



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 16, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 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. Six members of the board were present at roll call, Dr. Nellums arrived shortly after. Susan Blue, the teacher ex-officio from Booker Elementary School, and Tylon Jackson, student representative from McClellan High School, were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendents Citations & Commendations

Citations were presented to district employees and students who achieved various honors and awards, including:

- Steven Wise - Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, Vice Principal of the Year
- Student, Justin Daniels, winner of the Addie Morris and Ralph Vines Public Speaking Competition
- Janai Reynolds, one of only 8 students nation-wide to win the \$5,000 AVID Award. Tracy Mason, AVID coordinator at Hall High School, spoke on Janai's behalf.

- The Central High School Madrigals won the *7A Best in Class Ensemble Award*
- Marcelline Carr and Vanessa Cleaver were both selected to serve in leadership roles in the Benjamin Banneker National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- Lloyd Sain received his credentials as an executive associate certified instructional coach. He is also the Director of the Charles D. Moody Institute of the National Association of Black School Educators
- Brady McClintock, a student at Metropolitan Career and Tech Center received his industry certification as a welder
- The Central High School Memory Project was recently recognized and featured in *Southern Living* magazine

At the agenda meeting, Mr. Burton spoke regarding his attendance at the *Teacher of the Year Crystal Awards banquet*, the luncheon for support staff and the annual retiree's reception. He commended staff who participated in the planning for these annual events, and noted that 47 of the 101 district retirees attended the reception.

Recognition was also provided to school nurses, and Mr. Burton thanked them for providing primary health services to many of our students who do not have a family physician.

Students and staff at Rockefeller were recognized for a project which resulted in a book about the life of Former Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller.

Other recognition was given to:

- Evelyn Allen, Central High Social Worker, recognized for her organization of the annual Health Fair.
- Jennifer Lusk, Central High German teacher who was honored as the Arkansas Language Teacher of the Year
- Mason Collins and Thomas Downs, Henderson Middle School students, who won 2nd place in the Industrial Engineering Challenge at the U of A, Fayetteville.
- Henderson Middle School students, who were winners in the AAIM Media Festival included: *Khariana Hobbs, Keiyana King, Kamari Ardison, Raven Freeman, Roy Hatcher, Miranda Marshall, Deshu Richardson, Maria Hernandez, Kameron May, Joseph Cranford, Brittany Jackson, Malik Carr, Ceandra Gaines and Lance White*
- McClellan High School students who were winners in the Rotary Oratorical Essay Contest, included: *Maraya Warren, Rachel Lewis, William Lemonds, Brittney Threatt, and Kyle Miller*

Recognition was given to all district volunteers who collectively provided over 825,000 service hours this school year. In addition, Debbie Milam and Tammy Blaylock were present to recognize recipients of the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards.

Certificates were presented to the ex officio representatives, Susan Blue from Booker Elementary and Tylon Jackson, student at McClellan

B. Remarks from Citizens

None.

C. Donations of Property

Student ex officio Tylon Jackson read the donations as listed in the following chart. Ms. Fisken moved to accept the donations. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously.**

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	Donation of snacks valued at \$320.00 for the health fair Donations to the baseball program: \$50.00 cash \$50.00 cash \$250.00 cash	J & M Foods Newel L. Stillwell, Jr. Dr. Robert B. Kennedy Mr. Kevin Mosley
Fair High School	\$1,500.00 cash for the Environmental Science Activity Fund \$1,000.00 cash for student incentives	National Wildlife Federation Best Buy, Inc.
Franklin Elementary	\$ 100.00 cash to the Garden Club \$ 50.00 cash to purchase mulch \$1,000.00 cash to the media center to purchase new books	Ms. Nancy Welsh Charles Wray, Wray Therapy Services, Inc. NEA Read Across America
Hall High School	\$ 600.00 cash toward framing the boys and girls 6A basketball championship photos \$ 130.00 cash to be applied to senior assessments \$ 250.00 cash toward the purchase of boys & girls 6A state basketball championship rings \$100.00 cash toward the purchase of boys & girls 6A state basketball championship rings	Ms. Phyllis Carruth Akbar Williams & Associates Legal Services Corporation St. Mark Baptist Church Bethlehem Baptist Church
LRSD Gifted & Talented Programs	\$ 100.00 cash for the Destination Imagination Program	Mr. Eldridge E. DeVault

D. Legal Update

At the agenda meeting, Mr. Heller asked the board to consider inclusion of a resolution requesting an exemption under the School Choice Act of 2013. Act 1227 allows students who are residents of the LRSD to apply for transfers to another school district. The Act allows a provision for a school district to annually declare an exemption if they are under a desegregation or federal court order. A Resolution to that effect was prepared and presented for approval. Action on this item is reported later in these minutes.

