



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 17, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 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
Katherine Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Linda Watson, Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Armstrong called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Curry arrived at 5:43 p.m. The teacher representative, Janet Buford from Pulaski Heights Middle School, and student representative, Samantha White, from Central High School, were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Superintendent's Citations & Commendations

At the agenda meeting on December 10, the board heard the "**Voices Without Borders**" honors choir comprised of students from Rockefeller, Baseline and Otter Creek elementary schools. Under the direction of **Dr. I.J. Routen**, this group of about 25 students had also performed at the Old State House and the Mosaic Templar Museum.

Superintendent's citations were presented to:

- **Cathy Hayes**, English teacher at Central High School, who was selected as the 2009 High School English Teacher of the Year by the Arkansas Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts.
- **Mario Martinez**, the 7-A state men's tennis champion, and **Trinity Randolph** and **Lindsey Liles**, women's doubles winners in the overall state tennis championship. Their coach, **Loretta Davenport**, was also recognized.

- Twenty four LRSD teachers who recently earned their certification from the **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards:**
 - **Marie Boone**, Hall High School
 - **Charlotte Brown**, Forest Heights Middle School
 - **Elwood Cole**, Fulbright Elementary
 - **Amy Fuss**, Hall High School
 - **Christine Fox**, Williams Magnet
 - **Tamika Gore**, Dodd Elementary
 - **Faye Hanson**, Rockefeller Elementary
 - **Debbie Headley**, Baseline Elementary
 - **Tiffany Jordan**, Williams Magnet
 - **Anna Kennedy**, J.A. Fair High School
 - **Karen Latch**, Williams Magnet
 - **Sandra Lester**, Williams Magnet
 - **Emma Mateo**, Otter Creek Elementary
 - **Jennifer McManus**, Williams Magnet
 - **Holcomb Mosley**, Gibbs Magnet
 - **Jacqueline O'Connor**, McClellan High School
 - **Demetric Reed**, Dodd Elementary
 - **Tonya Sproles**, Wakefield Elementary
 - **Nikki Swanigan**, Chicot Primary
 - **Joy Thompson**, Dunbar Middle School
 - **Lashay Terry**, Wakefield Elementary
 - **Jonas White**, Henderson Middle School
 - **Patricia White-Erwin**, Pulaski Heights Elementary
 - **Vekissa Wilson**, Henderson Middle School

Myrtle Withers, the LRSD Mentor Coordinator, announced that January is National Mentoring month, and the ViPS office would coordinate events to promote awareness of the need for mentors. They will sponsor a contest for students to enter a letter describing how their mentor made a difference in their life. Winners will attend the January agenda meeting.

Ex-officio representatives for the month of December were Samantha White, student from Central **High School**, and **Janet Buford**, teacher from **Pulaski Heights Middle School**.

B. Remarks from Citizens

No citizens signed up to address the board.

C. Little Rock PTA Council

Patty Barker, PTA council president, expressed appreciation to the staff of Hamilton Learning Academy for hosting the December Council Meeting. She announced that the January meeting would be held at Pulaski Heights Middle School on January 12, 2010. The annual Founders Day luncheon will be held on February 9, 2010. Ms. Barker closed by wishing the audience a happy holiday season.

D. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association

Cathy Koehler wished the board and audience a happy holiday. She thanked the district's parents who entrust their children to us, and expressed wishes to the board members and superintendent for a positive new year.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Fox and **Dr. Mitchell** wished the audience, administrators, and fellow board members a Merry Christmas, happy holiday break, and a happy new year.

Mr. Kurrus thanked everyone who attended the community forum at Fulbright Elementary School. He expressed appreciation also to Dr. Roberts and his wife for being in attendance.

Mr. Carreiro thanked those who attended the community forum at Terry Elementary School. He wished the audience a happy holiday and suggested a "gift of learning" by encouraging the listeners to buy a book or visit a museum.

Ms. Curry reported that she had served as Santa's helper at Otter Creek Elementary School and had also visited Mabelvale Middle School. She wished the listeners a happy holiday season.

Dr. Daugherty wished the audience a merry Christmas and happy New Year. He also expressed appreciation to Arkansas' Representatives and Senators for voting in support of health care initiatives.

Mr. Armstrong wished listeners a merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous, and blessed New Year. He encouraged students to put their best foot forward and to give a renewed effort to achieve their goals.

B. Legal Update

Mr. Heller thanked the board for the privilege and pleasure of working with them for many years. He reported that the Arkansas Board of Education had approved the charter application for the Little Rock Urban Prep Academy for Boys, but with the conditions and stipulations that had been requested by the LRSD. Those stipulations included a requirement to serve lower socioeconomic and lower performing students.

Mr. Heller noted that two hearings were scheduled for January; one would be the North Little Rock School District's request for unitary status and the other would be the same request by the Pulaski County Special School District. He reported that no interdistrict issues would be raised; only those which relate to their own compliance with existing intra-district plans.

C. Update: Truancy Review Committee

Dr. Dennis Burrows provided a brief status report on the progress of the Truancy Review Committee. The committee met on December 10th. They are sending letters inviting additional members of the community to serve on the committee. They will complete the development of bylaws in January, and hope to have a more complete committee list at that time.

