



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
January 17, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special board meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2013, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dianne Curry presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dianne Curry
Greg Adams
Norma Johnson
Tommy Branch
Jody Carreiro
Leslie Fisker
Michael Nellums

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Holmes, Superintendent of Schools
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Dr. Nellums arrived at 5:44 p.m.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The agenda for the meeting consisted of one action item: consideration and approval of the Professional Negotiated Agreement. There was also a discussion regarding the superintendent's recommendations for safety and security upgrades.

A. PN Agreement

The administration recommended voting to approve the agreement presented with the exception of Article 4 and Article 6 which require additional review and revision by the attorneys. Dr. Whitehorn provided the latest updated copy of the PNA for the board's review and discussion. He, Cathy Kohler and Khayyam Eddings responded to questions from the board.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the agreement as recommended, excluding Articles 4 and 6 for agreement and using the language in item 34E as read into the record. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Article 34E is related to Legal Counsel and reads:

If criminal or civil proceedings are brought against a teacher alleging wrongful conduct arising out of his/her employment, the Board shall furnish legal counsel to defend in such proceedings and shall give support and other assistance to him/her as are necessary except in those cases where either the Board of Directors is the plaintiff in the case or the alleged actions of the teacher that prompted the proceedings are clearly not within the effective policies of the School System or that violate the Arkansas Department of Education Code of Ethics, the Little Rock School District policy or state, federal or local law.

During discussion, Ms. Fiskien objected to the provisions in the agreement pertaining to removing records from personnel files. She asked for her objection to be made part of the record.

Dr. Nellums expressed concern that the attorneys are not involved in the drafting of the professional negotiated agreement from the beginning. He asked if that could be done in the future.

After questions and discussion, the motion to approve **carried unanimously**.

B. Worksession – Safety & Security

Dr. Holmes introduced Safety & Security Director Bobby Jones and prefaced the presentation to be made by some of the district's building principals. Mr. Burton introduced secondary principals for a discussion and review of their requests for upgrades to their building security. Mr. Bailey briefly provided the financial impact of the requests being presented.

Nancy Rousseau, principal of Central High School, Rhonda Hall, principal of Mabelvale Middle School, and Suzanne Ross, principal of Pulaski Heights Middle School, were present to review the security improvement they would like to see in their buildings. All secondary schools have submitted requests for security enhancements including additional security personnel, upgrades to camera systems, key card locks for entry, security fencing and gates on parking lots, and intercom system improvements.

Dr. Sadie Mitchell introduced elementary principals Barbara Anderson, Darian Smith, and Shoutelle Richardson. Ms. Anderson discussed the additional precautions being implemented at Roberts Elementary in the way of staff awareness. Mr. Smith reported the additional resources which have been provided over the past few years at Mabelvale Elementary which have resulted in better traffic control and better security in supervision of students. Ms. Richardson discussed the need for safety enhancements at Chicot Elementary.

Bobby Jones, Director of Safety & Security, discussed his recommendation for firearms training and certification for school based security officers to be placed at all school buildings which don't have an armed police officer.

Mr. Jones responded to questions from the board regarding the recommendations and consideration for safety of district students and staff. Mr. Adams expressed concerns regarding the recommendation, citing the public perception of school safety and the need for having armed security officers in the schools.

Dr. Holmes closed out the session by informing the board it would be his recommendation to place an armed security person in each school where no uniformed police officer was assigned.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED: 01-24-13

Originals Signed by:
Dianne Curry, President
Norma J. Johnson, Secretary