Earlier in the week, there was a news report regarding an order issued by the Eighth circuit in the School Choice lawsuit. The LRSD had filed as a friend of the court and participated in oral arguments in January. The Court had requested a supplemental brief by May 22 to address the various choice issues and whether it is now moot based on the new law which became effective April 16.

E. Cloverdale Aerospace Charter Middle School Presentation

Suzi Davis introduced students from the Cloverdale Middle School broadcast journalism class. Devonte Jones and Kenny Swope were present, as well as their teacher Mr. James Knight. They presented a video which was produced at Cloverdale.

F. Little Rock PTA Council

Ms. Curry reported on attendance at this year's PTA Council spring luncheon. She thanked the PTA and other volunteers in the district.

G. Little Rock Education Association

No report.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Carreiro commented on the recognitions, awards and citations given earlier in the meeting, also commending the teachers honored at the *Teacher of the Year Crystal Awards* banquet. He also remarked on the four teams from the LRSD which would be travelling to the national Destination Imagination competition in Knoxville, TN. Gibbs Elementary is sending two teams, Carver Elementary and Forest Heights Middle School are each sending one group. He closed by congratulating all of the 2013 graduates.

Mr. Branch also commended the high school graduates, with special emphasis on those graduating from J.A. Fair, his alma mater. He also congratulated all of this year's retirees and thanked them for their service to the LRSD.

Ms. Johnson encouraged parents to stay focused on what is needed to best serve their children. She also congratulated the students graduating next week.

Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Burton, Mr. Bailey & Mr. Glasgow for their leadership during the transition between superintendents. He reported that the LRSD was notified they had been awarded the school-based health clinic grant for Franklin Elementary School. This grant is evidence of collaborative efforts between the LRSD grant writer, the health services coordinator, facilities personnel, the principal at Franklin, members of the community, and Arkansas Childrens' Hospital. The clinic will enhance opportunities for students to learn through quality student-focused physical and mental health services. He congratulated all parties who worked together to submit the grant request.

Dr. Nellums congratulated the seniors who had successfully accomplished their first lifetime goal. He reported he had received many calls from members of the community regarding recent board actions related to the equitable distribution of resources. He pledged to the citizens in Zone 2 he would work to ensure equitable resources are distributed across the district.

Ms. Fisker congratulated this year's seniors. She also thanked Mr. Burton, Mr. Glasgow, Mr. Bailey and Dr. Suggs for their teamwork, noting it was obvious they worked well together. She commended the graduating seniors and noted the numerous activities being held to celebrate the end of the year. She reported she would be wearing school t-shirts to board meetings, with tonight's shirt being from Pulaski Heights Middle School.

Ms. Curry thanked Mr. Becker for his work coordinating Computer Power Day, which was held the previous weekend at Metropolitan Career & Technical Center. She congratulated the students graduating from the ACC program, and reported she had attended their commencement ceremony last week at Greater Second Baptist Church.

B. Update: Summer School 2013

Pamela Smith reported briefly on summer school opportunities within and outside the LRSD. A listing will be posted on the LRSD website and information is being distributed in the schools.

Dr. Mitchell reported approximately 3,500 elementary students would attend a summer program; approximately 1,000 secondary students would attend summer school.

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. Resolution: Artistry in the Rock – Dr. Morris L. Holmes Scholarship

Mr. Carreiro reported on this year's *Artistry in the Rock* celebration and the successful presentation of student talent. He commended the over 700 student performers, the students who assisted in serving many support roles, and the students from Metropolitan who prepared and served refreshments. Approximately 1,450 students attended and viewed the exhibits.

He thanked the planning committee for their tireless efforts to make this event successful. He served as the Board's representative on the committee, and named each of the individuals who served.

From the administration:

- Dr. Sadie Mitchell, Dr. Dexter Booth, Dr. Cheryl Carson, Dr. Danny Fletcher, Donna Creer, Pamela Smith, Debbie Milam, Shoutell Richardson, and especially Dr. I.J. Routen for her leadership.

The music crew consisted of:

- Sarah Vanlaan from Wakefield, Brittany Beshears from Otter Creek, Scott Bassham from Wakefield, Jherritan Dukes from Meadowcliff, Jose Holloway, from Chicot and Otter Creek, Boyce Pearson from Dodd, and Frank Williams from Mabelvale Elementary.

The art crew consisted of:

- Cheryl Gilstrap from Wakefield, Kimberly Johnson from Dodd, Sharon Boyd-Struthers from Rockefeller, Loni Rainey from Parkview and Stacey Mitchell from Central.

