



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 26, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2012, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jody Carreiro presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Carreiro
Michael Nellums
Charles Armstrong
Greg Adams
Melanie Fox
Dianne Curry
Norma Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Carreiro called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call. Ms. Curry arrived at 5:50. Teacher ex officio, Steven Helmick from **Watson Elementary School** was also present. The student ex officio did not attend.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

At the agenda meeting on January 12, Dr. Holmes recognized the teachers who recently achieved National Board Certification. The National Board process takes several years of rigorous training and testing before certification is granted.

The teachers who were recognized are listed along with the school where they currently teach:

- Tracy Barbarotto, Gibbs Magnet
- Patricia Bearden, Parkview Magnet
- Sara Brown, Carver Magnet
- M'Shay Callicott, Parkview Magnet
- Lynda Charles, J. A. Fair High School
- Sandra Courtois, Otter Creek Elementary
- Marian Cunningham, Roberts Elementary
- Margaret Dawson, Forest Park Elementary
- Lori Diffey, Carver Magnet
- Deokie Fleming, Pulaski Heights Elementary
- Lori Gibson, Gibbs Magnet Elementary
- Lauren Harrison, Pulaski Heights Elementary
- Jillane Johnson, Gibbs Magnet
- Sharolyn Jones-Taylor, Central High
- Jason McCann, Central High
- Rosemary Rogers, Brady Elementary
- Amanda Swift, Dodd Elementary
- Pamela Wallace, Mabelvale Middle
- Jennifer White, Gibbs Magnet
- Katherine Wright Knight (recertified), Cloverdale Aerospace Middle

This month's teacher ex officio representative to the board, Steven Helmick, was presented with a citation in appreciation of his service.

B. Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month

Prior to the board meeting, a reception was held in the lobby of the administration building in recognition of School Board Member Recognition Month. Dr. Holmes made remarks acknowledging the service provided by the board, and a proclamation from Arkansas' Governor Mike Beebe was read. A copy of the proclamation was attached to the board's agenda.

Henri Smothers, president of the Little Rock PTA Council, also addressed the board with remarks of appreciation and admiration to the board for their service.

Sarah Bernhard, vice president of the PTA Council's membership committee, Sandy Becker, the staff support representative to the Council, and Rita Qualls, recording secretary, took turns thanking the board for their service and for being the voice of the children in Little Rock.

C. Partners in Education

At the agenda meeting on January 12, Ms. Milam presented new partnerships for the board's consideration and approval.

- **McClellan High School**, represented by *Marvin Burton*, in partnership with **Longley Baptist Church** represented by *Ron Palk*
- **Metropolitan Career and Technical High School**, represented by *Allie Freeman*, in partnership with **Cameron Corporation**
- **Washington Magnet Elementary School**, represented by *Kathryn Snyder* in partnership with the **Barnabas Brigade at St. John Baptist Church**, represented by *Jimmy Smith* and several members of St. John

Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the partnerships; Mr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Kathryn Snider, principal of Washington Magnet Elementary School, made a brief presentation and announced the award of a grant to Washington Elementary from Project Learning Tree of the Arkansas Forestry Commission. *Rob Beadle* from the AFC was at the meeting and a check for \$1,000 was presented.

Debbie Milam made brief remarks and introduced Rita Qualls to announce National Thank Your Mentor Day. She thanked all district volunteers who serve as mentors to our students, and she invited others in the community to join the mentoring projects in the LRSD.

D. Remarks from Citizens

Mr. Hugh Leavell of the Arkansas Youth Challenge program made a brief presentation regarding the availability of this program to assist students who may not be on target for high school graduation. Information was provided to the board members and superintendent, and to the district's counselors.

E. Legal Update

At the agenda meeting on January 12, Mr. Heller reported on the hearing in federal court concerning discovery in our case against the state on the issue of charter schools and achievement disparities. The court is reviewing our arguments and is expected to decide in May if a full trial will be granted. Mr. Heller reported we would have additional opportunities to submit further discovery if we are granted a trial.

Mr. Heller also spoke briefly on the 2012 elections, rezoning the school election zones, and whether the board would be entitled to the exemption from the law on holding elections to replace all seven board members. Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Curry requested additional detail on the maps for zone 5.

A brief update was also provided at the regular board meeting. Mr. Heller reported he had filed in the 8th circuit court to recover some of the costs associated with the appeals of the magnet and desegregation funding.

