

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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 25, 2007**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2007, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Katherine Mitchell presided.

Prior to the call to order, Judge Marion Humphries administered the oath of office to newly re-elected members of the board: Baker Kurrus, representing Zone 4, and Robert M. Daugherty, representing Zone 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katherine Mitchell
Charles Armstrong
Melanie Fox
Larry Berkley
Dianne Curry
Robert M. Daugherty
Baker Kurrus

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Dr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Mr. Berkley was absent. Teacher ex officio representative Tonya Sproles from Wakefield Elementary School was also present. The student ex officio, Isaiah Tatum, from J. A. Fair High School did not attend.

Dr. Mitchell welcomed members of the audience and introduced Boy Scouts from troop 70 who were present as observers. She asked Dr. Watson to continue with citations and recognitions.

III. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Citations & Commendations

Members of the Rotary Club of Little Rock were recognized for their annual Club 99 service project in the LRSD. Mr. Bob Burnside, Chairman of the Dictionary Project, was present to accept citations awarded to Executive Director Karen Fetzer and President Elizabeth Small. The Rotary Club provided a dictionary to every third grade student in the district, contributed books for every elementary school library, and read to students at all LRSD elementary schools.

Carolyn Jennings, English teacher at J.A. Fair Magnet High School, was recently named one of 24 National Teachers of Excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English. Dr. Watson awarded a Superintendent's citation and announced that Ms. Jennings will be honored at NCTE's annual convention in New York City next month.

Dr. Watson announced that students across the district had participated this week in the annual National Red Ribbon Week activities. She expressed appreciation to Reggie Merritt for serving as the district's coordinator of this event and noted that the celebration was a collaborative effort between the district's Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools, the Coordinated School Health Programs, the City of Little Rock, and the KICK Tobacco Coalition (Keeping Illegal Cigarettes from Kids).

A citation was presented to the teacher representative for the month, **Tonya Sproles**, from Wakefield Elementary School.

B. Partners in Education

Debbie Milam thanked Bob Burnside and the leadership of the Rotary Education Committee for their service to our students as announced earlier by Dr. Watson. She reminded the board and the audience of the upcoming ViPS Reading Day, scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2007. Volunteer readers are needed and cards were available for the public to sign up. Ms. Milam presented new partnerships for the board's review and approval:

Hamilton Learning Academy, represented by *Krishna Young*, partnering with **NRI Small Business Connections** represented by *Tawanna Noones and Keena Stout*

Dodd Elementary School, represented by *Jill Brooks and Mary Hardin*, partnering with **Woodridge Estates Neighborhood Association**

Watson Intermediate School, represented by *Betty Mosley, Cindy Dees, and Kerry Stewart*, partnering with **Kroger on Geyer Springs**

Otter Creek Elementary School, represented by *Janis Tucker and Robin Johnson*, partnering with **Geyer Springs First Baptist Church**; with **Walmart**, represented by *Shirley Armstrong*, and with **Party City**

Ms. Fox moved to accept the new partnership; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Remarks from Citizens

Mary Loftin introduced herself as a music teacher at Booker Arts Magnet School and stated that she had 33 years of teaching experience in the district. She distributed a packet of information regarding the district's insurance benefits, and alleged that age discrimination exists in the benefits available for hospital indemnity, short term, and long term disability. She asked the board to change existing policies that discriminate based on age and to cover all employees with the same level of benefits.

Dennis Burrow addressed the board regarding the recent fiftieth anniversary celebration of the integration of Central High School and the importance of paying tribute to the past by celebrating our history. He also stated the importance of moving forward and shaping the future by bridging the gap between the races and embracing our differences. He asked the board to commit to a positive force of action and to set an example for the students and the city by reaching out and getting to know each other.

