



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
June 13, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special board meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2013, immediately following the regularly scheduled agenda meeting. It was held 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
Michael Nellums

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Leslie Fiskén

ALSO PRESENT:

Marvin Burton, Interim Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call. Dr. Nellums arrived at 5:39; Ms. Fiskén was absent.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The agenda for the meeting listed the following items:

- A. Resolution Recognizing Mr. Rich Nagel
- B. External Provider Contract with Pearson School Achievement Services
- C. Southwest Little Rock School Land Purchase
- D. Personnel Appointments
- E. Special Assignment Compensation

ACTION AGENDA

A. Resolution Recognizing Mr. Rich Nagel

Mr. Rich Nagel, Executive Director of the Arkansas Education Association for 38 years, announced his retirement effective June 10, 2013. The board adopted a resolution in recognition of his long-term service to the school community in Arkansas. Ms. Curry read the resolution and requested adoption. Mr. Branch moved to adopt the resolution as read. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. External Provider Contract with Pearson School Achievement Services

Dennis Glasgow reported and provided a recommendation to renew the current contract with Pearson Learning Services. Priority Schools are required by the ESEA Flexibility Plan to have an External Provider in place for the Priority Schools for three years at a minimum. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Johnson. The motion **carried 6-1**, with Dr. Nellums abstaining.

C. Resolution: Southwest Little Rock School Land Purchase

As part of the process of acquiring land for the new Southwest Little Rock School site, the Board is required to approve a resolution designating the individuals within the administration who are authorized to execute the documents on closing. The land chosen by the Board consists of 55.93 acres located east of Mabelvale Pike and North of Mann Road in Little Rock which has been offered for sale to the District at the purchase price of \$1,372,000.00 by the Martin Revocable Trust, the Agnes M. Martin Trust, and the Mary M. Garner Trust.

Mr. Branch asked the board to consider staying the purchase of land at this time based on community concerns. Dr. Nellums agreed with Mr. Branch and also requested a delay in purchasing land. Dr. Nellums noted for the record that he had opposed the land purchase based on concerns regarding the location and the possibility of having to redraw attendance zones.

Ms. Curry announced plans for an upcoming community forum on Monday, June 24, 2013. The meeting will be open to the public and members of the community will be invited. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Mackey responded to questions from the board regarding the purchase of land.

Ms. Curry offered an opportunity for one community representative to speak. Mr. Branch asked for there to be two public speakers in a request to suspend the rules. Dr. Nellums seconded his motion to suspend the rules. There was no official vote.

Pam Adcock was the designated representative for the SWLR United for Progress (UPS), which represents all neighborhood associations in southwest Little Rock. She discussed the site of McClellan High School as the "anchor" in the community and asked the board to further discuss and consider rebuilding McClellan at the current site.

Ms. Adcock presented a petition requesting a special meeting of the board to further discuss the property being considered for purchase. She expressed concerns regarding the location of the selected site, saying it was outside the current McClellan attendance zone and that

students who now walk to school would have to be bused to the site on Rich Smith Lane. She asked the Board to void the current contract and rebuild the school at the current location.

Frederick Love, state representative, also asked for the Board to stay the purchase of land and reconsider the land purchase. He suggested a 30-day postponement with a request to the seller for an additional 30 days. He requested more time to dialogue with the community and review other options for rebuilding McClellan.

Ms. Curry commented on the process to date, and stated there would be additional conversations in the community while a facilities study is underway. A RFP for securing a consultant to complete a facilities study is to be up for consideration by the Board within a few weeks.

Dr. Nellums questioned the need to purchase land prior to completion of the facilities study. It was his belief a facilities master plan should be considered prior to making a decision on purchasing land. Ms. Curry asked for point of order, and after some discussion, Dr. Nellums left the meeting.

Mr. Carreiro addressed some of the questions and concerns and asked the administration to move forward with securing the facilities study. He asked Mr. Bailey to consider asking the seller for an additional 30 day extension on the closing. He suggested Ms. Curry could call for a special meeting if necessary after the community meeting on June 24th. He asked the Board to go ahead with approval of the necessary resolution authorizing administrators to sign on the Board's behalf.

Mr. Adams commented on some of the concerns expressed, and agreed there had not been the amount of communication desired. However, he disagreed that there had been no public discussion. He stated there had been years of concern about the school facilities in southwest Little Rock, and no disagreement among the parties regarding the need for a better high school for students in southwest Little Rock. He also noted population trends and growth in the west and southwest areas of the city and a desire by all parties to have better educational facilities for all the students in the district. The question regarding redrawing attendance zone boundaries has much to do with the way our city has grown and how our communities have changed. All boundaries districtwide will likely need to be redrawn.

Mr. Burton responded to questions regarding building a new school on the current site of McClellan, and discussed the disruption of the educational process for students while construction is underway in a school building. It is simply not possible to shift 920+ students for three years while a new school is constructed. Routine maintenance such as painting and roofs are difficult and distracting to student learning.

Mr. Branch indicated his original comments regarding staying the land purchase were intended to be in the form of a motion. Dr. Nellums' comments of agreement were to be taken as the second. A vote was taken, with Mr. Branch voting yes, Mr. Adams, Mr. Carreiro and Ms. Curry voting no, and Ms. Johnson abstaining. Dr. Nellums was not present at the time of the vote.

Mr. Carreiro restated his comments in the form of a motion: to ask Mr. Bailey to request a 30 day extension, to proceed with the community meeting in southwest Little Rock on June 24th, to authorize the president to call a special meeting between the 24th & 26th if it is

determined to be necessary, and to confirm the resolution presented giving Mr. Bailey and Mr. Adams administrative signing authority. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Mr. Mackey asked for clarification on the motion to determine the intent of the request for the extension. It was agreed by consensus to request an extension of 30 days.

D. Personnel Appointments

Administrative appointments were presented for the board's review and approval. Included in the agenda were:

- Principal, McClellan - Henry Anderson;
- Principal, Hall - Larry Schleicher
- Principal, Forest Heights – Connie Green
- Instructional Technology Specialist – Stephanie Jones
- Administrator, Metropolitan Career & Technical Center – Shameka Montgomery
- Director, Career & Technical Education – Cassandra Norman
- Supervisor, Professional Development / Elementary Education – Shoutell Richardson

Administrative transfers were included:

- Patricia Boykin, from principal of Mann Magnet to Co-coordinator of Hamilton
- Keith McGee, from Interim Principal of Hamilton to Principal of Mann Magnet

Mr. Branch moved to approve the appointments recommended; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried 5-0-1**, with Dr. Nellums abstaining.

E. Special Assignment Compensation

Recommendations for supplemental payments to the administrative transition team were provided for the board's approval. The recommendation included payments to Marvin Burton, Kelsey Bailey and Dennis Glasgow. Mr. Branch moved to approve; Mr. Carreiro seconded the motion and **carried 5-0**; Dr. Nellums was not present.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Ms. Curry requested a moment of silence in memory of Ms. Donna Grady Creer and her husband Donald Creer who were killed in a house fire earlier in the week. There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 06-27-13

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