F. Approval of Map for Board Election Rezoning

Mr. Heller provided additional maps for review of the board election zones and proposals drawn by Metroplan in response to the board's questions and concerns. Ms. Curry and Mr. Armstrong asked for additional time to review the maps and determine whether they would be prepared to vote on the rezoning next month.

G. Little Rock PTA Council

Henri Smothers discussed the upcoming Founders Day program which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 11:00 a.m. at Henderson Middle School. She reminded listeners that the deadline for reservations on February 7. The American Education Week awards will be distributed at the luncheon.

H. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler discussed the continuing collaborative negotiations for this year's salary agreement. She thanked board members for their service and reminded listeners to get their children registered for school during open enrollment.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Johnson read a letter from a teacher at Hamilton Learning Academy which reported students are implementing their first project based learning assignment. A staff /student basketball game will also be held at Hamilton as a fundraiser for the school. She encouraged everyone to support all students in the district and become involved, especially with the students who have made bad choices.

Ms. Fox asked for volunteers to help Hamilton students with their project; they requested volunteers who are African American WWII or Vietnam war veterans. She also announced Pulaski Heights Elementary School had been granted a safe routes to school grant. \$100,000 will be used for sidewalk building and education on safe routes to schools. It was noted that Forest Park Elementary would be turning 100 years old during the 2013 school year. She encouraged everyone who had attended Forest Park Elementary to get in touch and to be involved in the celebration.

Mr. Nellums complimented Ms. Smothers on her 25 years of volunteer service to the PTA. He reported he had visited nearly all schools in his zone this week and related experiences with visiting at Stephens and Franklin Elementary and at Hall High Schools.

Mr. Armstrong encouraged participation in the schools by parents and others in the community. He asked for input and assistance and encouraged the public to make an investment in our children. He reported receiving encouraging news from a parent whose son had attended Hamilton. This student graduated and is now a student at UAPB.

Ms. Curry thanked Ms. Smothers and Ms. Qualls for their volunteer service and she encouraged others to become volunteers in public schools. She commended Dr. Fields and his staff for this week's registration at St. Mark.

Mr. Adams also thanked the district's volunteers. He expressed appreciation to volunteers from City Year who worked on the campus of McClellan High School. He thanked parents who have elementary students at Williams, Roberts and Fulbright Elementary Schools for organizing to assist other parents as they review their options for middle school. He reported these parents were doing what all parents should do when looking at what is best for their children. He encouraged listeners to take an open minded look at all the options available.

Mr. Adams also reported he served on the district's Wellness Committee. This group is reviewing ways to maximize the overall wellness of our students. They received a report on the Mabelvale Middle School garden and ways the school can use the things that are grown in the garden. He thanked Ms. Bouie for accepting suggestions and for being open to collaborative efforts.

Mr. Carreiro encouraged his fellow board members to continue to discourage communications with people who are involved in disciplinary actions with the district. He noted board policy BEE, which states there will be no outside communication from people who are involved in disciplinary actions, neither students nor employees. He thanked the staff, the PTA and VIPS for the reception held prior to the meeting.

B. Report: Magnet Fair / Student Services / Open Enrollment

At the agenda meeting, Donna Grady Creer reviewed a presentation on the district's upcoming magnet school fair. Ms. Barksdale, principal at Carver Magnet Elementary School, set up a display of items highlighting Carver as a demonstration typical of the promotions made by other magnet schools at the annual fair. This year's fair will be held on Saturday, January 21 at Park Plaza Mall.

Dena Eggleston provided a brief update on open enrollment and early registration. Beginning on January 23, registration was held at St. Mark Baptist Church. Next week, beginning January 30 and continuing through February 3, registration will be held at 501 Sherman Street. Students currently in the LRSD can complete applications for magnet schools at their local school.

C. Update: National School Counseling Week

Dr. Holmes congratulated the counselors and introduced Laureen Isom, Director of Counseling, to make a brief update on National School Counseling week. February 6 – 10 is set aside to celebrate and thank school counselors for their service to the students. The LRSD has a total of 68 counselors, with 40 at the elementary school level.

D. FCC Licensing Options

Tiffany Hoffman provided information on a request for the district to lease it's radio broadcasting license to an outside agency. After a review and recommendations from professionals in the field, it wasn't recommended for the district to continue maintaining the licenses.

