



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
July 23, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2009, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dianne Curry presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dianne Curry  
Charles Armstrong  
Jody Carreiro  
Mike Daugherty  
Melanie Fox  
Baker Kurrus  
Katherine Mitchell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Linda Watson, Superintendent  
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Dr. Daugherty arrived at 5:40 p.m. Amy Cooper, teacher from M. L. King Elementary was present as ex officio member of the board for the month of June. The student ex officio Evan Wordlaw from Parkview Magnet High School was also present.

Ms. Curry welcomed members of the audience and asked Dr. Watson to proceed with the citations and commendations.

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

**A. Superintendent's Citations & Commendations**

Dr. Watson introduced **Monica Norwood**, assistant principal at Cloverdale Magnet Middle School. Ms. Norwood was recently awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This prestigious award is presented annually to the best pre-college-level science and math teachers from across the country. Ms. Norwood will receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation along with an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for a White House awards ceremony and a week of special events this fall.

The student ex-officio for the month of July was **Evan Wordlaw** from Parkview High School, and the teacher representative was **Amy Cooper** from Martin Luther King Elementary School. Each of them received a certificate of appreciation for their service.

#### **B. Remarks from Citizens**

No one requested time to address the board.

#### **C. Partners in Education**

Debbie Milam presented one new partnership for the board's review and approval:

**Dunbar Magnet Middle School**, represented by *Eunice Thrasher*, partnering with **CAPE (Community Advocates for Public Education)** represented by *Helen Davis*

Ms. Fox made a motion to accept the partnership; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### **D. Little Rock PTA Council**

Patty Barker addressed the board briefly regarding activities that have taken place during the summer in preparation for the 2009-10 school year. She commended the district on the number and types of summer programs that were available for students during the summer months.

Ms. Barker announced that the PTA Council would be conducting leadership training for Arkansas PTA officers on Saturday, July 25, beginning at 8:00 a.m. This training is provided to assist new officers in preparing for a successful school year. She encouraged principals to continue to encourage membership and to encourage all teachers to join the PTA.

#### **E. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association**

No report.

### **IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **A. Remarks from Board Members**

Dr. Mitchell commended Monica Norwood for being recognized as a Presidential Award winner stating that Ms. Norwood goes way above expectations for her students. She also commended all LRSD employees for the work they have done over the past year, expressing pride in the increases in student achievement as evidenced by the improvement in test scores. Dr. Mitchell stated that she is personally making a deeper commitment to being involved with our children. "This job is teamwork, we all have to be on board and work toward what is best for our children."

Mr. Carreiro reported that he had received a medal at the end of summer program at Mabelvale Middle School and that he had intended to wear it to the meeting. He thanked the summer school staff, and stated that the students worked hard over the summer to improve achievement. He noted that they set some goals and planned a roadmap to continue to reach for the goal. He also congratulated Ms. Norwood for her recognition as a Presidential Award winner.

Mr. Armstrong also congratulated Ms. Norwood and thanked her for her dedication to the students. He stressed the importance of getting parents involved in their student's life. He reported that he had just been at the UAPB, freshman orientation where many former LRSD students were registering for college classes at UAPB.

Ms. Curry commended Ms. Norwood and stated that she was proud that she was part of the LRSD. She thanked Ms. Davis and CAPE for the new partnership with Dunbar, and asked for more participation by individuals and groups in mentoring our students.

## **B. Legal Update**

Chris Heller provided a written report for the board's review earlier in the day and he briefly reviewed the items included in that report. Mr. Heller noted that Judge Miller has the case under review, and that he expects hearings to be conducted in the near future. Mr. Heller provided a recommendation that the board consider raising issues with the federal court over the state's continual approval of Charter schools. He discussed the repeated approval of Charters without following the state law and federal desegregation orders which specify that Charters cannot be approved if they negatively impact local school operations.

At the time of this report, Mr. Heller stated that no progress had been made toward a settlement and that they hadn't heard anything from the Attorney General regarding our latest settlement offer.

Mr. Heller asked the board to discuss the issues with him and to decide how the board would like to approach the state legislative committee and the federal court. He stated that the lawyers for the state had tried to move toward ceasing funding of desegregation obligations without regard for the impact on the local school districts. He stated that the law is clear that in order for the state to free itself from the obligations of the 1989 settlement agreement, the state has to prove that it has operated in compliance.

