J. A. Fair. To date, they have conducted approximately 100 classroom observations and have attended leadership team meetings and professional development workshops. The specialists are conducting classroom audits and assisting in the development of strategies to improve student achievement. They are encouraging the building administrators and classroom leaders to apply their skills to provide collaboration, implementation of strategies, and use of data to guide instruction.

He reviewed several areas of concern including the finding that at three of the five schools the teachers and administrators work in isolation, with administrators having little or no connection with the instructional functions in the classroom.

Dr. Clark reported that curriculum and support programs have been reviewed and instructional facilitators have found adequate resources to address academic needs. However, these resources are not always utilized to their fullest extent or have not been implemented appropriately. It was recommended that the administration and teachers be appropriately trained in the research strategies that work for their student bodies and that classroom planning be based on principles of higher level thinking skills or Bloom's taxonomy.

The specialists recommended professional development for classroom teachers and other support personnel in the use of data, including the collection of data and data-driven instructional strategies.

Dr. Clark's final remarks were geared toward the need for a greater commitment and personal transformation on the part of everyone in the schools. He noted the existence of low morale in some schools and among some teachers. This manifests as a lack of commitment and affects student learning, contributing to a negative school climate or poor public perception. The specialists suggested more celebration of success and the creation of a culture of high performance. He commended the many effective and hard working teachers who do set expectations of positive results.

Dr. Clark responded to questions from the board and reported that the specialists will continue to meet monthly with the superintendent and cabinet and will bring their recommendations to the board on a quarterly schedule.

D. Update: Educational Services / Special Needs, K-12

Jeanne Huddle introduced Renee Dawson, curriculum specialist, who provides professional development to special programs department staff and participates in curriculum development activities and implementation of support programs for special needs instruction.

Ms. Dawson reported that it was a priority to increase achievement in literacy and math achievement in special needs classrooms. She assists special programs in development of accommodation plans aligned with the curriculum maps and provides research based strategies for improving instruction. Ms. Dawson reported that she is visiting middle and high school classrooms this semester, providing professional development for teachers based on her observations, and modeling instruction to classroom teachers who need assistance.

E. Update: LRSD Science K-12

Dennis Glasgow provided an update on the district's K-12 science programs. He demonstrated a few elementary level science projects and reviewed the process for creating "science kits" for classroom teachers' use. These kits are created by science department staff at a warehouse at Metropolitan. They are sent to the elementary classroom teachers, used for instruction at the appropriate grade levels, and then returned to Metro for refurbishing. Secondary schools have requested and expect to receive stimulus funds for upgrading equipment in the science labs including new microscopes, probe ware, white boards, centrifuges and other items required for instruction.

Mr. Glasgow introduced Jennifer Webb, a science specialist who provides professional development and instructional support to the district's teachers. In addition to instruction provided at the district level, teachers are kept updated on opportunities outside the regular school year, including the summer science institute at UALR, Pre-AP certification programs, virtual field trips, science fairs, and the Exxon Mobile Michelson Academy. It was noted that The Learning Institute has provided access to SOAR exams in science which are aligned to the curriculum for elementary students.

F. Report: Synopsis of Districtwide School Improvement Plan

Leon Adams provided an oral report on the district wide Title I school improvement plan and responded to questions from the board. The complete report was not available at the time of posting the board's agenda, but was to be sent with the board's Friday update following the meeting.

G. Budget Update

Kelsey Bailey provided a brief update on the district's budget and year-to-date tracking of expenditures. He reported that he expects the district's receipts from property tax collections and teacher retirement contributions from the state to increase over the original projections. Otherwise, all other expenditures are in line with previous budget reports.

H. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided as part of the board's agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Donations of Property

Mr. Carreiro read the listed donations and then made a motion to accept the items presented. Ms. Fox seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**. Donations are listed in the following chart:

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Bale Elementary School	\$100 cash deposited to activity fund \$120 cash deposited to activity fund for good citizens rewards	Shea & Associates Bale Chevrolet - Honda
Dodd Elementary	\$50 cash for school uniforms Canned beverages valued at approximately \$362.05 School supplies & uniforms valued at approximately \$250. Paint supplies valued at approximately \$300 Agenda books, valued at approximately \$719.50 for all second through fifth grade students School supplies valued at approximately \$1,000. School uniforms valued at approximately \$300 Approximately 30 gift bags filled with pencils, pens, note pads, etc., valued at approximately \$25.00 for parent night door prizes	US Probation and Pretrial Services Coca-Cola Enterprises Traci Williams, The Little Rock Church The Little Rock Church The Little Rock Church The Little Rock Church Kidz Reaching All People (K-RAP) Iberia Bank
J. A. Fair	\$300 cash for the ADAPT Club to be used to purchase supplies, t-shirts and start-up materials	Central Arkansas Library System
Forest Heights Middle School	\$500 cash to be used to further the learning process and provide for basic needs	Catherine Mueller
McClellan High School	\$300 cash for the ADAPT Club to purchase supplies, t-shirts and start-up materials	Central Arkansas Library System
Romine Elementary	WEGA color TV, valued at approximately \$150 for the parent center \$200 cash deposited to activity fund for student supplies	Mrs. Lindsey Clark Mrs. Gracie Carter

B. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting of October 22, 2009, and from a special meeting held on November 5, 2009, were presented for the board's review and approval. Ms. Curry made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Carreiro seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

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

VI. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Monthly Financial Statements

Mr. Bailey responded to questions from the board regarding the revenue and expenditures reports.

Mr. Carreiro reported that the audit committee was moving along within the scheduled timeframe for reporting to the board in January.

VII. CLOSING REMARKS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Watson reminded the board about the upcoming Strategic Planning commission meeting on December 1, 9:00 a.m. in the LRSD boardroom.

The Cloverdale Charter School application is on the agenda for consideration by the ADE at their December 14, 2009 meeting.

Terry and Fulbright community forums will be held on December 14 and December 15. Additional information will be provided prior to that time.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Angelia Tolbert requested approval to provide a brief report to the board on the community truancy board. Mr. Kurrus moved to suspend the rules; Ms. Fox seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Ms. Tolbert provided copies of the minutes from the implementation task force. She reported that the committee would finalize the designated list of members and provide a draft of their expected roles and responsibilities for the community truancy board. These items would be provided for the board's review and approval.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 12-17-09

Originals Signed by:
Charles Armstrong, President
Jody Carriero, Secretary