



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

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

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

Marvin Burton, Interim 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 teacher ex-officio, Kathryn Begnaud from Bale Elementary, was present. The student ex officio did not attend.

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

**A. Superintendents Citations & Commendations**

At the agenda meeting citations of recognition were provided to students from the EAST programs at King Magnet Elementary, Roberts Elementary EAST Savings Bank, Mann Magnet Middle School, Henderson Middle School and Pulaski Heights Middle School.

Blake Abston from Pulaski Heights received a Community Spirit Award from Prudential financial.

Several middle school basketball teams were recognized including the Pulaski Heights girls, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade champions and the Dunbar Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys.

Grace Dostart and Tressa Tinner from Parkview were recipients of \$2,000 scholarships from the THEA Foundation.

In the Dell Scholars program, four students from Central High School were recognized.

Mandy Nguyen from Hall High School won the Arkansas State Champion Poetry Out Loud competition and took \$200.00 first place prize; Hall received \$500.00 as a result and Mandy will attend the national championship

Hall High School girls and boys teams won the state championship games. In addition, Tyler Scaife and Bobby Portis were selected to participate on the McDonald's All American team. Tyler was recognized as the Gatorade State Player of the Year

Ms. Curry presented a plaque honoring Dr. Holmes for his service to the district. In addition, Chicot Primary School staff and students presented Dr. Holmes with a painting done by a student.

Jeanne Huddle introduced Frank Holman, Director of Career Education at Arkansas Tech University, along with several of his graduate students who are aspiring to be superintendents

At the meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, Ms Smith introduced the winners of the district's Mathletes competition. Jefferson Elementary School students were the first place team, but were unable to attend tonight's meeting; Don Roberts Elementary team #1 won second place and Don Roberts Elementary team #2 won third place; Forest Park and Fulbright Elementary students also took awards. Jefferson students will be invited to attend a future meeting.

Students from the Math Counts national competition team from Mann Magnet Middle School were present: Nikoo Karbassi, Shayan Smani, Mohammed Mumtaz and Jack Lester.

In the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics Algebra I competition, Xueping Anna Sue Wond took second place and Zoran Bursac came in third. Both will be competing in the state competition.

Mann students participated in the Mu Alpha Theta National competition and won second place. Team members included Nikoo Karbassi, Shayan Smani, Abigail Bauman and Jones McConnell. Heather Jenkins was introduced as the team's math coach.

Pulaski Heights Middle School students participated in the National History Day competition at UALR. Students recognized included: Alex Crawford, Lillian Clement, Angie Brown, Owen Kong-McLain, Steve Wise, Jack Curtis, Makynzi Watson-Williams, Jordan Staggers, Tulshi Amin, Meredith Hatfield, Hannah Cozart, Madeline Wood, Sam Griffin, Addison Stone, Alex Pickell, Elisabeth Bates, Olivia Hope, Megan Sanders, and Riley Chafin. The teacher sponsors Janet Buford and Jacque Hogg were also recognized.

## B. Remarks from Citizens

Lindsay Carter introduced herself as a Roberts Elementary pre-K parent. She reported her child had benefitted immensely from participation in the pre-K program at Roberts. She was disappointed pre-K classes would no longer be offered at Roberts and she asked the board to consider converting space available in the west Little Rock area to develop a free-standing pre-K center.

Amy Bell, parent of three children, with two attending school in the LRSD, described herself as a “middle class, small business owner, and advocate for public education.” She thanked the board for their efforts to purchase land for a west LR middle school and asked for continued planning for the population growth in west LR. She expressed concern that her students, currently Pre-K and second grade, would not have a middle school option in a few years. Their choices currently would be to pay for private school, move to a suburb outside of Little Rock, or enroll in a charter school. “There have to be options for middle and high school students.”

## C. Donations of Property

Mr. Carreiro, read the donations as listed in the following chart and followed by a motion to approve and accept the donations. Mr. Branch seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

### DONATIONS

<b>SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DONOR</b>
Central High School	Cash donation to softball team - \$250.00  Modular panels – valued at \$200.00  Refrigerator, valued at \$200.00 for teacher's lounge  Donation of a snare drum, valued at \$150.00 to the band program  Cash donation to baseball program - \$4,000.00	Higher Ground Electric Company  Mr. Pat Riley  Mr. Pat Riley  Mr. & Mrs. John Delurey  Mr. & Mrs. H. Baker Kurrus / Kurrus Family Charitable Trust
Forest Heights Middle School	\$500.00 grant to the math & science department  Hats, gloves, scarves for students valued at \$525.00; refreshments for faculty valued at \$62.00  Donation of Six Dell keyboards valued at \$119.94	BHT Investment Company, Inc. / Doublebee's Exxon Mobile / Education Alliance  Faith United Methodist Church  Jon and Diane Cartwright
Hall High School	Cash donation to the boys basketball program - \$300.00  \$1,500.00 Eco-Schools Action Project Mini-grant for Jonathan Buford / Environmental Science Department	Top Level Tournaments, LLC  National Wildlife Federation

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Henderson Middle School	\$500.00 cash to the math and science department	BHT Investment Company, Inc. / B-B Oil Company Exxon / Conoco
Romine Elementary	Donation of refreshments valued at \$150.00 for parent's math & literacy night	On the Border

#### **D. ADE – Dr. Laura Bednar**

Dr. Bednar had been invited to attend the meeting, but was unavailable. Mr. Glasgow reported and responded to questions regarding the priority schools and efforts to improve instructions in those schools. He notified the board he and others from the district would be meeting with ADE representatives and school improvement specialists in the coming week.