He reminded the board that there were four new charter school applications pending before the state board of education; he suggested that the issue be addressed with Judge Miller before any additional charters are approved.

Ms. Fox asked the administration to further develop an exit program to find out why families want to leave the district and to continue to survey parents to find out what can be done to attract families back.

Mr. Kurrus asked Mr. Heller how he would recommend approaching settlement with the state and whether settlement is even a possibility. He stated that the State should want to settle for the purpose of meeting the needs of the children in the schools. "The State's obligations haven't changed since the original settlement was reached, but the state hasn't acted in good faith response to our proposal for settlement."

Mr. Armstrong suggested that Mr. Heller attempt to settle and that if no response is received within 60 days, the district should go to court. Ms. Curry asked board members to discuss the options individually with Mr. Heller to assist in the development of additional terms for a settlement proposal. Action can be taken at the next board meeting if necessary.

**C. Update: Quigley Stadium**

Athletic Director Johnny Johnson reported on the progress being made on upgrades to Quigley Stadium. The estimated amount for artificial turf at the stadium is \$314,000; however Houston Nutt, Arkansas Baptist College, and other individuals and groups have pledged amounts that are expected to cover the cost.

Mr. Kurrus expressed concerns about authorizing the contracts on behalf of the district without bringing those contracts to the board for review prior to authorization. Also, he stated that he wouldn't be supportive of spending district funds on projects related to athletics when the focus should be on priorities of educating children.

**D. Update: Title IX Compliance**

Title IX report was provided as part of the agenda. Mr. Johnson reviewed the report briefly and responded to questions. Dr. Daugherty asked that the report be publicized for the community's information. Mr. Johnson offered to link it to the website.

**E. Report / Presentation – Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.**

At the request of members of the board, Mr. J. Vincent Brown presented a PowerPoint review of an alternative learning program which he would like to implement in the LRSD.

Alternatives Unlimited provides "*Drop Back In*" . . . a dropout recovery program for middle and high school student. They also offer dropout prevention programs and have been in business since 1997.

The board took a break at 7:28 p.m.

**F. Budget Update**

No report.

**G. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker's report was provided in the agenda. No additional information was requested.

**V. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS**

**A. Donations of Property**

The Board was asked to approve the acceptance of recent donations to the District. Evan Wordlaw, student ex officio, read the listed donations.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to accept the donations as listed; Ms. Fox seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**. Donations are listed in the following chart:

**DONATIONS**

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Jefferson Elementary School	\$2,000.00 cash for playground improvements	Ms. Kaye Leonard
	Five – covered hanging bulletin boards, valued at \$350.00 to showcase student work and enhance the front hallways	Mr. Vince Floriani, P. E.
Western Hills Elementary School	Six new Cecilio flutes and one new Jollyson slide trombone valued at \$3,120.00	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hammond

**B. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting of June 26, 2009 and from a special meeting held on July 9, 2009 were presented for the board’s review and approval. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

**VI. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW**

**A. First Reading: Policy Revision – BDH Consultants to the Board**

Policy BDH – Consultants to the Board was originally adopted in January 1999. The revised policy submitted for review provides additional guidance regarding the process of hiring consultants and personal service providers. The board was asked to approve the policy on first reading.

**B. First Reading: Policy Revision – IG Curriculum Development, Adoption and Review**

Policy IG – Curriculum Development, Adoption and Review was originally adopted in August 1999. The board was asked to review and approve the revisions as presented.

**C. First Reading: Policy Revision – JE Student Enrollment, Attendance, and Transfers**

Policy JE – Student Enrollment, Attendance and Transfers describes the process of student enrolment, attendance and transfers within the LRSD. The policy specifies the age requirements for school attendance as mandated by the State of Arkansas. The administration requested board approval.

Mr. Carreiro moved to accept all three policies on first reading. Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried 6-0-1** with Dr. Mitchell abstaining.

## VII. ADMINISTRATION

### A. Renaming of Facilities: Verizon Wireless Field at Quigley-Cox Stadium

Under the guidelines provided by Board Policy FF – Naming of Facilities, the board was asked to approve the renaming of the athletic field at Quigley Stadium. The field was formerly named in honor of Bernie Cox, with the stadium named for Early Quigley, who was the football coach at Little Rock High School from 1914 to 1936.

