



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**June 27, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 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 5:36 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Johnson and Ms. Fisker were absent. The teacher ex-officio, Linda Umerah from Brady Elementary, was also present. The student representative, Garry Liu, was present at the agenda meeting, but was not present at the regular board meeting.

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

**A. Superintendents Citations & Commendations**

At the agenda meeting on June 13, 2013, students who were honored on Academic Signing Day were recognized. Eighty one graduating seniors were honored by the Public Education Foundation for their academic achievements and their acceptance to various colleges and universities across the country.

Melanie Fox, former LRSD board member, was recognized for her continuing support and contributions to the district. Ms. Fox and her husband, Jeff, were presented with a citation acknowledging their financial contribution to the Hall High school championship basketball teams.

## **B. Remarks from Citizens**

*Pam Adcock* spoke on behalf of the southwest Little Rock community. She stated disappointment and anger over the failure of the board to communicate with the residents of that area prior to purchasing land for a new school. She felt the trust of their community had been lost, and she requested inclusion in all future discussions.

*State Representative Frederick Love* commented on the district's purchase of land in southwest Little Rock, stating he was "disturbed" the concerns of the community were being disregarded. He felt it was appropriate to forfeit \$10,000 earnest money and start over on seeking property for a new school in order to show good faith to the community.

*Charles Bolden* ceded his time to *Joy Springer* to allow her extra time for her remarks geared toward program evaluations and the court-approved evaluation process. She commended Dr. DeJarnette for her work and spoke to the district's continuing obligations and accountability for educating African American and poor children. She faulted the administration for trying to eliminate the evaluation department, and she referenced the proposed changes to policy IL and regulations IL-R.

*Senator Linda Chesterfield* represents part of SWLR and introduced herself as an educator and as former president of the LRSD board. She stated she was a strong supporter of Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County Public schools, but felt the board was disregarding input from the public. "If you don't give the people what they want, they don't have to stay in the LRSD." She commented on the money invested in upgrading technology at Central High School, and asked why the same could not be done for McClellan.

*State Representative Charles Armstrong*, former LRSD board member, suggested the board and community members sit down, discuss the issues and problems, and come to agreement before decisions are made. It was his belief that people are not taking interest in the educational process because they are not being given a voice. He stated the board needed to reach out, become customer oriented, and make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the students.

*Senator Joyce Elliott* stated she was surprised by the events surrounding the land purchase in southwest Little Rock. She had attended a neighborhood association meeting where she was led to believe the community would be a part of the discussions surrounding the future of McClellan. She introduced herself as an advocate for public schools and a former teacher at McClellan. She encouraged the board to "back up" and take a leadership position in owning up to what has gone wrong.

*Pat Gee*, former LRSD board member and resident of southwest Little Rock, addressed the board regarding the possible relocation of McClellan and the importance of keeping that school in the community. She encouraged the board to continue to keep the lines of communication open.

*Eduardo Martinous* commented on the Spanish language interpreter at Monday's community forum. He said he couldn't understand the interpreter, and encouraged the board to do more to increase and improve the communications with the Hispanic community.

**C. Report: City Year**

Sarah Robertson, Executive Director of City Year Little Rock / North Little Rock, reported mid-year results in their work with our students. There are 34 corps members aged 17-24 serving in our schools. 310 students participate in the language arts and literacy support program and 54 students are involved in the "attendance focus," or those who have a history of absences, tardies and truancy. Ms. Robertson has been developing next years' service plans in cooperation with building principals and LRSD associate superintendents.

Mr. Burton commented on his observations of students who receive City Year services. Their attitude changes, their learning improves, and the one-on-one connections with the Corps members make a very positive difference in their achievement.

**D. Legal Update**

Chris Heller reported briefly on an upcoming hearing in Judge Collins Kilgore's court. It is a suit filed in a request for documents under the freedom of information act. The district was in the process of gathering the documents when the suit was filed, and all information has now been provided.