Mr. Carreiro read a Resolution recognizing Dr. Holmes for his support of the arts through the district's annual Artistry in the Rock celebration. He moved to approve the Resolution, Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Board Meeting Dates, 2013-2014 School Year

The board annually approves the calendar of meeting dates for the following school year. By policy, the second and fourth Thursday of each month are designated as regular meeting dates. There are several exceptions to the calendar for the 2013-2014 school year. Those exceptions are listed here:

- November (Thanksgiving break) 2nd and 3rd Thursday
- December (Winter break) 1st and 3rd Thursday
- March (Spring break) 2nd & 3rd Thursday
- May (high school graduations) 3rd & 5th Thursday

Ms. Fiskien moved to approve the dates as presented. Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on April 25, 2013 were presented for review and approval. Ms. Fiskien made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A. Resolution: Declaration of Exemption from Act 1227, Public School Choice Act of 2013

Governor Mike Beebe signed into law Act 1227, the Public School Choice Act of 2013. Act 1227 would allow students who are residents of the LRSD to apply for transfers to another school district. The Act allows a school district to annually declare an exemption if they are under a desegregation or federal court order. At the agenda meeting, Mr. Heller reported to the board regarding Act 1227 and provided an update on litigation surrounding school choice issues.

Mr. Heller proposed a Resolution for board consideration to request an exemption as allowed by the law. That Resolution was provided for adoption, and the administration recommended approval. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Fisksen seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. U.S. Department of Education – Grant Submission: School Leadership Program

The School Leadership Program grant will support and assist in retaining principals by providing coaching and other professional development activities to increase their effectiveness as school leaders. The federal grant program focuses on instructional and management leadership as well as internship experiences to ensure schools are led by individuals who are well prepared to meet the increasingly tough demands of the school principal. The proposal will assist in establishing a pool of future principal leaders for the District as well as providing additional leadership preparation for current principals and assistant principals. The project period is for five years and if granted will provide \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 per year.

Linda Young reported on the grant and responded to questions from the board. Dr. Lloyd Sain serves as the lead person on the grant team. Ms. Fisksen made a motion to submit the grant; Mr. Branch seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were printed in the board's agenda. It was noted there were 105 retirees as of May 2013. Ms. Johnson moved to approve; Ms. Fisksen seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Meal Price Increases 2013-14

Public school food service operations are required to break-even with revenue from all sources equal to annual reported operational costs. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch

Program to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for lunches served to students eligible for free or reduced price meals. The Act also requires school food authorities to compare and adjust, if needed, the weighted average price charged for lunches served to students not eligible for free or reduced price lunches to the highest Federal reimbursements provided for paid lunches utilizing the formula provided. The student breakfast and adult meal costs are proposed based on guidance provided by the Arkansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition Unit as a part of the Annual Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

Kelsey Bailey reported and responded to questions. The district's child nutrition department works to provide healthier choices in meals and implemented breakfast in the classroom. The reduced price category was eliminated so that students are either free or fully paid. The proposed increases are ten-cents (\$.10) for breakfast and lunch for students, and fifteen-cents (\$.15) for all adult meals. The increases would be effective as of July 1, 2013.

Dr. Nellums moved to approve the recommendation. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. First Student Contract Renewal

The District has been under contract with First Student (formerly Laidlaw) since 1995. They were the awarded vendor resulting from an RFP done at that time; the contract had been extended several times since the original term expired. The current agreement expires June 30, 2013.

Mr. Bailey provided an update on the contract which had been presented for the board's consideration in April. The item was tabled while the administration provided additional information. An independent consultant, Transportation Advisory Services, was hired to review the contract and to make recommendations regarding renewing or rebidding. Their review determined that the District should accept the five year extension offered by First Student.

A new five year term agreement for school years 2014 – 2018 was negotiated with no increase in costs for the initial year and 2 percent increases in years two through five.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the First Student contract renewal. Ms. Fiskén seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Monthly Financial Statements

Mr. Bailey provided the monthly financial reports as part of the board's agenda. He reported receipt of revenue was a little slower than expected in April, however May is expected to return to normal revenue collections. His staff is involved in the annual budgeting process and all appears to be on track. He proposed budget worksessions for June and July, however no dates were set.

D. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey discussed the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a facilities review consultant. He had previously provided a draft of the RFP and asked the board to review and provide comment. Mr. Carreiro spoke in support of the draft and asked for a schedule of dates to be added and a rubric to be provided.

The Minority and Women Business Enterprise Summit is scheduled for June 26th, 8:00 – noon. Mr. Bailey has been working with the Procurement Department to develop a PR campaign related to the summit. They are communicating with radio stations and reaching out to other media outlets and minority development networks. The Summit will be held at Metropolitan Career and Technical Center.

IX. CLOSING REMARKS

A. Announcements and Reminders

Academic Signing Day is set for Monday, May 20th, 2:00 p.m. at the Arkansas Governors' mansion. Eighty students and their parents are invited to attend.

Graduation ceremonies are set for next week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The full schedule was posted on the website.

A music program will be held on the grounds of Pulaski Heights Middle school on May 28th, 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Burton reported he had attended the ACC graduation program. He was impressed with the students who had overcome obstacles to achieve their diploma.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED: 06-27-13

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