



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

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

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

None

**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 5:55 p.m. In addition, teacher ex officio, *Will Dunn*, from **Wilson Elementary School** and student ex-officio, *Lionel Davis*, from **Parkview High School** were also present.

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

**A. Superintendent's Remarks**

At the agenda meeting on April 12, 2012, Dr. Holmes presented citations and commendations to a number of student achievers:

The **Siemens Award for Advanced Placement** is awarded to two students in each state each year. **Joseph Berleant** from Little Rock Central High School was selected and received a **\$2,000 scholarship** from the Siemens Foundation

Five students were recognized for being named **U.S. Presidential Scholar Candidates**. One hundred forty one students from across the country are named Presidential Scholars, with six of the candidates being from Little Rock Central High School. Nancy Rousseau, LRCHS Principal introduced the students: **Rebecca Berry, Muhammed Abu-Rmaileh, Samia Nawaz, Whitney Gao, Jonathan Spradley and Joseph Berleant**

In February three students, **Kylie Bell, Emily Jorgenson and Danielle Carter**, participated in a poster contest for the Great American Cleanup in Arkansas, conveying messages about the need to keep Arkansas “clean and green.” They also joined their classmates in a campus-wide recycling project - helping them learn valuable lessons on preserving our environment.

Student artists from Williams Magnet Elementary School were recognized for their achievements in the Central, Regional and Statewide Art Competition. Dr. I. J. Routen presented citations to Ann Goa, Lauren Baker and Melia Bugg.

Dr. Routen also presented citations to winners in the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Young Arkansas Artist exhibit Those students were: Zachary Thomas Phillips of Carver Magnet School; Louis Arellano and Christen McCann from Hall High; Katherine Wang, Brennan Henson and Mary Katherine Baker from Central High; Henry Allen from Pulaski Heights Middle School; Maggie Maddison from Roberts Elementary; Logan Haymon from Williams Magnet Elementary; and Ruben McIntosh and America Montante, both from Wilson Elementary.

Dr. Holmes presented citations to Dejuanna “Chris” Sullivan of Parkview for winning the Plant Sciences Division at the Arkansas State Science Fair

In addition, at the elementary level science fair competition, citations were presented to Jadon Converse of Roberts Elementary and Danyel White and Dhruv Modi, both of Carver Magnet Elementary.

Thea Foundation Scholarship recipients included Carl Napolitano of Central High, and Tristan Bethea and Kristen Smith, both from Parkview. Kristen also took first place honors in a district-wide poetry slam competition.

Student winners in the Rotary Essay and Oratorical Contest were introduced by Suzi Davis. They were: First place winner, Heather Gifford from Parkview; Second place winner Chelsea Gillespie from J. A. Fair; Brittney Threatt from McClellan took top honors for 11<sup>th</sup> grade; Chris Sanders from Little Rock Central High was the 10<sup>th</sup> grade winner; Owen Ostermueller from Parkview was the 9<sup>th</sup> grade winner; Jasmine Baugh from Henderson Middle School was the 8<sup>th</sup> grade winner; Abbey Choate, Pulaski Heights Middle School, was the 7<sup>th</sup> grade winner; and Zyaire Love from Cloverdale Magnet Middle School was a winner from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Hall High basketball team was recognized for being the Arkansas 7-A division champions for three consecutive years. Coach John Coleman introduced his team members.

The Parkview boys basketball team won the Arkansas 6-A division championship. Coach Al Flannigan presented his team.

The Parkview Lady Patriots were recognized for their 6-A division championship. Coach Lahoma Howard presented her team.

The arts program at Chicot Elementary was recently awarded a \$3,000 check compliments of the Timmons Arts Foundation. Timmons Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization which provides art supplies and musical instruments to schools to ensure all children have equal access to an arts education.

**Odessa Darrough** provided information on the upcoming Minority Health Fair.

**East Students Asia Stewart and Qynisha Davis** from Forest Heights Middle School and their facilitator, **Peggy Nakamoto** made a presentation on Khanacademy.org.

