



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

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
June 25, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special meeting on Monday, June 25, 2012, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jody Carreiro presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Carreiro
Charles Armstrong
Greg Adams
Dianne Curry
Melanie Fox
Norma Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Nellums

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 5:30 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Curry arrived at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Nellums was absent.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called in response to a petition from parents and citizens in the community of Western Hills Elementary School. An open forum was provided for the petitioners to express their concerns regarding the transfer of Scott Morgan as principal.

III. ACTION AGENDA

Charles Smith served as moderator for the parent group from Western Hills Elementary School. Mr. Smith reported he had met with Superintendent Holmes to voice his opposition to the reassignment of Scott Morgan.

Mr. Smith stated his children had been at Western Hills for the past ten years, and he currently has a student beginning kindergarten there. Mr. Smith asked the board to reconsider their approval of the transfer of Mr. Morgan. He read the district's mission and vision statement as posted on the LRSD website, and expressed belief the transfer would be detrimental to the school and the Western Hills community.

Roderick Dunn spoke on behalf of the Westwood Neighborhood Association, in opposition to the transfer of Scott Morgan from Western Hills. He noted the various cooperative efforts between the school and the neighborhood association, with Mr. Morgan hosting neighborhood events, membership meetings, and other school community events. Mr. Dunn asked for Mr. Morgan to be allowed to continue as the principal of Western Hills.

Derinda McKissick stated her daughter is a student at Western Hills and she is pleased with the school environment established by Mr. Morgan. She asked the board to make sure the students' best interests are taken into consideration when making the changes in leadership. "Don't try to fix something that isn't broken. Western Hills is working, and it's working very well."

Kenia Wesson stated she has a preschool student and she wanted her child to attend Western Hills because of the influence of Mr. Morgan. She expressed belief in his leadership and support for his remaining at Western Hills.

Emily Hithe, parent of a third grader at Western Hills, transferred her children to Western Hills from another school attendance zone. She and her children are happy at Western Hills, and she asked for reconsideration of Mr. Morgan's transfer.

Ashley Moore introduced herself as a former Western Hills student. Her mother was an employee at Western Hills under Mr. Morgan's principalship, and she is very familiar with his ability as a school leader. Ms. Moore stated she had moved into the Western Hills neighborhood so that her children could attend school there, and she is active in the PTA. She asked for the board to reconsider their approval to remove Mr. Morgan.

James LaBorde founded the neighborhood association in Westwood with Mike Kumpuris who was a former LRSD board member. Mr. Morgan was the Western Hills principal, and was a part of the original organization of the neighborhood association. Mr. LaBorde stated the neighborhood association had worked with Mr. Morgan on projects at the school to improve the grounds and in the neighborhood to improve the community. The neighborhood association and the school are formal Partners-in-Education, and they work together on a regular basis. He asked for the board to reconsider the transfer of Mr. Morgan from Western Hills.

Doris Waters stated her son attends Western Hills from out of zone because of the leadership of Mr. Morgan. She stated the transfer of Mr. Morgan was a disruption to the families and to the children who attend Western Hills. "He is good for the kids. They interact with him, look up to him, and respect him." She asked Dr. Holmes to reconsider his recommendation and allow Mr. Morgan to remain at Western Hills.

Michael Woolfolk, the outgoing PTA president of Western Hills, spoke in support of Mr. Morgan. He made the closing remarks on behalf of the supporters present and expressed hope that enough information had been presented to influence the board to reconsider the decision to transfer Mr. Morgan. He believed the decision was counterproductive to the mission statement of the district and believed the decision to allow Mr. Morgan to remain at Western Hills would be the best decision based on what is best for the children at Western Hills. Mr. Woolfolk requested an action item on the agenda for the next meeting to reconsider and reverse the decision to transfer Mr. Morgan.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Holmes responded to the audience, and thanked them for their input. He said he had heard them, understood their point, and empathized with them. He thanked them for their comments.


Mr. Carreiro made closing remarks and explained the board's procedure for considering personnel recommendations. If the superintendent were to bring forth a different recommendation in this matter, the board would take action on that recommendation.

Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Adams, Ms. Curry, Ms. Fox, and Ms. Johnson each took an opportunity to thank the audience for their participation and input. They had received the phone calls, sympathized with their point of view, and welcomed their involvement in the process. It's important for the school and the community to work well together, and that was something special in the Western Hills family. The most important factor is the ability of the school and the community to stick together, work it out, and focus on the children. "Give change a chance."

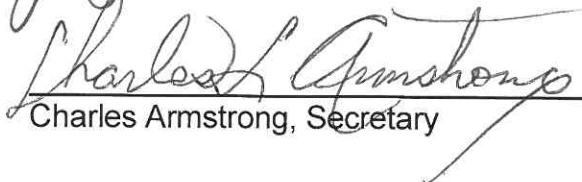
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED: 6.28.12



Jody B. Carreiro, President



Charles Armstrong, Secretary