There is also an appeal pending before the eighth circuit court regarding charter schools. Briefs are being reviewed and corrected by the court at this time; Mr. Heller had not yet had the opportunity to review. Mr. Heller reported he expected final resolution in this case to be in early 2014.

Hearings are scheduled this summer for the Pulaski County School District in their attempt to be declared unitary. The Joshua Intervenors have asked for a postponement based on Mr. Walker's health status; the Pulaski County District has not objected.

**E. Donations of Property**

Dr. Nellums read the donations as listed in the following chart. Mr. Carreiro moved to accept the donations. Mr. Branch seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

**DONATIONS**

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Bale Elementary School	\$1,000.00 cash	UALR Children International
Baseline Elementary School	Food, valued at \$100.00 for 2013 Cultural Awareness Night	Hong Kong Inn
	Chocolate, valued at \$75.00 for 2013 Cultural Awareness Night	Café Bossa Nova

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Baseline Elementary School	Food and supplies, valued at \$300.00 for 2013 Field Day activities  Gift cards, valued at \$75.00 to purchase water for Field Day  Gift cards, valued at \$50.00 for teacher and staff appreciation week  Gift cards, valued at \$200.00 for teacher and staff appreciation week  Luncheon and gift cards, valued at \$550.00 for teacher and staff appreciation week	Baseline Elementary PTA  Whole Foods Market  Daysprings Health  Randolph Occupational Medicine Services  Baseline Elementary PTA
Central High School	\$250.00 cash to the band program  \$100.00 cash to the EAST Lab program  \$100.00 cash to the EAST lab program	Mr. David Bryles  Ms. Debra Fuqua  LRCH classes of 1977 & 1978
Fair Park ECC	\$1,000.00 cash to the PRE-K program for purchase of educational materials	Jonathan & Brooke Bricker
Forest Park Elementary School	\$356,679.00 for funding the athletic pavilion and turf project on west side of campus	Forest Park PTA and contributions from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arkansas Fence &amp; Guardrail</li> <li>- Cromwell Architects</li> <li>- Ketcher Roofing</li> <li>- Nabholz Construction</li> <li>- Staley Electric</li> <li>- Chris East and Dan Fowler of Cromwell Architects</li> </ul>
Roberts Elementary School	\$30.00 cash in honor of Caroline Bryant to the basketball program for purchase of equipment	Amy Glover Bryant
Romine Elementary School	150 gift certificates, valued at \$750.00 as incentives for honor students	Copeland's Restaurant
Williams Magnet School	\$100.00 cash to the art program	Little Rock ViPS
LRSD Gifted & Talented Program	\$25.00 cash for Destination Imagination Program	Mr. John G. Chamberline

**F. Little Rock PTA Council**

No report.

**G. Little Rock Education Association**

No report.

### III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Remarks from Board Members

**Mr. Branch** reported he had visited Parkview and had spoken with several students who had attended Boys State where they were elected as officers. Responding to comments regarding the southwest Little Rock land purchase, he apologized to the audience and agreed the board had not done enough to inform our constituents. He asked about the possibility of staying the land purchase and voiding the current contract until further discussion could be held. He pledged to try harder to communicate with the public.

**Mr. Carreiro** expressed excitement about the district's summer school programs. The summer educational support activities are fun and enriching and provide a great opportunity to remediate and reinforce student achievement. He complimented the staff and everyone involved in the various summer learning programs.

**Mr. Carreiro** also read a portion of his previous comments regarding the land purchase in southwest Little Rock. He felt the district would have lost much more than \$10,000 in earnest money. The RFP for the facilities review is scheduled to go out Monday, and a part of that process will include more effective communication with the public.

**Dr. Nellums** thanked the citizens of Zone 2 for allowing him to represent them for the past 2.5 years. He announced he would not be running for reelection, and he introduced Reverend C. E. McAdoo who would be filing to run for election in Zone 2. Dr. Nellums stated his board service had been an interesting journey, and that his primary concern would continue to be student achievement. He expressed concern with board members' interest in personal agendas, and the continuing disparities between test scores and achievement levels between African American males and white students. He also announced beginning July 9 he would be administering the Arkansas Minority Voting Rights website.

