



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 28, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 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 5:35 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call. The student ex officio, Miranda Wilson from Parkview Magnet High School and the teacher ex-officio, Rebecca Houston from Pulaski Heights Middle School, were also present.

**II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A. Superintendents Citations & Commendations**

Dr. Holmes introduced Pamela Smith to make announcements at the agenda meeting on February 14, 2013. The first students to be recognized were McDonald's All-Americans, Bobby Portis and Tyler Scaife from Hall High School. They will be playing in the McDonald All-American games in Chicago on April 3. It was noted this was the first time in history that two student athletes were selected from the same high school in the same year for this prestigious honor. The students were not present, but will be invited to the next board meeting.

Rex Deloney, art teacher at Central High School, was recently selected to participate in the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Delta Art Exhibition. His self-portrait, *Artist as a Teacher*, was selected for inclusion in this prestigious show, where his work received an honorable mention.

Jason McCann, also a teacher at Central High School, was also introduced as a participant in the Delta Art Exhibition. His work is on display in the gallery at the Arkansas Arts Center.

Central High School “young authors” were introduced in recognition of the second edition of the *Memory Project - Mapping the Road to Change*. The students were: Micah Booker, Clayton Gentry, Abhilasha Gokulan, Sally Goldman, Ginny Greer, Ty’Neshia Lee, Malik Marshall, Jhade McConnell, Rachel Schaffhauser, and Aaron Yin. Their sponsor/instructors, Keith Richardson and George West introduced the teachers involved in the project including Cynthia Mahomes Nunnley, Mike Johnson, Kirby Shofner, Rex Deloney, Jason McCann, Nancy Wilson, Agnolia Gay, Stacey McAdoo, Scott Hairston, Sarah Schutte, and Nicole Jackson.

Members of the Hall High School Forensics and Debate team won first place at an invitational debate tournament at the University of Central Arkansas. Coaches Helen Strickland and Chris Flowers introduced members of the team.

Marilyn Brewster was recognized for her part in promoting good health through the Parkview Health Fair.

At the board meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, Pat Boykin and students from Mann Magnet Middle School were present to highlight the arts and science program at Mann. Prior to the board meeting, five of the Mann music students performed in the lobby.

Students from Gibbs Magnet School presented their “Kids Stick Together” project. This effort was developed as a way to help students at Sandy Hook Elementary. Third graders made hand crafted items from duct tape with the funds going to Sandy Hook counseling programs. To date \$1,900.00 has been raised, and the projects continue.

LRCHS cheerleaders won first place in national competition in Atlanta, GA. They scored highest over all other participating high schools.

Elementary science supervisor Jennifer Webb presented a video of the elementary science fair and introduced several of the winning students. Twenty eight schools participated in this year’s science fair.

The Hall High School Drama Department’s International Thespian Society presented “Search for Signs of Intelligent Life.” Ms. Strickland, drama coach and teacher, thanked Ms. Johnson for inviting her students to present.

## **B. Partners in Education**

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

**Metropolitan Career and Technical Center** represented by *Beverly Thrasher* in partnership with **UAMS Center for Diversity Affairs** represented by Dr. Thomas and Ms. Pat Eggerson.

Dr. Nellums made a motion to accept the partnership. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. Remarks from Citizens**

*Marcus Devine*, minority business owner and Central High School graduate, congratulated the board on their approval of a 30% minority vendor participation policy. His business participates in vocational education construction programs and plans to bring students 18 or older to construction sites to learn the construction industry. He would like to offer more opportunities for students to enter vocational education programs.

*Roshunda Miller*, parent of a student at Parkview, addressed the board regarding bullying. She had previously addressed her concerns with the administration at Parkview, and she distributed a packet of information to board members. She stated her daughter had been attacked at school, and she was concerned nothing was being done to prevent additional attacks.

*Erica Mosby* with Professional Counseling Associates asked the board to consider allowing a continuation of services through PCA to LRSD students. PCA has served LRSD students through anger management interventions. They have been unable to serve LRSD students because of an inability to meet required funding deadlines.

*Carrie Thompson* addressed the board concerning her son, a special needs student at Roberts Elementary. She complimented the staff at Roberts, stating they had gone above the necessary to serve her child in speech and physical therapy. She expressed concerns regarding his education into the future as there aren't public school options for him after completion of the fifth grade. She thanked Dr. Holmes and board members for their support for a west Little Rock middle school.

*James Ross* introduced himself as the father of five students in the LRSD. He discussed his continuing "vested interest" in the LRSD and stated he had created a FB page to publish documents about the candidates who are being interviewed for the superintendency. He reminded the board of the five qualifications determined by the board to be used when selecting the next superintendent, and he spoke in support of three of the candidates already interviewed.

