



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 24, 2013

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Nellums

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 5:40 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Dr. Nellums was absent. The student ex officio, George Elrod from Central High School was present. The teacher ex-officio, Susan Merry did not attend.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendents Citations & Commendations

Dr. Holmes recognized school board members in honor of *Arkansas School Board Member appreciation month*. Pamela Smith read the Governor's proclamation recognizing school board member service.

Dr. Holmes made remarks regarding the Central High School band's participation in the inaugural parade in Washington, DC.

Dr. Holmes introduced Margo Bushmiaer to review information on school health, nursing and on the recent flu outbreak across the country. Arkansas is on alert for the flu, and Ms. Bushmiaer reviewed precautions that should be taken by students and families to stay healthy during this season.

Pamela Smith recognized students from Parkview Magnet High School for their recent selection as a "cool school" by KATV Channel 7. Students from the Parkview mime troop performed, and Fred Boosey the director of the drama department was introduced. He in turn introduced Carolyn Foreman, choir Director at Parkview, who presented a performance by students of barbershop harmony. These students recently attended a workshop in Cabot to learn more about this style of vocalization.

At the agenda meeting on January 10 recognition was given to the Central High School Band and flag line. They were invited to participate in the 57th Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. and were raising funds to sponsor the trip, with their goal being \$100,000. Band Director Brice Evans and Flag Line sponsor, Ms. Bettye Williams were introduced.

Scott Morgan, principal of McDermott Elementary, and several McDermott students were present to discuss a project they undertook to provide angel ornaments for students at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Mr. Morgan delivered the ornaments over the Christmas holiday.

Coach John Kelley was recently selected Administrator of the Year for the Arkansas Association of Student Councils. Coach Kelley is a 43 year employee of the LRSD and has worked with the Parkview Student Council for many years.

Ms. Sonja Williams was recognized for her selection as the 2012 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America. Ms. Williams is an American history teacher at Hall High School. She will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and will participate in a summer teaching institute. In addition, a collection of history books and educational materials will be presented to the Hall High library.

Twenty-one teachers who achieved National Board Certification were introduced. These teachers meet high standards of professional development through study, evaluation, self-assessment and review. Most of the following were present for introduction:

- Deborah Bonds, Central High
- Peggy Clay, Pulaski Heights Elementary
- Gina Glover, Roberts Elementary
- Tina Greenwood, Woodruff Early Childhood Center
- Barbara Hall, Pulaski Heights Elementary
- Vanessa Hendrix, King Magnet Elementary
- Carolyn Johnson, Mann Magnet Middle
- Lori Kirchner, McDermott Elementary
- Betty Larry, Cloverdale Aerospace Technology Middle
- Nathalie Massanelli, Jefferson Elementary
- Amber Matthews, Jefferson Elementary
- Carman McBride, Roberts Elementary
- Paige Puckett, McDermott Elementary
- Shana Loring, Dunbar Magnet Middle
- Mary Struthers, Williams Magnet Elementary
- Twyla Tate, Pulaski Heights Elementary
- Beverly Tucker, McDermott Elementary
- Anne Virden, Pulaski Heights Middle
- Kristi Ward, Dunbar Magnet Middle
- June Wine, McClellan Magnet High

B. Partners in Education

One new partnership was presented for the board's approval. Ms. Milam introduced:

Brady Elementary School represented by principal *Tyrone Harris* in partnership with **Matlock & Associates** represented by *Lester Matlock and Robin Gann*

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to accept the partnership. Mr. Branch seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Remarks from Citizens

Kenneth Fisher, maintenance employee, expressed concerns about workplace bullying. He provided his personal contact information for the board's information.

Marcus Devine praised the board for their initiative to increase the minority vendor participation to 30%. Mr. Devine is an attorney, and a graduate of LRCHS. He started a construction company in 2007 and has worked across the city in major projects.