Lamonda Slape addressed the board as an advocate for her three children and others who have special needs. She stated that it was frustrating for parents to get extra help for their children and that she had been trying to have her daughter placed in advanced classes. Her daughter attends Gibbs Magnet Elementary School and Ms. Slape indicated that she had met with a placement committee, but that the needs of her children were not being met. She asked that her child be allowed to attend classes at Dunbar Middle School.

Terrence Bolden addressed the board as a member of Community Advocates for Public Education. He congratulated Dr. Daugherty on his reelection and spoke to the issue of student achievement. He asked that the board not forget that it is their responsibility to fight for what is right for all children and to provide every child an opportunity to attend a great public school. He closed by stating: "Small minds fight about self-serving issues, great minds fight for children."

D. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association

Cathy Kohler opened by encouraging board members to contact their congressmen to express opinions on the NCLB reauthorization. She commended Dr. Watson and Dennis Glasgow on their commitment to work through some professional development issues, and she announced that a committee had been formed with a representative group of teachers and administrators. Ms. Kohler invited board members to attend a session with Robert Parham from Baptist Center for Ethics regarding the first amendment and religion in public schools. She encouraged the board to approve the remaining negotiated agreements for employee pay raises and she reported that a committee was being established to review employee attendance to determine what can be done to assist teachers who have a good attendance record.

Ms. Kohler stated there would be a second community conversation on closing the achievement gap in January. The planning committee will meet on Tuesday afternoons at the AEA board room.

E. Little Rock PTA Council

Bernadette Turner addressed the board on behalf of the PTA Council and congratulated Dr. Daugherty and Mr. Kurrus on their re-elections. She expressed appreciation to Hall High Principal Bacon for hosting the October PTA council meeting, thanked Lisa Hope for producing the new council directory, and congratulated the school PTA units which have met their membership goals.

Ms. Turner announced upcoming PTA Council activities, including the secondary recruitment showcase on Sunday, November 4, at McClellan High School from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. She stated that all middle and high schools would participate in this event to display and discuss offerings at the district's middle and high schools.

The next PTA Council meeting will be held on November 13, 11:30 a.m. at Metropolitan Career & Technical Center. The American Education Week art and essay contest entries are to be submitted to Christy Taylor at Western Hills Elementary. Ms. Turner closed by encouraging parents to be proactive in the partnership with their teachers, to attend conferences, and to develop a relationship with the teachers in order to ensure students' success.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Remarks from Board Members

Dr. Daugherty thanked his supporters, campaign workers, and the voters for working to ensure his re-election. He stated that he was elected to do a job and that he would not compromise the people he was elected to represent, but would fight for the education of all children in the district.

Ms. Fox encouraged the audience to sign up to read to a class on ViPS reading day, noting that the elementary students really love having the volunteer readers.

Mr. Kurrus reminded the listeners that Sharefest is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th. He reported that his church would be working at Williams Magnet School and possibly at another school later in the day if the projects were completed at Williams. He congratulated Dr. Daugherty on his reelection and thanked the other three candidates who ran for the Zone 2 position.

Ms. Curry thanked Dr. Watson for leading the charge during the transition stating that she knew she would work hard to move forward.

Mr. Armstrong congratulated Mr. Kurrus and Dr. Daugherty on their reelections and expressed hope that the entire community would become involved in the success of the school district. He stated a desire to work with the city and business community to figure out a way to close the achievement gap. "If we lose public education we will lose the nation."

Dr. Mitchell noted that the district has challenges ahead, but that working together we will overcome those obstacles. She encouraged parents to sign up to read on ViPS Reading Day and asked that listeners develop partnerships with their schools and get involved in the educational process of their children. She noted that it is important for the children to see their parents communicating positively with others in the schools.

B. Update: Target Teach

Dr. Watson reported that she and a group of district staff members had traveled to Tulsa, OK, to see Target Teach in action with the hope that they would bring strategies to close the achievement gap and make an impact on student achievement in the LRSD. She introduced Elizabeth Menchaka, with Evans Newton, Inc. Ms. Menchaka provided a PowerPoint presentation to display methods used to train teachers to target student needs and improve student achievement.