D. Update: LRSD Professional Development

Dr. Watson announced that Marion Woods had recently attended the National Staff Development Council meeting where she was honored for her participation in the organization and for organizing an Arkansas Affiliate of the NSDC. Part of her responsibilities include orienting new members and serving as a mentor to teachers across the state.

Ms. Woods provided an overview of the elementary professional development programs through a PowerPoint presentation. Lloyd Sain followed with a similar presentation on the secondary professional development program.

Mr. Kurrus asked that district administrators monitor implementation of programs to ensure that the professional development ensures an impact on classroom learning and on closing the achievement gap. He asked about intensive training and monitoring of entry level teachers to assess their effectiveness by measuring the achievement of the students in their classrooms. Dr. Sain reported that the Pathwise mentoring program provided support for these novice teachers for up to two years and that other district administrators were available to assist when weaknesses were identified.

E. Update: LRSD Social Studies Education

Marie McNeal, director of social studies, introduced Laura Beth Arnold, lead social studies teacher for elementary level students and coordinator of the Teaching American History Grant. Ms. McNeal provided a detailed PowerPoint overview of the district's social studies program including information on the curriculum review procedures, updating the curriculum to align with Arkansas Frameworks and instructional maps, realignment of resources, use of targeted teaching strategies, and assessments to provide content and literacy skills at appropriate levels.

Information on the Teaching American History Grant was also provided, indicating that the district partners with UALR, the Clinton Library and Central High School National Historic Site. These partnerships provide opportunities for teachers to participate in summer programs, community symposiums, field trips and other professional development activities.

Ms. McNeal closed by inviting the board and audience members to participate in the 2010 National History Day competition on Saturday, January 30, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Washington Magnet Elementary School. An awards and recognition program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

F. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey reported that all stimulus plans had been approved and that requisitions were being submitted to him for funding approval. He also reported that he had been working with Human Resources to hire for all employment positions that were included in the funding proposals.

Regarding the budget update, Mr. Bailey reported that revenues were within the range projected for this point in the fiscal year. He is waiting on information from the county tax collectors regarding receipt of delinquent tax proceeds.

Dr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Bailey and the finance department staff for the new format for the financial reports provided to the board.

G. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided as part of the board's agenda. No additional information was presented or requested.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. Student exofficio Samantha White read the list of donations. Ms. Curry made a motion to approve the donations; Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Hamilton Learning Academy	Cash contributions for the holiday food drive totaling \$500.00	Marie Friend - Bess Childs Renee Shapiro - Abby Smits Terry Roark Ministries Chris Cranford and an Anonymous donor
Woodruff Early Childhood Center	Baby wipes, valued at \$150.00 Baby wipes, valued at \$250.00 \$200.00 cash to provide incentives and materials for faculty and staff School uniforms valued at \$150.00 Miscellaneous donations to October Fest, including cash, prizes, cakes, candy, pumpkins totaling \$450.00 Christmas decorations, valued at \$50.00	Andrea Heyaime UAMS House of Delegates Dayspring Behavioral Health Services of Arkansas Windsong Church of Christ Parthenia Sims - Roslyn Joseph Cheryl Davidson Jacqueline Dedman – Kanda Henry Lee Johnson – Centennial Bank Tammy Givens – Kera Johnson Deborah Martinez – Martha Sellers Kassia Sherrill – Yavon Young Katie Reagan – Amanda Morris Kay Westbrook & Jeanne Housley
LRSD Early Childhood Program	Assorted toys, valued at \$41,869.88, to be distributed to Early Childhood classrooms across the district	U. S. Toy Company, Inc., dba Constructive Playthings

B. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on November 19, and from a special meeting held on December 10, 2009 were presented for the board's review and approval. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. Alternatives Unlimited – Contract Pending

The board had requested placement for approval of the contract for services by J. Vincent Brown through his company Alternatives Unlimited. Dr. Watson reported that the administration was working with our attorneys to review the contract prior to presenting for board approval. Mr. Bailey responded to questions and reported that there remained minor changes to the budget language, and that he expected to be prepared with a contract for consideration in January. Mr. Armstrong requested that the board receive a copy of the completed contract as soon as it becomes available.

VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Course Additions and Deletions – 2010-11 School Year

Board policy and regulations require board approval of all new courses and changes to the curriculum catalog which is published annually. Once the proposed courses are approved by the Board, the paperwork is then submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education for approval. A list of proposed course additions, deletions and modifications for the 2010-2011 school year were presented for the board's review. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the list of course additions and deletions; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

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

VIII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial reports were provided for the boards review as part of their agenda. Mr. Bailey was present to respond to questions. No action was required.

IX. CLOSING REMARKS

A. Announcements and Reminders

Dr. Watson reported that they were moving ahead on posting a vacancy announcement for the principal of Roberts Elementary School. It is expected that the interviews will be held and a recommendation ready to present for board approval in early January. If the process moves as expected, the administration will request a special meeting at the agenda meeting in January to approve the recommendation.

In addition, Dr. Watson stated that a proposal to participate in the state's Race to the Top application will need to be submitted to the ADE no later than January 8, 2010. She will request a special meeting on January 7, 2010 for the board to review and approve the district's proposal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board had requested an executive session to review an instrument for the annual evaluation of the superintendent. They did not convene, but were provided with a draft evaluation tool for the board members to review. Ms. Fox suggested a worksession in January to review the tool and to develop recommendations for the board's approval.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVED: 01-28-10

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