D. Donations of Property

The ex-officio student George Elrod read the donations as listed in the following chart. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve and accept the donations. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	\$100.00 cash to the hospitality program	Mr. & Mrs. Wilder Baker
Fair Park Early Childhood Center	\$15,000.00 cash to purchase equipment for the school	Roy & Christine Sturgis Charitable & Educational Trust Mr. Barry Findley, Trustee
Mann Magnet Middle School	\$1,000 cash to benefit needy families	Bakery Feeds, Division of Griffin Industries
Romine Interdistrict School	\$179.00 cash to purchase a refrigerator for the health room	Hunter United Methodist Church

E. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler thanked Ms. Bushmiaer for her remarks regarding health and wellness. She also thanked the board for their service. She spoke in opposition to having armed guards in our schools, and against the proposal which was on the board's agenda for additional discussion later in the meeting. She also encouraged parents to look at our schools during the open enrollment period and to select the programs and options available in the LRSD.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Carreiro thanked the presenters earlier in the meeting. He encouraged attendance at the magnet school fair coming up on the weekend, and said he would have additional comments later in the meeting.

Ms. Fiskien thanked everyone who worked on the safety and security recommendations which will be presented later in the meeting.

Mr. Branch thanked the audience and encouraged others to attend board meetings. He congratulated the students from Central and Parkview who were recognized earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Johnson encouraged parents to pay attention and focus on what their children are doing. She asked them to seek help when children have a problem and be proactive in preventing tragedies before they happen.

Mr. Adams commented on the attention from the media surrounding the issues currently before the board. He specified the upcoming superintendent search, the need to begin looking at facilities needs and the acquisition of property, the ongoing requirement to focus on improving student achievement, and the recommendation from the superintendent regarding the armed school security officers. He encouraged the listeners to focus on the fact that LRSD schools are safe and the district will do everything to protect the students in our buildings.

Ms. Curry thanked the students who had presented earlier in the meeting.

B. Student Registration – Open Enrollment Information

At the agenda meeting, Dr. Fields presented information on the upcoming open enrollment process. All information regarding registering for school is available on the LRSD website. The forms can be completed at home and delivered to the district during open enrollment. Donna Creer, Magnet School Coordinator, was present and responded to questions regarding magnet school registration.

It was emphasized that the open enrollment period is for students who are new to the LRSD and for those who are applying for magnet schools or transfers. Parents of 3 and 4 year old students must attend registration. Students who are currently enrolled and don't plan any changes to their current school assignment will automatically roll up to the next grade level.

C. LRSD Anti-Bullying Program Update

At the agenda meeting, Sadie Mitchell reported on progress of the establishment of the districtwide anti-bullying program. Professional development and "training of trainers" took place this week at the Clinton Library. Staff and members of the committee have been brought up to date on the district's harassment policy and the updated reporting process. Mr. Adams and Ms. Johnson serve as board representatives to the anti-bullying committee.

Dr. Mitchell briefly discussed the establishment of the anti-bullying committee; Mr. Adams made brief comments regarding appointment of individuals to the committee. Kelsey Bailey reviewed the budgetary information which was included on the board's agenda, and the board was asked to approve the budget of expenditures which were included in the financial recommendations.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve these expenditures within the current budget. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

D. Stipulation Magnet Schools

Dr. Mitchell introduced Donna Creer and principals of the district's stipulation magnet schools. There was additional discussion regarding the Magnet School Fair at McCain Mall. Principals present included:

- Cheryl Carson, Booker Arts Magnet School.
- Eric Henderson, assistant principal at Parkview Magnet High School
- Dianne Barksdale, Carver Magnet
- Lori Brown, Williams Magnet School
- Felicia Hobbs, Gibbs International Studies Magnet

E. Installation of iPads in LRSD Schools

Dennis Glasgow reported briefly on the number of iPads installed and available for use by students and staff in the district's schools; 3,100 new iPads have been distributed to date. Suzi Davis thanked board members for their support of the middle schools, and introduced Ashley Davis, instructional technology specialist, who is charged with coordinating the iPad training and distribution. Kelvin Williams, an 8th grade student at Henderson Magnet Middle School and Kristen Barnette, teacher representative from Mabelvale Middle School, discussed briefly their experiences with iPad availability.

F. January PRE Quarterly Report

Dr. DeJarnette briefly reviewed the Quarterly report which was provided as part of the board's agenda and responded to questions from the board. There was no action taken.

G. Recruiting and Retaining Our Students as Future Educators

Dr. Jeannie Huddle was present at the agenda meeting to discuss a program of recruiting district students into the teaching profession. A packet of information was provided for the board's review at that time. There were comments regarding the Teachers of Tomorrow program coordinated for several years by Robert Robinson as part of minority recruitment efforts in the Human Resources Department.