E. January 2012 PRE Quarterly Report

The January PRE Quarterly report was provided as part of the board's agenda. Karen DeJarnette was present and responded to questions.

F. Second Quarterly Progress Report to the Board on District Goals and Initiatives

Dennis Glasgow reviewed the second quarterly progress report on reaching the district goals which was attached to the agenda. Highlights were provided in last week's Friday Update, and a PowerPoint overview was presented.

Highlights included an increase in the number of classroom walkthroughs in the schools, a decrease in student absences, teacher absences and discipline referrals, an increase in the number of students enrolled in Pre-AP courses, and an increase in enrollment in art, music, Algebra I, Geometry and foreign languages.

The board took a ten minute break and reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

G. Committee to recommend policy on appropriate use of social media

Dr. Holmes requested appointment of a broad-based committee to review social networking and acceptable use of computer networks. At the board meeting, Dr. Holmes presented a list of names for the board's review and consideration. Dennis Glasgow will head the committee and updates will be provided as the committee begins their work.

H. Update Land Bank Property Program for LRSD Employees

At the agenda meeting, David Hartz provided information from the City of Little Rock and their Board of Directors' implementation of the land bank program. The board was asked to adopt a resolution in support of the cooperative effort to formally support the land bank. Ms. Curry made a motion to approve the resolution presented. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

I. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was printed in the board's agenda. No other information was requested.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on December 15, 2011 and from a special meeting on January 12, 2012 were presented for review and approval. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. LRSD Technology Plan 2012-15

Dennis Glasgow provided an overview of the 2012-15 Technology Plan at the agenda meeting, and a draft copy of the plan was provided for review as part of the agenda. The final plan was provided at the regular meeting, and the administration requested approval to submit the plan to the ADE. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the plan for submission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Curry, and **carried unanimously**.

B. Math Solutions Professional Services Agreement

C. Kagan Professional Development Services Agreement

Two supplemental services agreements were presented for the board's review and approval. Math Solutions will provide professional development to teachers at the 4th and 5th grade levels at Meadowcliff, Washington, Rockefeller, Baseline, Geyer Springs, Mabelvale and Watson Elementary Schools. These sessions will be coordinated and facilitated through the district's mathematics department.

The Kagan agreement will provide professional development to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers at Meadowcliff, Washington, Rockefeller, Baseline, Geyer Springs, Mabelvale and Watson. This will assist teachers in cooperative learning strategies to assist students and will provide training to designated teachers in becoming lead teachers. This training will also be coordinated and facilitated through the LRSD mathematics department.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve both agreements; Mr. Nellums seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

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

VII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Ten-Year Facilities Master Plan

Wayne Adams provided brief review of the Ten-Year Facilities Master Plan. A copy of the complete plan was provided for the board and will remain available in the board's conference room. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the resolution; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey provided a preliminary budget calendar and reported budget workshops would be scheduled soon according to the board's availability.

C. Financial Reports

The monthly financial reports were provided in the agenda. Mr. Bailey responded to questions. In addition, the annual district audit will be presented next month for approval.

VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Holmes reminded the audience of the registration dates: finishing up tomorrow at St. Mark and continuing next week at the Student Registration office.

The board discussed scheduling worksessions: tentatively set February 9 after the agenda meeting and February 16, 5:00 p.m. for a facilities worksession.

Ms. Fox left the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

IX. STUDENT DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Board members were provided information relative to twenty students who had been involved in disciplinary infractions at their schools.

J.T., a J. A. Fair student, took a loaded weapon onto the campus of Bale Elementary School. He was recommended for expulsion for one calendar year. Mr. Armstrong moved to uphold the administration's recommendation with the expulsion beginning one year from the date of the incident in May 2011. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Three elementary school students were referred for placement in an alternative learning environment at Washington and Franklin Elementary Schools. Mr. Nellums moved to approve the expulsion and placement; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

The remaining 16 students were recommended for placement at either Hamilton or Felder for either one full semester or one calendar year based upon their offenses. Mr. Nellums made the motion; Ms. Curry seconded, and it **carried unanimously**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

APPROVED: 02-23-12

Originals Signed by:
Jody B. Carreiro, President
Charles Armstrong, Secretary