It was noted that this was not an additional budget line item and would not replace current programs in the schools. Existing funding would be reallocated to cover the costs of implementing Target Teach. It was also noted that Target Teach wasn't permanent and that they would provide the training over three to five years, and then leave the district to use what they had learned to continue to impact student instructional methods.

It is hoped that training with Target Teach will streamline what we currently do and provide guidance in eliminating programs that have not been effective.

Dr. Mitchell spoke in support of Target Teach, stating that she had seen it in action and that it focuses on the art of teaching and training teachers to be more effective in the classroom.

Ms. Fox requested a more detailed explanation of the phase-in process and a report on budgetary implications, both now and in the future. Dr. Daugherty requested information on the criteria used to select the schools for the pilot.

C. Update: Alternative Learning Programs

Krishna Young and Judge Evans provided separate PowerPoint presentations regarding the enrollment at Hamilton Learning Academy and Felder Alternative School. They responded to questions from the board. Mr. Kurrus requested a more detailed report on the funding for Felder and the impact of the move from Geyer Springs to the Badgett Facility for operations this school year.

D. Budget Update

Mr. Milhollen reported that future monthly reports would include three new detailed line item summaries that would provide a more detailed accounting of the budget. These will be similarly formatted to reports currently provided.

E. Student Assignment Report

There was no formal student assignment report. However, Ms. Fox requested a review and report of the pre-K enrollment data across the district; it was her belief that pre-K enrollment had decreased this school year.

F. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's monthly update was provided as a part of the board's agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the September 27th board meeting were presented for the board's review and approval. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the minutes as submitted; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A. Revision of Policy GBA: Equal Employment Opportunity / First Reading

Revised board policy GBA, first adopted in November 1999, was presented for the board's consideration and first reading approval. Ms. Fox moved to approve GBA on first reading; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. PRE Quarterly Report

Dr. DeJarnette and members of the PRE department staff provided the Quarterly Report as part of the board's agenda. In addition, a summary of the recommendations made in this report was attached. Staff members Jim Wohlleb, Pat Busbea, Maurecia Robinson, Vanessa Cleaver and Marcelline Carr responded to questions.

Jeannie Dreyfus, evaluator of the magnet programs, was also present. She briefly discussed her review of equitable access of teaching and learning in the classrooms of magnet schools and magnet programs. Mr. Kurrus asked for additional information regarding the scope and intent of the magnet program review. "What are we trying to understand . . . what are we trying to measure and assess . . . what are we trying to learn?"

VII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Salary Proposal for the 2007-08 school year for Negotiated, Meet and Confer and Non-Negotiated Groups

Recommendations for providing salary increases for psychological examiners, transportation employees, security staff, maintenance department staff, clerical employees, and school nurses were presented for the board's review and approval. A 2% increase in addition to step increases for all eligible employees was recommended. Mr. Hartz was present and responded to questions from the board. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel matters were listed in the agenda and Superintendent Watson recommended approval. Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the recommendations. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. Administrative Salary Comparison

As requested by the board at the agenda meeting, Mr. Hartz provided research and comparative salary information for the board's review. He was present and responded to questions from the board.

VIII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Donations of Property

The Board was asked to approve the acceptance of recent donations to schools and departments within the District. The donations are listed in the following chart. The teacher ex officio, Tonya Sproles, read the items listed in the Board's agenda. Ms. Curry made a motion to accept the donated items, Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	Installation services valued at \$454.00 to the library. Donation of updates to the Comcast connections & wiring of new tv outlets.	Evangeline Parker, Public Affairs Coordinator for Comcast Communications, Inc.
	\$75.00 cash and a book entitled "Long Line Rider: The Story of Cummins Prison Farm" by K. Wymand Keith. Funds will be used to purchase additional books for their Arkansas collection	Mr. & Mrs. Barry Miller
Geyer Springs Elementary	\$100.00 cash to the "Angel Fund" to provide lunch money for students in need.	Geyer Springs PTA

B. Monthly Financial Statements

The monthly financial reports were included in the board's agenda. Mr. Milhollen was present to review the budget statements and respond to questions.