*Cornelius Roberts* introduced himself as a 19 year employee of the LRSD. He thanked the board for the opportunity to work for the LRSD and for the excellent insurance benefits provided to employees. He expressed concern over block scheduling and the RIF process.

*Carl Evans* introduced himself as the parent of a Forest Heights student. He believes there continues to be discrimination and segregation at FH. He stated students are being punished by the principal and that the entire student body is being punished for something that happened in the previous school year.

### **D. Presentation: Public Education Foundation**

Dr. Holmes asked for this presentation to be rescheduled for a later date.

**E. Donations of Property**

The ex-officio student, Miranda Wilson, read the donations as listed in the following chart. Dr. Nellums made a motion to approve and accept the donations. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

**DONATIONS**

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Baseline Elementary School	\$250.00 cash for student uniforms and incentives	LR Job Corp Center / Student Government Association
Central High School	\$5,000.00 cash for the band trip to Washington, DC  Sony NEX-VG10 camcorder, valued at \$1,700.00 for the EAST program  Refrigerator, valued at \$150.00 for the teachers' lounge	Winthrop P. Rockefeller, Jr.  Mr. Tom Keys  Mr. & Mrs. Scott Davis
Hall High School	\$500.00 grant to the math & science department	BHT Investment Company Inc. / Doublebee's / Exxon Mobile Education Alliance
Jefferson Elementary School	19 \$10.00 gift certificates to Haagen-Dazs, valued at \$190.00	Mr. Brantley Foster
Mabelvale Magnet Middle School	\$400 cash to the garden project	Susan N. Rose / Night Bloomers Garden Club
Roberts Elementary School	Building materials, valued at \$282.70 to build the Roberts EAST Savings bank  Building materials, valued at \$153.00 to build the Roberts EAST Savings bank	Patricia Snipes  Michael Connery

**F. Little Rock PTA Council**

No report.

**G. Little Rock Education Association**

Ms. Kohler addressed the board regarding the importance of remembering our responsibility lies with the children in the district. She asked the board to consider reordering the agenda to move action on the PN agreement to this point in the meeting.

**MOTION TO REORDER THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to reorder the agenda to consider approval of the PN Agreement – Articles 4 and 6 at this point in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Branch, and **carried unanimously**. Action was taken at this point, but will be reported as presented in the agenda.

**MOTION TO REORDER THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Carreiro moved to reorder the agenda to allow the Middle School Presentation at this point in the meeting. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

**MOTION TO REORDER THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to move the audit report presentation to this point in the meeting. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**. Action was taken on the audit, and will be reported as printed in the agenda.

**III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Remarks from Board Members**

Ms. Fisken expressed her gratitude for Dr. Holmes' willingness to come out of retirement to serve the LRSD and the students in our city. Dr. Nellums echoed Ms. Fisken's remarks and commended Dr. Holmes for his conviction and dedication to the students.

Mr. Adams commented on the superintendent search and expressed appreciation for the community members, media, staff and others who had participated in the process of reviewing the qualifications of the applicants. He thanked those who had submitted their comments of concern and their impressions of the candidates. He expressed hope the board would come together in unanimous support for the candidate selected as the next superintendent.

Ms. Johnson expressed appreciation for Dr. Holmes and his leadership over the past two years. She asked the community to trust the board members as their elected officials. She thanked those who had expressed concerns and complaints, but asked them to recognize board members need their support and confidence.

Mr. Branch expressed appreciation for the group of administrators working on the anti-bullying training. He thanked Mr. Burton and Dr. Mitchell for the work they are doing with the committees on anti-bullying efforts. He had attended part of the staff development training sessions and was pleased with the progress being made.

Mr. Carreiro reminded the audience of Dr. Seuss' birthday coming up on Saturday. He encouraged everyone to go to a school and read a book. He announced the next Computer Power Day, Saturday, March 16, where low priced computers will be available for purchase. He reminded listeners of the low-cost internet access through Comcast which is available to eligible families. Forms for the computers are available at the schools, and also on line. Mr. Becker provided additional information, reporting computers were \$40 - \$50 per computer, and prepayment is required by cash or money order.

Ms. Curry thanked Dr. Holmes for accepting the challenge to serve as superintendent for the past few years. She read aloud a letter she was planning to send to the search firm of McPherson & Jacobson thanking them for their service to the LRSD in the most recent search.

## **B. Middle School Presentation / Mabelvale Middle School**

Suzi Davis introduced the broadcast communications presentation from Mabelvale Middle School. She thanked Principal Rhonda Hall and the staff of Mabelvale who participated in the videotaping project.

## **C. Legal Update**

Mr. Heller was not present.

## **D. Update: ACT Brochure**

Mr. Burton provided copies of the ACT College and Career Readiness brochure, and reported copies would be provided to every student in sixth through twelfth grades by US Mail. Ms. Curry encouraged follow up reporting on the numbers of students who take advantage of the testing opportunities.