The request for renaming the field came from Verizon Wireless which has contributed \$250,000 to the renovations at the stadium. Coach Cox agreed to their request, and with the proposal to name the facility Verizon Wireless Field at Quigley-Cox Stadium.

Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the administration's request; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## VIII. STUDENT SERVICES

### A. Submission of Continuation of McKinney-Vento Grant

The Little Rock School District has been awarded the McKinney-Vento Grant through the Arkansas Department of Education since 1992. The grant ensures that homeless students within our school zones receive appropriate support services to ensure educational success. Approximately 500 students have been served each year through tutoring, summer programs, referrals for health needs, school supplies, family emergency and other necessary services. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the submission of the grant, Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried 6-1**, with Mr. Kurrus voting no.

## IX. HUMAN RESOURCES

### A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel matters were printed in the board's agenda. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the recommendations as presented. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### B. Appointment of School Administrator – Terry Elementary

The administration recommended Lori Brown to assume the position of principal of Terry Elementary School. Dr. Mitchell made a motion to appoint Ms. Brown as principal; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## X. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

### A. Annual School Election Polling Sites

Arkansas law provides that the number of polling sites for annual school elections may be reduced in uncontested races if there are no other issues on the ballot. By resolution, the board may eliminate polling sites altogether and therefore reduce the amount spent on the annual school elections.

The administration recommended that the LRSD Board of Directors approve a Resolution to meet the requirements provided by Arkansas law and provide only early voting and absentee ballots. Ms. Fox moved to approve the recommendation; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **B. Approval of ARRA Stimulus Plans**

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act established by the Federal Government earmarked funding for use by each state's government. Part of the funding was stipulated for school districts in three categories: Title 1, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and State Fiscal Stabilization Funds.

The administration presented proposals and requested approval for the IDEA and Title 1 plans. A proposal for the Stabilization portion of the request will be provided at a later date.

Ms. Fox moved approval of the IDEA plan. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the Title 1 plan as submitted. Mr. Carreiro seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **C. Monthly Financial Statements**

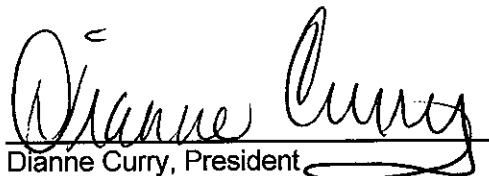
Monthly financial reports were not available at this time.

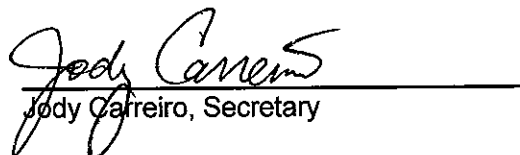
### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Carreiro.

APPROVED:

8-27-09

  
Dianne Curry, President

  
Jody Carreiro, Secretary

## RESOLUTION OF THE LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL BOARD

Comes now the Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District of Pulaski County, Arkansas, and adopts for presentation to the Election Commission of Pulaski County, Arkansas, the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, three positions (zones three, six, and seven) on the Little Rock School Board are subject to election due to the expiration of the incumbents' terms; and

**WHEREAS**, only one candidate presented a petition or notice in writing to the Pulaski County Board of Election Commissioners, as required by A.C.A. §6-14-111, for each position; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no other issues on the ballot for the 2009 School Election; and

**WHEREAS**, A.C.A. §6-14-102(c)(1) provides that under the circumstances described above, a School Board may petition, by resolution, the County Election Commission to open no polling places on election day for the zone(s) that meet the requirement, instead providing that the election be conducted by absentee ballot and early voting only; and

**WHEREAS**, A.C.A. §6-14-102(c)(2) provides that the County Election Commission may, upon receipt of such resolution, provide that no polling places be open on election day, relying instead on absentee ballots and early voting only.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District hereby petitions the Pulaski County Election Commission, through the Pulaski County Board of Election Commissioners, to open no polling places for the school zones that meet the aforementioned requirements in the School Election of 2009 for the Little Rock School District and provide only early voting and absentee ballots therefore.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2009.

  
Board President

  
Board Secretary