Ex officio student representative for the month of April was **Lionel Davis, Jr.**, representing Parkview; the teacher representative was **Wilford Dunn** from Wilson Elementary

Students from Woodruff Pre-K center presented a card to Dr. Holmes to express thanks for his visiting their school.

## **B. Partners in Education: Evening for the Stars**

At the agenda meeting, Debbie Milam provided information on the annual Evening for the Stars, to be held on Tuesday, April 17, 5:30 – 7:30 at the Holiday Inn Airport. Lawrence Hamilton was the emcee, and it was noted 75 individuals and organizations were nominated for awards.

## **C. Remarks from Citizens**

Frederick Love, state representative from District 35 in southwest Little Rock presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to be used to make improvements to the McClellan campus. He had attended a community meeting at McClellan where he heard area residents speak of improving the school's appearance. Mr. Love worked with Attorney John Walker to obtain the funds to begin a beautification project. He has begun working with acting principal Clausey Myton to provide landscaping in the front of the building and within the school's courtyards.

Evangeline Parker, representing Comcast Cable, discussed "Internet Essentials," which was launched last summer. This program works to provide internet access to low income families, identified by their eligibility for the federal free and reduced cost school lunch program. Comcast is partnering with the LRSD to provide low cost computers for LRSD students. An event will be held at Henderson Middle School to provide additional information to families.

Terry Trevino-Richard, LULAC representative, spoke on behalf of the district's Hispanic population, appealing to the board to ensure the Latino vote is taken into consideration when deciding which rezoning map is adopted. He asked them to do whatever possible to prevent diluting the voting power of Latin American citizens. Of the two maps available, he stated Option 5 was more appealing to them. He noted the growth in the Hispanic population in the southwest area and the increase in Hispanic students attending schools in Little Rock. He asked the board to continue encouraging participation of the Latino citizens.

**D. Presentation: MHA / LRHA – PILOT Payment**

Shelly Enhenger, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Housing Alliance, (formerly Little Rock Housing Authority), presented the district with a check representing the amount of taxes they would pay to the LRSD if they were not tax exempt. She reported the Housing Alliance is developing policies and procedures to support the LRSD strategic plan, specifically on truancy issues, and supporting efforts to keep students in school. They have received a "Choice Neighborhood" grant, and with this funding will be targeting the areas around Franklin, Stephens, Central High, and Forest Heights Middle School to support parents and keep them involved and informed.

**E. Donations of Property**

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. The student ex officio, Lionel Davis, read the list of donations. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to accept the donations; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

**DONATIONS**

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	\$2,500 cash to be applied toward the purchase of a vibraphone for the band department	Mr. Gerald Anderson
	\$200 cash to the Central High School Senior Class of 2012	Dr. Anita L. Aebersold
	\$50 cash to the Central Band	Carla K. Koen
	\$150 cash to the Central High Jazz Band	James B. Goldberg and Anne L. Hirsh
	\$500 cash to the Central High Jazz Band	Ray Hayes
	\$1,668.19 cash to the girls basketball team to purchase warm-ups	Anonymous
	Five large artificial trees valued at \$500.00	Mr. & Mrs. Roy Gutierrez
LRSD Division of Special Programs	Four iPads valued at \$1,596.00 for the speech pathology program at Baseline Elementary	Verizon Wireless / Shawnee Hightower
Pulaski Heights Elementary	19 Dell laptops, valued at \$26, 524.29 for teachers use in the classroom	Pulaski Heights Elementary PTA
Chicot Elementary	\$3,000 cash for art and music supplies for the Chicot art program	The Timmons Art Foundation

## **F. Legal Update**

Mr. Heller was present at the agenda meeting to discuss the Arkansas Board of Education meeting where several charter schools were being reviewed and considered for a renewal of their charters. He expressed concern regarding the applications for Dreamland Academy, Academics Plus and LISA Academy. He reported Dr. Kimbrell and administrators were doing a more thorough evaluation of new charter applications and were paying closer attention to the applications for renewals. He noted LISA Academy was working to provide transportation and to recruit minority students.