**Mr. Adams** reported the anti-bullying committee (STAND) for June had been postponed and would resume in August. He commented on the concerns expressed by the southwest Little Rock residents, and agreed there was a lack of community connection and discussion. He thanked the citizens who attended the meeting on Monday night and assured the audience the board was listening and considering their perspectives very seriously. Board members are committed to making their best judgments based on information available, and he expressed regret that many were disappointed the board did not stop the purchase of the land. He discussed the importance of moving forward for the students in Little Rock. Disagreements should not stop us from finding ways to pull together and work together. "No one wants to fail the children..."

**Mr. Adams** continued with an assurance that the board would work on building stronger community partnerships; decisions regarding the type of school to be built in southwest Little Rock would be made with the community's input.

**Ms. Curry** commended the district on holding the first minority vendor fair, stating she had received rave reviews from attendees. She thanked the staff for their efforts in making this a productive event for outreach for vendors across the city. She also thanked the audience members who spoke at the community forum on Monday and

those who addressed the board earlier in the meeting tonight. She agreed there was always room for better communication, and she made a personal commitment to do a better job to reach more of the community. "To be competitive we have to make commitments to move forward in order to recruit students back and keep them in the district."

## **B. 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. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on May 17, 2013 and from a special meeting held on June 13, 2013 were presented for review and approval. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW**

### **A. Policy Revision – First Reading: IL Evaluation of Instructional Programs and Regulation Revision, IL-R Program Evaluation Process**

Linda Young provided information regarding the recommended changes to board policy IL, stating the intent was to more closely align policy with achievement goals and curriculum and instruction objectives. Curriculum and Instruction would be more accountable based on program evaluation under the revised policy presented.

Dr. Suggs addressed the board regarding alignment of curriculum and instruction and development of a system to hold each department more accountable for student learning and achievement. There will be less reliance on historical evaluation reports and an increased ability to analyze data on a real-time basis through the data dashboard. There will be more facilitation of initiatives to better improve education for every student. He will be realigning three departments to better suit the academic needs of the students, with the evaluation component folded into evaluation and testing and the academic data department to become one department focusing on core subject area progress.

Dr. Nellums expressed disagreement with the idea of policy revision and mergers of departments, saying the "fox was guarding the henhouse." Mr. Adams expressed support, stating enhancing transparency will provide more access to the data for the board, teachers, administrators, and parents. He agreed with Dr. Suggs comments that it was important to do something different from what has been done in the past. We haven't shown significant success with what we have done in the past.

Dr. Suggs responded to questions and stated these realignments would provide more opportunity to see which programs are effective, which are not, and how to make better decisions when investing funds in the future.

Mr. Carreiro made comments regarding the board's decision-making, following the administration's recommendations based on evaluations. The board has eliminated programs, expanded programs, and has made some significant changes based on the evaluations. However, the recommended policy changes are not significant changes, and the regulations will allow better identification of the programs to be evaluated and will allow everything we do to be a part of the evaluation process, not just a few pre-specified program evaluations. Evaluation will happen on a daily basis, with better review of the curriculum and instruction component and better utilization of the data warehouse.

Dr. Nellums questioned Dr. DeJarnette regarding statements and comments she made earlier in the meeting. She expressed opposition to the revision in the policy and to any changes in the current process of program evaluation.

Chris Heller responded to concerns regarding the policy and the recommended changes. It was his opinion nothing in the changes would prohibit the district from utilizing external evaluation services as necessary and continuing to do what is in the best interest of the students in the district.

Helen Davis made brief comments as a member of the district's evaluation committee.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve policy IL on first reading. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it carried 3-2 with Mr. Branch and Dr. Nellums voting no. Mr. Adams spoke in support of the revisions and realignment; Dr. Nellums spoke in opposition.

## VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

### A. McKinney-Ventro Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant Program

Linda Young recommended approval and responded to questions regarding an application for grant funding under the McKinney-Ventro homeless education grant. The District has approximately 420 students living shelters, hotels, motels, or doubled-up conditions. Funding from this grant provides for part of the homeless coordinator's salary, tutoring, summer programs, school supplies, family emergency services and enriched education services linked to achievement. The submission date is July 1, 2013.

Dr. Nellums moved to approve the recommended submission; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

*Dr. Nellums exited the meeting.*

### B. Textbook Adoption for New High School Courses

At the agenda meeting on June 13, Mr. Glasgow and Mr. Burton responded to questions regarding new courses recently approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Those courses are: **Advanced Topics and Modeling in Mathematics; Linear Systems and Statistics: Fundamentals of Algebraic Modeling;** and **Bridge to Algebra II: College Prep Algebra**

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the selected new course textbooks; Mr. Branch seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

### **C. TLI Contract for 2013-14**

An interim assessment program is used in grades 2 through 12 to inform and track student learning during the year. The SOAR assessments allow educators to see how well students have learned specific content and skills during a specified time frame during the year. The interim assessment results can be reported on individual classroom levels, a whole school level, or even at the district level. Instruction and curriculum modifications can be made using the results from the interim assessments.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the renewal of the TLI contract for 2013-14; 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. Mr. Adams moved to approve; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VIII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **A. Annual School Election Budget**

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-622 states in part..."The requirement for publication of the budget shall be discharged by the board of directors of each school district by publication of its budget one (1) time...not less than sixty (60) days before the annual school election." To comply, the Board was asked to approve a proposed budget for the 2014-2015 school year together with a rate of tax levy sufficient to provide such funds. A resolution was provided in the board's agenda, and approval was recommended. Mr. Bailey responded to questions.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the budget presented; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Annual School Election Polling Sites**

Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-14-102 provides that polling sites for the annual school election may, by resolution of the District's Board of Directors, be reduced in uncontested Board races if there are no other issues to be decided. This option allows for a reduction in the cost of the annual school elections. LRSD Board zones 2, 4 and 6 are up for election in September 2013. The resolution presented would allow only for absentee and early voting in these zones if there is only one candidate for office.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the recommended resolution. Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. Finance of Special Needs School Buses**

The district has established a ten year cycle for school bus replacement. The Transportation Department identified eight used school buses for purchase ranging in year models 2010 through 2012. The acquisition of these buses will maintain the planned replacement schedule. Used buses two years or older are exempt from bidding per state law; however, the District plans to finance the purchase. An RFP will be issued for the financing. Mr. Adams moved to approve the purchase; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **D. Budget Update**

Mr. Bailey provided a brief overview of the current budget process. Budget worksessions are planned in July and August, with final approval by the board to submit the budget to the ADE as required in September.

The RFP for selection of a facilities review consultant will publish on Monday. Once responses are received, the board will be brought up to date and a vote on selection of the vendor will be required.

## **IX. CLOSING REMARKS**

### **A. Announcements and Reminders**

Mr. Burton thanked the board for allowing him the opportunity to serve as the interim superintendent. The primary focus for decision-making was based on the best option for the education of the students.

He also commented on the remarks from southwest Little Rock residents. As the former principal of McClellan he is aware of the needs of the community and he has spoken to members of the community. He insisted the best option is to continue to stay focused on the students and to move forward with providing better facilities for all students in the district.

Mr. Bailey made a few comments regarding the data warehouse and the data dashboard. He reported the one currently in use is Data Director, and is not a data warehouse. It is used mainly for data management. The data dashboard Dr. Suggs made reference to earlier in the meeting is a true data warehouse.

### **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

Ms. Curry requested a suspension of the rules to consider a Resolution in memory of recently deceased Donna Grady Creer. Mr. Carreiro moved to suspend the rules; Mr. Branch seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Ms. Curry read the Resolution. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve; Mr. Branch seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**. The resolution will be presented to members of Ms. Creer's family.

### **FINAL REMARKS**

Mr. Adams announced his intent to run for reelection for his Zone 4 position on the board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

APPROVED: 07-25-13

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