H. Grade Inflation for High Schools

Dennis Glasgow provided a summary report for the board's review on the state's definition of 'grade inflation' in schools across the state. He responded to questions from the board.

I. Internal Auditors Report

The monthly auditor's report was provided in the board's agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on December 20, 2012, and from special meetings held on December 13, 2012, January 10, 2013, and January 17, 2013 were presented for review and approval. Ms. Fisken made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A. Policy Revision – Second Reading: JICD Anti-Bullying

Policy JICD – Anti-Bullying was presented for second reading review and approval. Linda Young was present to respond to questions. The recommendation for first reading included highlights for the changes to existing policy. Mr. Adams moved to approve the policy on second reading. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

The board took a brief recess at 8:19 p.m. They returned at 8:42 p.m. Mr. Branch left the meeting prior to the break.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

A. Armed Security Guards

The superintendent presented a recommendation to place armed security guards in the schools where police resource officers are not currently assigned. These officers would be trained by professionals and would be licensed to carry weapons. It was reported there are currently 16 armed police officers in secondary schools across the district, but no armed personnel assigned to elementary schools. Dr. Holmes reported 80% of the teachers surveyed indicated their support for armed guards. He also reported a significant support from parents who responded to the survey.

Ms. Johnson, Mr. Carreiro, Mr. Adams and Ms. Fisken spoke to the proposal for arming school security officers. Mr. Carreiro suggested additional mental health services for students and support for implementation of the "bully-proofing" curriculum which will reduce the risk of school violence.

Mr. Adams spoke in favor of the interventions and strategies for increasing awareness and school safety and said he would support additional security officers at the secondary level.

Ms. Fisken suggested hiring people with a law enforcement background in our security department. She also requested access to the results of the surveys administered to parents and teachers. Ms. Fisken then moved to approve the superintendent's recommendation. The motion died for lack of second. No additional action was taken.

B. Unarmed Security Officers

Dr. Holmes discussed the three agenda items for enhancing safety and security measures in the schools. He also suggested a separate worksession for review and discussion of the district's security needs.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the recommendation to hire additional security personnel, including additional support at PHMS. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Request for Additional Police Officers / LRPD

Mr. Adams moved to approve a recommendation to request additional Little Rock police officers for assignment to the district's secondary schools. Mr. Carreiro seconded the motion, and it **carried 4-1**, with Ms. Curry voting no. Ms. Curry asked for consideration to placing school resource officers at elementary schools as well as the secondary schools.

REORDER THE AGENDA: Mr. Carreiro made a motion to reorder the agenda to move Item 9 B, Security Enhancements, to this point in the meeting. Action will be reported as printed in the agenda. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADD: Mr. Carreiro moved to add a report on the minority vendor committee. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Mr. Becker read the names of the individuals who have been appointed and who have agreed to serve on the minority vendor committee. Ms. Fisken made a motion to approve the appointments, Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VII. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Let Our Violence End (LOVE) Contractual Services

Reginald Merritt, Coordinator of Safe & Drug Free Schools, presented a recommendation to approve the contract for continuation of the L.O.V.E. program. An overview of the program was provided in the board's agenda as well as a copy of the contract. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve; Ms. Fisken seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were provided in the board's agenda. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve; Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

IX. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. ADE – Assurances for Programs Under ESEA

The ACSIP Plan Assurances under ESEA from the Arkansas Department of Education were presented for the board's review. Mr. Carreiro moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the assurances as required by the ADE; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

B. Security Enhancements for Exterior Entrances

The board was provided detailed information on the installation of electronic locks with enhanced security features. Funding would be provided through bond refunding at an estimated cost of \$5,500 for elementary schools, \$9,500 for secondary schools and \$3,500 for administrative offices. An estimated total was given at \$326,000.

Ms. Fiskien moved to approve the security enhancements for exterior doors. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Budget Update

No additional information was provided.

D. Financial Statements

The monthly financial reports were printed in the board's agenda.

X. CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Holmes thanked the board for their discussion on the security issues. He expressed respect for their viewpoints, and stated he was pleased with the conversation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 02-28-13

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