Mr. Eddings responded to questions from the board regarding drug testing all classifications of employees and cited cases where random drug testing policies were upheld by the courts. He reported a case in Kentucky where drug testing teachers was upheld because teachers hold "safety sensitive" positions. A case in West Virginia found the exact opposite. He noted neither the Eighth circuit nor the Supreme Court have had cause to address this issue.

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

There was no presentation from the council, but it was noted the spring luncheon would be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Cathy Kohler responded to comments and questions about drug testing teachers. She expressed anger and insult by the implication the district would drug test teachers. She reported the negotiating teams would begin meeting with a federal mediator in an effort to come to agreement on the salary agreement, and she stated school wouldn't begin next fall without the financial agreement being in place.

# **III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Ms. Johnson expressed appreciation for the teachers and what they do for their students. She asked members of the community to step forward to support the students and to make personal contributions to support student learning.

Ms. Fox thanked the kids from Woodruff who were present earlier in the meeting. She also expressed appreciation for the district's teachers and the support staff for the work they do.

Mr. Nellums expressed thanks to Verizon for making a donation of musical instruments to the district. He also thanked Mr. Love and Mr. Walker for their contribution to the improvements at McClellan. He thanked the housing authority for their presence at the meeting, and for the work they do with the students who reside in public housing.

Mr. Armstrong asked for cooperation among the community, stating it is time for everyone to come to the table to work through the problems to develop solutions. He stated the way to close the achievement gap was by setting goals and objectives, and developing strategies and tactics to meet the needs of the students. He reported attending the last city board meeting, and he asked Dr. Holmes to work with the city to improve the perception of our schools.

Ms. Curry expressed appreciation for teachers and support staff. She also asked for cooperation among all the parties to make things better in the district. "We have to stand together and come to the agreements necessary to make this a better district."

Mr. Adams thanked members of the LREA for their attendance at the meeting tonight. He recognized the Central High School madrigals who recently won best in show at the state 7A competitions. He stated he had been reviewing all the information provided in Friday update and in the board's agenda, and he noted the importance of all the matters that come to the board. The issues are complicated, and the perspectives of many stakeholders have to be considered when striving for consensus and making decisions based on what is best for everyone.

Mr. Carreiro made comments regarding the early childhood programs at Woodruff and at Fair Park Early Childhood Centers, noting they are dedicated to the education of four year old students. He had attended the ViPS evening for the Stars, and he thanked the ViPS staff for their hard work in putting together this event each year. He reported on attending the production of Annie at Parkview, especially pleased that over 200 students had some level of participation in the musical. He had also attended Artistry in the Rock on Sunday afternoon where over 300 pieces of art from our students were on display as well as performances in dance and drama.

## **B. Third Quarterly Progress Report to the Board on District Goals and Initiatives**

Dennis Glasgow provided highlights from the third quarterly report which was provided to the board in a recent Friday Update. He reported the principals and teachers have the report and use the data for planning instruction and remediation.

The Powerpoint presentation compared specific measures this year to last year, including an increase in the number of classroom walkthroughs, increased and enhanced professional development, a reduction in teacher absences, increases in student performance, a reduction in student absences and tardies, and other performance indicators at each school.

Dr. Holmes responded to questions regarding specific performance indicators and areas where the district is working harder to make improvements in individual student planning.

## **C. April 2012 PRE Quarterly Report**

Dr. DeJarnette provided the quarterly report as part of the board's agenda. She reported the PRE department was compiling the summary reports on programs being assessed this school year, with the intent being to provide the results for presentation in July.

*The board took a brief break at 7:16 p.m. and returned at 7:37 p.m.*

#### **D. 2012 Summer Programs (Elementary and Secondary Education)**

Dr. Holmes provided a brief overview of the upcoming summer programs, and introduced Pamela Smith and Lloyd Sain to review their report on the various programs across the city available for the district's students. They reported forty-six non-LRSD programs available to students in the city in addition to the LRSD summer programs.

Sadie Mitchell provided an overview of in-district summer programs for elementary schools. It was noted the schools will provide enrichment as well as remedial programs. Students will attend a full day, and will receive transportation, breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Dr. Whitehorn and Mr. Burton provided an overview of secondary summer programs. Middle level summer school will be held at Henderson and will include extended day activities. Lunch and transportation will be provided. Clifton Woodley will be the middle school administrator at Henderson, and Connie Green will be the overall secondary summer school coordinator.