IX. CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Hartz briefly responded to questions regarding the district's health insurance benefits. He reported that the Arkansas Educational Benefits Division (EBD) had changed the process for continuation of benefits and a number of employees didn't respond to the requirement to turn in the required forms. After several employees were notified that their benefits were being discontinued, EBD allowed a short window of time to reinstate their insurance benefits.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Fox, seconded by Mr. Kurrus.

APPROVED: 11-15-07

Originals Signed by:
 Katherine P. Mitchell, President
 Melanie Fox, Secretary

PULASKI



COUNTY

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OFFICE OF

PAT O'BRIEN

Circuit County Clerk and Registrar
401 WEST MARKHAM, SUITE 100
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-2325
(501) 340-8500 FAX: (501) 340-8340
www.pulaskiclerk.com

OFFICIAL OATH

I, **Baker Kurrus** do hereby solemnly swear or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and that I will not be interested directly or indirectly, in any contract made by the district of which I am elected, except as permitted by state law and that I will faithfully discharge the duties as a board member in the LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT, NO 4 of Pulaski County, Arkansas, upon which I am about to enter.



B. Kurrus
H. BAKER KURRUS

NAME

10816 Crestdale Cir
ADDRESS

LR AR 72212
CITY STATE ZIP

Sworn to and subscribed before me, Marion Humphrey, a Circuit Judge for the County of Pulaski this 25th day of October, Two Thousand and seven.

Marion G. Humphrey

Judge Marion Humphrey
1st Division Circuit Judge

rev. 9.01
lrscd oath

Civil / Criminal
(501) 340-8431
Fax (501) 340-8420

Child Support
(501) 340-8549
Fax (501) 340-5698

Domestic Relations
(501) 340-8411
Fax (501) 340-8407

Marriage License
(501) 340-8330
Fax (501) 340-3342

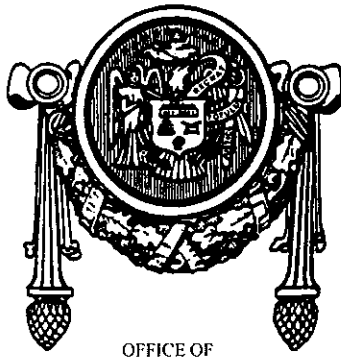
Probate
(501) 340-5605
Fax (501) 340-3343

Real Estate
(501) 340-8433
Fax (501) 340-8889

Juvenile
(501) 340-6766
Fax (501) 340-7012

Voter Registration
(501) 340-8683
Fax (501) 340-3556

PULASKI



COUNTY

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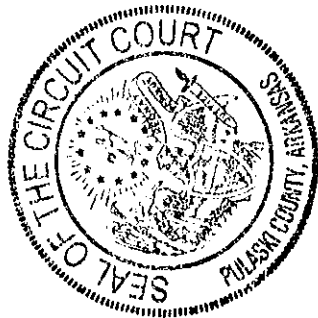
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OFFICIAL OATH

I, Robert Daugherty do hereby solemnly swear or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and that I will not be interested directly or indirectly, in any contract made by the district of which I am elected, except as permitted by state law and that I will faithfully discharge the duties as a board member in the LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT, NO 2 of Pulaski County, Arkansas, upon which I am about to enter.



Robert A. Daugherty
NAME

2101 S. MARLIN LA.
ADDRESS

L. R. AR 72204
CITY STATE ZIP

Sworn to and subscribed before me, Marion Humphrey, a Circuit Judge for the County of Pulaski this 25th day of October, Two Thousand and Seven

Marion A. Humphrey
Judge Marion Humphrey
1st Division Circuit Judge

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