



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

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**October 10, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special board meeting on Thursday, October 10, 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  
Jody Carreiro  
Leslie Fisker  
C. E. McAdoo

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dexter Suggs, Superintendent of Schools  
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

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

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; the zone 6 seat was vacant pending installation of Ms. Tara Shephard, who was recently elected.

**II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The agenda for the special meeting included two items:

- A. Student Expulsion Recommendation**
- B. Hearings on Background Check Waiver Requests**

**III. ACTION AGENDA**

**A. Student Expulsion Recommendation**

Dr. Fields provided information recommending the expulsion of RB, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Dunbar Middle School student. The student brought a weapon on school grounds, and was removed from Dunbar for the required one-calendar-year.

Dr. Fields informed the board of his communications with the parent, and reported the student was now enrolled in Covenant Keepers. RB will return to the LRSD at the end of his suspension. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the administration's recommendation for expulsion. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **B. Employee Hearings on Criminal Background Checks / Requests for Waivers**

Robert Robinson provided background information on four employees who requested an appeal before the board on their criminal background checks.

**Denise Beal:** background check revealed the offense occurred in 1998 when Ms. Beal was 17 years old. She was working at a department store and fraudulently received an in-store credit for merchandise. She is now 34, married with three children. She has applied to serve as a substitute teacher. The incident has been expunged from her record.

Mr. Adams made a motion to grant the waiver for Ms. Beal as recommended by the administration. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**Calvin Knight:** represented by Duane Thomas, with LREA Uniserve. Information was provided regarding an incident thirteen years ago whereby Mr. Knight and his wife were placed on the child maltreatment registry for failure to provide insulin for their daughter when she was 8 years old. Mr. Thomas read a statement from Mr. Knight's daughter. Mr. Knight was recently hired to work as a security officer at Fulbright Elementary School.

Ms. Knight also addressed the board. Their daughter was diagnosed at the age 8 with diabetes. She was hospitalized a number of times between the ages of 8 and 11 for uncontrolled diabetes and for adjustments to her insulin. The Knight's had met with DHS workers, but were not informed they were being placed on the maltreatment registry.

Ms. Johnson recommended the waiver be granted to Mr. Knight based on the information provided. Ms. Fiskens seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

**Danette Murray:** a former district employee who worked as a secretary at Parkview for seven years who resigned when she moved to North Arkansas. She worked as a substitute clerical employee at McClellan for over a year, and was hired this year at Central. She admitted inadvertently responding in the negative on her employment application, omitting that she had been arrested for drugs 32 years ago. She was 28 years old at the time of the arrest, and she served 10 years on probation. She stated the record had been expunged, and her attorney had advised she no longer had to claim the incident on employment applications.

The administration recommended granting the waiver for Ms. Murray. Mr. McAdoo moved to grant the waiver as recommended. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion; and it **carried unanimously**.

**Reginald Todd:** requested consideration for a waiver to continue his employment with the LRSD. Mr. Todd was 15 years old when he was involved in an altercation with a female acquaintance. He reacted in defense against another male who intervened in the argument.

Mr. Todd had been hired as a paraprofessional at Carver. He had marked "no" on the application because he thought the records from a juvenile offense were closed, and he had not been in any other trouble since that time.

Ms. Johnson recommended granting the waiver based on the administration's recommendation. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

APPROVED: 10-24-13

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