



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
May 10, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special meeting on Thursday, May 10, 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
Dianne Curry
Melanie Fox
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 6:23 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The agenda for the special meeting included:

- A. ADE Grant Submission – School Improvement Grant Funds
- B. Adoption of Voting Zone Map
- C. Resolution: District Election Zones
- D. Employee Hearing

III. ACTION AGENDA:

A. ADE Grant Submission – School Improvement Grant Funds

Members of the faculty of McClellan were present to provide information for the board's consideration in their request for approval of a grant submission to the Arkansas Department of Education.

Linda Young introduced the delegation from McClellan. Mr. Myton, acting principal was also present. Marie Boone, chair of the committee and math coach from McClellan, discussed the goals established for improving student achievement at McClellan.

Roy Vaughn, reviewed strategies for monitoring the grant and following through with insuring the grant's requirements are followed with fidelity.

Cassandra Stoddard, science department representative, discussed improving technology to engage students in their ability to learn science. Students arriving at McClellan as 9th graders are often lacking in the skills needed to be successful learners.

Marcus Collins, physics teacher, discussed implementation of "Project Lead the Way," which will allow students to earn certification in areas that would lead to careers and trades.

Nicole Thomas, a parent in the southwest community, was encouraged to allow her child to attend McClellan. She has worked on the committee to apply for the SIG grant, and believes it will allow additional and more meaningful parental and community involvement in the learning processes.

Ms. Johnson, Ms. Curry and Dr. Nellums spoke in support of the grant application. Dr. Nellums asked the committee to be involved in the selection of the supplemental services provider when one is chosen to work within the school in support of student remediation and academic improvement.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve submission of the grant. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Adoption of Voting Zone Map

Mr. Carreiro asked for a motion to add map alternative 7 to the other two options, labeled 5 and 6, for rezoning the districts election zones. Dr. Nellums moved to include Map #7. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried 5-2**, with Mr. Carreiro and Ms. Fox voting in opposition.

Mr. Heller responded to questions from the board and discussed the compliance criteria for selection of the redistricting maps. Metroplan has been working with board members and with Mr. Heller to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations regarding the divisions of varying populations. Mr. Heller stated his belief that all three maps were in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and with the Constitution of the U.S.

Mr. Nellums made a motion to adopt the map labeled Option #7. Ms. Curry seconded the motion. Ms. Fox expressed her concerns with map 7 relating to the variances between zones and the particular deviations in Hispanic voting population.

Mr. Carreiro and Mr. Adams also spoke in opposition to the adoption of map 7. After lengthy discussion, the motion to adopt Map Option #7 **carried 4-3**. Ms. Fox, Mr. Adams and Mr. Carreiro voted in opposition.

C. Resolution: District Election Zones

Chris Heller provided a revised version of the Resolution supporting the selection of Map #7 for the district's required rezoning. Dr. Nellums made a motion to adopt and approve the Resolution as submitted. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

The board recessed the special meeting and completed the agenda setting session. They returned to the special meeting to conduct the employee hearing at 8:32 p.m. Six members of the board were present. Mr. Nellums was absent.

D. Employee Hearing

<Employee> requested a closed hearing. He was represented by Michael Coleman of the Little Rock Education Association. The district was represented by David Hartz.

<Employee> was a security officer assigned to McClellan. In December 2011, he was recommended for termination by the superintendent based on a report from the principal of McClellan High School. <Employee> was provided with a notification letter and was advised of his right to an appeal of the recommendation. The specific reasons for termination were specified in the letter, and included accusations from several students of making inappropriate and sexually suggestive comments to and about female students.

<Student>, an 11th grade student, was questioned in detail and reviewed the statement she made in October 2011, regarding sexually explicit comments <Employee> made in her presence.

Security Officer Sharon Hester testified in support of the statements taken in reference to the allegations made by the students. She reported she had worked with <Employee> for 7 or 8 years. She had never heard similar accusations against <Employee> prior to the date of this incident.

Don Allen, security supervisor, responded to questions regarding the gathering of evidence and investigation into the accusations against <Employee>.

Clausey Myton, interim principal of McClellan High School, responded to questions regarding <employee's> performance as a security officer, stating he had received mostly favorable evaluations over the years. He confirmed his decision to have the students' allegations investigated and reviewed his previous statements recommending termination.

<Employee> was questioned regarding the circumstances surrounding the recommendation for his termination. In addition, he stated he was single and raising two daughters, ages 7 and 14. He also reported his wife had passed away in 2005. He fully denied making any inappropriate remarks to the students.

The board recessed for deliberations at 10:37 p.m. They returned at 10:52 p.m. and reported no action had been taken.

Using the recommendations contained in the superintendent's letter to <employee>, the board acted as follows:

Ms. Fox made a motion to find Items detailed as 1, 2, 3, and 7 as proven. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Ms. Johnson made a motion to find items detailed as 4, 5, and 6, were not proven. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Ms. Fox moved to uphold the recommendation of the superintendent for termination. Ms. Curry seconded the motion. It **carried 6-0**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

APPROVED: 05-17-12

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