Mr. Burton addressed the summer credit recovery programs for high school students that will allow students to receive credits for core courses not passed during the school year.

#### **E. Update: Middle School Initiatives**

Dr. Whitehorn provided a brief overview of the middle school transition to the eight-period day. He reported that none of the district's English or mathematics teachers would be displaced by the transition to eight periods. It was noted that very few new teachers would be needed, and that there would be a variety of new electives where some of the English and math teachers would be utilized to teach the elective courses.

The collaboration and teaming period will be a top priority at the middle level, where a process is being developed to ensure teachers are receiving appropriate support and professional development over the summer. This time will be structured to ensure appropriate use of data to increase student achievement.

Dr. Whitehorn reported participation in the middle school discipline summit yesterday, and stated his belief the best way to improve discipline is to improve achievement first. He will continue to work with principals on security plans and on the process of collaboratively developing lesson plans.

#### **F. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker's report was provided in the board's agenda. Mr. Becker responded to questions from the board regarding the reference in the report on Connect Arkansas.

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

##### **A. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on March 15 and from a special meeting held on April 12, 2012 were presented for review and approval. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Two corrections were noted. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### **V. ADMINISTRATION**

##### **A. Adoption of Voting Zone Map**

At the agenda meeting, there was a great deal of discussion regarding the two options, labeled maps #5 and #6. Both of the maps were considered to be acceptable and within the guidelines for rezoning and bringing the zones into compliance.

Mr. Heller discussed the maps and the exemptions provided by state statute 6-13-631. It was agreed by consensus to include the exemption in the writing of the resolution.

Mr. Nellums had a suggestion for tweaking map #6, and a third map was to be provided for consideration by Monday, April 30.

At the board meeting on April 26, Ms. Fox made a motion to adopt map #5. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. In the discussion, Mr. Nellums requested an opportunity to continue tweaking map alternative 6 and to come back in two weeks to reconsider.

Mr. Heller responded to questions from the board, and reported the deadline for submission of the map and resolution was in June, 90 days before the election.

Ms. Fox and Mr. Adams reviewed their reasons for supporting map 5, citing the original criteria for redrawing the zones. Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Johnson spoke in support of allowing additional time for review of the maps.

After the discussion, Mr. Adams withdrew his second; Ms. Fox withdrew the motion.

##### **B. Resolution: District Election Zones**

Ms. Fox moved to table discussion on the resolution which was presented as the next item on the agenda until after selection of the rezoning map. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Mr. Carreiro set a special meeting in conjunction with the agenda meeting on May 10 to take action on the maps and the resolution.

## **VI. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Personnel Changes**

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

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

### **A. Communications Tower Lease**

Mr. Bailey discussed the location of the communications tower on the campus at Parkview and explained the reasons for renewal of the lease at this time. In applying for refinancing of the communications tower, the lease needed to be renewed. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the lease, Dr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Update: Strategic Plan / Minority Vendors**

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Becker reviewed the creation of a separate policy for utilizing minority vendors in conducting business in varying aspects of the district's operations. A policy is being developed and will be presented for board approval.

### **C. Monthly Financial Reports**

The monthly financial reports were provided in the agenda.

## **VIII. CLOSING REMARKS**

Ms. Johnson read information on Hamilton Learning Academy's achievement as a Statewide PTA award winner.

Artistry in the Rock will be held on Sunday and Monday at the Metroplex Center on Colonel Glenn.

Five members were present for the student hearing portion of the meeting. Ms. Fox and Mr. Nellums were absent.

## **IX. HEARINGS**

### **A. Student Hearings**

Dr. Fields reviewed the specific students who were being recommended for expulsion from the district. Mr. Adams moved to approve the recommended expulsions. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

On all other recommendations for reassignment or placement in an alternative learning facility, Mr. Adams moved to accept the recommendations of the administration. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

APPROVED: 05-17-12

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