



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

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
January 6, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 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  
Baker Kurrus  
Katherine Mitchell

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mike Daugherty

**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; Dr. Daugherty was absent.

**II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting was called for the purpose of approving a Memorandum of Understanding to participate in Arkansas' application for federal Race to the Top funding.

**III. ACTION AGENDA**

**RACE TO THE TOP – APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Dr. Watson recommended approval of a Memorandum of Understanding to partner with the State of Arkansas in the submission of a federal application for Race to the Top funding. Each district wishing to participate in the state's application for funds will be required to submit an additional application if the state's proposal is accepted. It was noted that only five states were likely to be accepted for first round funding.

Mr. Carreiro moved to authorize the superintendent and board president to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Race to the Top initiative. Ms. Fox seconded the motion.

Board members briefly discussed the Race to the Top requirements and implications of participation by the LRSD. Ms. Curry and Mr. Carreiro supported the application, stating that the proposal included positive improvements that should help our students. It was noted, however, that some of the points included in the state's proposal were things that the LRSD has already done. Mr. Carreiro asked that the superintendent be diligent in participating on the committees that formulate the official application so that we have as much input as possible.

Dr. Mitchell reported that she had attended the informational presentation, and that she felt certain that there would be a ninety day window to opt out if the LRSD decided not to participate. She also acknowledged the Classroom Teachers Association, and expressed appreciation that the CTA leadership had agreed to support the application.

Mr. Kurrus stated that he would support the state's request for participation in the Race to the Top application; however he expressed a general dislike for letters of intent or memorandums of understanding, because of the vagueness presented by that method of executing an agreement. He expressed concern that the district was signing an agreement to do a lot of things that haven't been made specific and clear. He stated that the agreement needed to be edited for typographical and grammatical errors, and stated that he would like to see the ninety-day opt-out language included in anything that is signed on behalf of the district.

After the discussion, the motion **carried unanimously** and the agreement was presented for signature by the superintendent, board president, and union representative.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

APPROVED: 01-28-10

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