#### **E. Henderson Middle School Presentation**

Suzi Davis introduced a video from the broadcast journalism class at Henderson Middle School. Millicent Anderson introduced Steve Geurin, Henderson principal, and the student videographers, Roy Hatcher and Joseph Cranford. It was noted that EAST lab students at Henderson participate in the LRSD Computer Power Day.

The board voted to reorder the agenda to present information from the Firefighter's Junior Cadet Program at Metropolitan Career and Technical Center. Action will be reported as presented in the agenda.

#### **F. Legal Update**

Khayyam Eddings provided an update regarding a lawsuit filed by employees in the district's maintenance department. Late this afternoon Judge Susan Wright granted the district summary judgment, dismissing all 19 of the plaintiffs' complaints.

#### **G. Little Rock PTA Council**

No report.

#### **H. Little Rock Education Association**

Cathy Kohler remarked on the opportunity for students at Metro to participate in the Firefighters Academy. She made remarks regarding the upcoming testing, reminding parents to make sure their students are prepared, well rested, and have a good breakfast.

### **III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **A. Remarks from Board Members**

Ms. Fisker commented on the partnership with Metro and the city fire department. She expressed excitement about preparing high school students for a career. She thanked Mr. Bailey, Mr. Glasgow and Mr. Burton for stepping up to serve as the interim leadership team.

Dr. Nellums echoed Ms. Kohler's remarks about preparing students for the upcoming state testing, stressing the importance of the successful administration of the tests. He reminded the audience that board members may advocate for their own constituency, but that they ultimately represent the entire district of LR. He noted some citizens want favor for specific things in certain areas, but board members have to remember to consider the total health of the school district when making decisions. He encouraged citizens to continue to speak and to exercise their voice. He also encouraged the board to conduct a full facilities study utilizing a consultant, to look at the full range of needs across the district before making any decisions.

Mr. Adams expressed condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Van Patter who taught for many years at M. L. King Elementary School and who recently died as a result of injuries suffered in an accident. He thanked the counselors and former staff members who went to King in support of those who were grieving. He spoke to the process of conducting a facilities review, noting that it was "very much needed" and would require a long process in order to do complete due diligence. He noted some members of the community, those in the poorer parts of the city and those in the growth areas, feel they are being left behind as future considerations are made. He asked listeners to hang in with us and help us look at and make decisions based on the big picture.

Mr. Carreiro thanked Mr. Burton, Mr. Glasgow and Mr. Bailey for taking the lead during the transition period until Dr. Suggs officially takes office on July 1. He thanked everyone involved in making Computer Power Day a great success. He reported 300 computers were provided to families including some to homeless families. He encouraged families to visit Mann Magnet school, to see the new wing, and consider Mann as a middle school option when making school choice decisions. He also expressed condolences to the family of Ms. Van Patter.

Mr. Branch expressed appreciation to Dr. Suggs for accepting the appointment as LRSD superintendent. He also thanked Mr. Burton, Mr. Glasgow, and Mr. Bailey for stepping up to assist in the transition.

Ms. Johnson complimented Ms. Norman for the work done to develop the fire cadet partnership. It is exciting, and we have students who would consider being a firefighter, or construction worker if given a chance. Not all students are interested in going to college. She is looking forward to big things in the LRSD. "We are positioning people for success."

Ms. Curry thanked Mr. Burton, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Glasgow for accepting the leadership challenge. She commented on the hard work going on to address all of the district's facility needs, and stated the administration was working on securing the services of a consultant to help make recommendations. She spoke to the growth areas of the city and the concerns regarding lack of space for Pre-K classes.

## **B. Information / Update: Property Acquisition**

Mr. Bailey briefly addressed the board, referring to information provided in the March 14 board worksession. He discussed the various sites considered and the issues involved in finding land suitable for construction of a school. He stated major issues in West LR were a need for additional traffic lights and controls at high-traffic intersections.

Considerations for properties in southwest Little Rock include “soil stabilization” and problems experienced at Cloverdale with the foundations slowly sinking. He reported the administration was continuing to explore and negotiate on sites identified, and were planning and reviewing options to present to the board.

