



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 13, 2014**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2014, immediately following the regular agenda meeting, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Greg Adams presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Adams
Norma Johnson
C. E. McAdoo
Jody Carreiro
Dianne Curry
Leslie Fisker
Tara Shephard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Dexter Suggs, Superintendent of Schools
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. All members of the Board were present at roll call.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The agenda for the meeting included the following action items:

- A. Transfer of Property in Pankey Addition of West Little Rock
- B. Geyer Springs High Ability Academy
- C. Employee Hearing

III. ACTION AGENDA

A. Transfer of Property in Pankey Addition of West Little Rock

Dr. Suggs made a recommendation to transfer property owned by the LRSD to the City of Little Rock. Khayyam Eddings provided background information on the property and responded to questions from the board. The LRSD had deeded the property to a community group in Pankey for use in building a community center and educational facility. The group started construction of a building, but never completed it. The building would be used by the city as a police substation with space for community use. Representatives from the city were present.

Ms. Fisker made a motion to quit claim any rights in the property to the City of Little Rock. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Geyer Springs High Ability Academy

Dr. Suggs made a recommended to transform Geyer Springs Elementary School to the Geyer Springs High Ability Academy beginning with grades 3 – 5, expanding over the next years to include K – 2 students as noted in Option B of the recommendation.

Ms. Shephard made comments regarding a meeting with the faculty at Geyer Springs. The teachers at Geyer Springs were commended for the job they are doing with the students currently enrolled at Geyer Springs. She thanked the advocates in the community for their comments. She said we have to begin thinking of sending kids to school to be educated, and it is up to the board and the administration to ensure every student receives a quality education. Mr. Carreiro also spoke in support of the transformation of Geyer Springs into a school where students who learn differently are provided a quality education.

Ms. Johnson expressed concerns regarding the selection of students and how the students who weren't selected would be assigned. Ms. Curry expressed concerns with the "high-ability" title for the school, and asked if more community input could be considered in naming the school. She asked if preference could be given to students from Geyer Springs to go to Dunbar as they move to the 6th grade. Mr. McAdoo asked for a periodic timeline for Geyer Springs as we move through the transformation process.

Ms. Shephard made a motion to transform Geyer Springs into the Geyer Springs Gifted and Talented Academy as shown in Option B of the board's agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson, and it **carried unanimously**.

The board recessed briefly and reconvened at 8:52 p.m. to conduct an employee hearing.

C. Employee Hearing

Six members of the board were present for the employee hearing. Mr. Carreiro left at the break.

Attorney Greg Alagood represented the employee FW. Attorney Khayyam Eddings represented the LRSD. Court reporter Stephanie Branton was also present.

<The employee> was recommended for termination based on an incident occurring at Hall High School. Thomas Noble, the assistant principal at Hall High School, was asked to describe the incident which occurred in his office. <The employee> used physical force to hold a student on the table after accompanying the student to Mr. Noble's office. The student failed to follow the teacher's directives in the classroom, and was given a disciplinary referral for his actions just prior to the incident in the assistant principal's office.

Mr. Eddings presented a video showing <the employee> escorting the student down the hall to Mr. Noble's office. Both attorneys questioned Mr. Noble regarding the incident. Very little of the incident inside the office was visible on the recording.

<The employee> was asked to review the reasons for the incident, the classroom behavior, and the referral for discipline. The student was "sagging," and refused to follow a directive from the teacher to pull up his pants. <The employee> claimed the student physically assaulted him in Mr. Noble's office; however, he did not refer the student for that offense.

Written statements from all witnesses to the incident were provided for the board's review.

The board convened an executive session at 11:09 p.m. Five members of the board returned from executive session at 11:53 p.m. and reported no action was taken. Ms. Fisker did not return from executive session.

In her motion, Ms. Curry stated the allegations stated in the termination letter were found to be true. The recommendation for termination was modified to allow <the employee> to remain in an alternate position outside of the classroom for the remainder of this school year and to allow him to return to the classroom at a different school next school year. Mr. Williams is to prove that he has received training in anger management and behavior modification as to be determined by the administration. A condition of his continued employment is to complete this training. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried 5-0**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

APPROVED: 02-27-14

Originals Signed by:
Greg Adams, President
C. E. McAdoo, Secretary