

LRSD – Special Agenda

June 10, 2019

In my approval of this agenda item, I wish to acknowledge with great appreciation the work of the LREA and LRSD negotiating teams on arriving at this agreement.

The Teacher Salary Enhancement Act championed by Governor Hutchinson has provided an excellent opportunity to make LRSD more competitive in teacher recruitment with this increase in the starting salary. This agreement accelerates the timeline to meet the new minimum salary schedule in the 2019-20 school, rather than waiting until 2022-23. The funding provided by Gov. Hutchinson and the Arkansas General Assembly made that acceleration feasible.

With that accelerated timeline, however, comes a responsibility for ensuring the district can maintain the ongoing financial obligation. The budget reductions and efficiency efforts implemented since 2015, together with the efficiencies in education delivery that will result from the LRSD Community Blueprint, have positioned the district to meet this obligation. I am confident in the vigilance of the LRSD Finance Office to analyze and advise Mr. Poore and the Commissioner's Office regarding any factors that might affect district finances in the future, and to recommend adjustments to budgets, staffing, and policies as may be necessary.