### **C. 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 February 28, 2013, and from special meetings held on March 5 and March 14, 2013, were presented for review and approval. Ms. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Fisker seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW**

### **A. First Reading: Board Policy Revision – IKEC Award of Credit**

At the agenda meeting Mr. Glasgow and Ms. Young responded to questions from the board regarding IKEC, Award of Credit. The proposed revision removed the keyboarding by exam as a credit option; the district previously had a waiver, but it was no longer valid. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the revision of IKEC on first reading. Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Board of Education Regulation Revisions: IKEC-R1 Credit for College, Dual Credit Courses and College Summer Enrichment Programs; IKA-R Nine Week / Semester / Yearly Grading Procedures; IKEC – R6 Advancement by Examination: Keyboarding**

Mr. Glasgow provided background information on the regulations presented for board’s review. No vote was required, and the regulations as revised were presented for information only.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. Memorandum of Understanding between District and External Provider for Priority Schools**

The U. S. Department of Education approved a flexibility plan for districts with Priority Schools. The ADE-approved external services provider for those schools is required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining accountability strategies and sanctions for developing and implementing Priority Improvement Plans. Pearson School Achievement Services was approved by the board as the external provider for all eight

LRSD priority schools. At the agenda meeting Mr. Glasgow provided a Powerpoint overview of the MoU and discussed the implications for the ADE required school improvement plans. He discussed the “AMO’s,” “IMO’s,” and Priority Improvement Plans. Board members asked to see the PIPS when they are developed.

Dr. Nellums made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VII. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

### **A. Arkansas School Based Health Center Initiative Grant**

Linda Young was present at the agenda meeting to provide information on a grant submittal for a school based health center at Franklin Elementary. This five year grant would be used to promote health, wellness and academic achievement. Partnering with Arkansas Children’s Hospital, UALR Children International and other community partners, the health center would provide basic physical, mental, dental and other services as needed by students in high-poverty areas.

The administration requested approval to submit of the grant. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve; Dr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Secondary Mathematics Textbook Adoption 6-12**

Vanessa Cleaver presented a recommendation for adopting secondary mathematics textbooks as provided by a committee of secondary teachers and administrators. Ms. Cleaver introduced members of the committee and representatives from each of the secondary schools. Copies of the textbooks were available for review in the board’s conference area. Ms. Fisker made a motion to approve the textbook adoption; Mr. Branch seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

## **VIII. SCHOOL SERVICES**

### **A. Firefighter Jr. Cadet Protective Services Program**

Cassandra Norman-McGee, and LR Fire Department representatives Captain Warren Robinson and Chief Gregory Summers, presented detailed information about the fire department, the annual budget and the need to recruit firefighters for the city of Little Rock. The fire department’s annual budget is \$36.2 million, 92% of which goes to payroll. Captain Robinson reviewed a PowerPoint and encouraged the board to invest in the future careers of our students by supporting the proposed Jr. Cadet program.

The summer cadet program would provide up to 15 students training for 15 hours a week. They would work directly with fire safety education personnel and receive training to provide information to children across the city during the city’s summer recreation programs. Currently all hiring of fire department personnel is done through the civil service exam, but the Chief will be requesting an allowance to hire from within the cadet program. The students will receive certifications for EMT, CPR, and first responders training.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the partnership with the City of Little Rock Fire Department and approved the addition of the first responders course to the LRSD curriculum. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **IX. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Personnel Changes**

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

### **B. School Calendar 2013-14**

The administration presented a proposed calendar of student days. The calendar included 178 student attendance days, 21 vacation and holidays, 4 days allocated to teacher workdays, conference and record days, and 10 staff development days. Mr. Branch made a motion to approve the calendar as presented. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **X. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **A. Request to hire two non-certified support positions**

Leon Adams presented information on students who are eligible for services under Title I, including shelter, clothing, and medical care. He presented a proposal to hire two additional staff persons who can be in the schools and the community to identify students who are in need and process the necessary paperwork to receive Title I, Part A funding.

Dr. Nellums moved to approve the hiring of a Title I Family Service Coordinator and a Title I Bilingual Family Service Coordinator. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Budget Update**

Kelsey Bailey provided a brief overview and discussed continuing to streamline personnel costs across the district. He reviewed reports provided in the agenda, and responded to questions.

### **C. Monthly Financial Statements**

The monthly financial reports were provided as part of the board's agenda.

## **XI. CLOSING REMARKS**

### **A. Announcements and Reminders**

- Mr. Adams announced the Anti-bullying Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4. The public was invited to attend.
- Artistry in the Rock dates announced, April 28-30.



- Mr. Burton reminded listeners of the upcoming ACT administration for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders across the state.
- ViPS Evening of the Stars is April 16.

## **B. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL**

Mr. Adams moved to convene an executive session to discuss the employment of the next superintendent. Mr. Carreiro seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting convened at 8:02 p.m. The board returned from executive session at 8:37 p.m. and reported no action was taken.

Ms. Fisken made a motion to approve the proposed contract between the LRSD and Dr. Dexter Suggs with one notation for correction. In the first paragraph, there was a typographical error that should be corrected to read “July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016.” Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

APPROVED: 04-25-13

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