Mr. Burton was asked to provide information on language services available for adults who may need English classes.

## **E. Report: Arkansas Department of Career Education Start-Up Grant at McClellan Magnet High School**

Mr. Burton reported on a start-up grant opportunity through *Project Lead the Way* which is being implemented at McClellan High School. The instructor for the engineering courses has a degree in physics, and classes are being formed at this time. The \$58,000 grant will cover 85% of the start-up costs and school improvement grant funds will cover the remainder of the initial expenses. The intent of the grant is to provide an introduction to engineering and spark project-based interest in science, math and engineering.

## **F. Minority and Women Owned Business Community Panel**

At the agenda meeting Mr. Bailey announced a Saturday morning meeting of the Minority and Women Owned Business community panel on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. At the board meeting, Dr. Nellums made remarks regarding that meeting, and the progress being made toward developing a working body to assist the district in involving more minorities in the district's vendor processes. The next meeting is set for March 9, 8:00 a.m. He invited board members and others in the community to attend the meeting.

## **G. Anti-Bully Advisory Committee**

At the December 2012 board meeting, the board approved the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee and the *Bully-Proofing Your Schools* program model to be implemented in the LRSD. Since that time, it was determined to be appropriate to add two additional positions on the Anti-bullying Advisory Committee; an "at-large" seat and one reserved as a representative for individuals with disabilities. Since these two positions go above the original directive from the board, the committee requested board action to add these two positions.

Dr. Mitchell provided a brief update on the committees which are meeting to receive the training to implement the anti-bullying curriculum. Mr. Adams thanked the individuals who had agreed to serve on the anti-bullying committee.

Mr. Adams made a motion to add the two requested positions on the anti-bullying advisory committee. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### **H. Internal Auditors Report**

The monthly auditor's report was provided in the board's agenda. No additional information was requested.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS**

#### **A. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on January 24, and from special meetings held on February 14 and February 18, 2013 and were presented for review and approval. Ms. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### **B. Revision to Board Meeting Calendar**

The board annually sets their schedule of meeting dates in the spring for the following school year. Those dates are made public, printed in the district's student calendar, and posted on the LRSD website. Occasionally the board is required to adjust the calendar of meeting dates, and a vote by the board is done prior to public notification.

In April, several board members will be attending the National School Board Association conference, April 12 - 15. It was recommended the board move the agenda meeting to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month to accommodate travel dates for this meeting. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the recommended change. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **V. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. PN Agreement – Articles 4 and 6**

During the presentation section of the meeting, Ms. Kohler requested reordering the agenda to allow discussion and a vote on Articles 4 and 6 of the PNA. Teresa Gordon reviewed the revisions and asked for the board to support the clarification of language in the articles which detail procedures for resolution of grievances and teacher dismissal. Dr. Whitehorn was present to respond to questions regarding the discussions which had taken place between the administration, attorneys, and representatives of the LREA.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve Article 4 and 6 amendments to the PNA as revised. Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VI. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Personnel Changes**

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

## **VII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **A. GAAP Financial Statements & Audit Report for June 30, 2012**

Mr. Bailey introduced Corey Moline the representative from Hudson & Cisne and asked Mr. Carreiro to speak briefly regarding the panel of volunteers who serve on the district's audit committee. Mr. Carreiro serves as the board's representative on the audit committee. It was reported the committee suggested adopting a resolution to establish a reserve for undesignated funds.

Mr. Carreiro moved to accept the audit report as presented and to commend Mr. Bailey and the accounting team for their quality work. Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. LRSD Energy Master Plan**

Mr. Bailey provided an overview of recommendations to improve energy usage across the district, and a summary report was provided as part of the board's agenda. Mr. Bailey asked the board to officially approve the energy conservation plans as presented. Dr. Nellums moved to approve. Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. Budget Update**

Mr. Bailey requested additional discussion on the formulation of the budget in the form of a budget worksession. That will be scheduled within a few weeks.

### **D. Financial Statements**

Reports were provided as part of the board's agenda.

## **VIII. CLOSING REMARKS**

Ms. Smith announced LR Adult Education High graduation ceremony on March 1, 6:00 p.m. at the Adult Ed center at 4800 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street. She also noted English classes are available for Spanish speaking adults in the community. She will make sure pertinent information is posted on the LRSD website.

She also reminded listeners of the mini-parent-involvement conferences set for March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Chicot Elementary and March 9<sup>th</sup> at Booker Magnet Elementary.



## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Carreiro moved to convene an executive session to discuss personnel issues regarding the employment of a superintendent. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it **carried 4 – 3** with Dr. Nellums, Ms. Curry and Mr. Branch voting no.

The board returned from closed session at 8:45 p.m., and reported no action was taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. It was announced a special meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 5, 5:30 p.m.

APPROVED: 03-28-13

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