



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
October 16, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special board meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 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
Jody Carreiro
C. E. McAadoo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Norma Johnson
Leslie Fiskien

ALSO PRESENT:

Marvin Burton, Deputy Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Four members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Fiskien and Ms. Johnson were absent. The zone 6 seat was vacant pending installation of Ms. Tara Shephard, who was recently elected.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called for the purpose of reviewing and taking a position on the charter school application for the Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock.

III. ACTION AGENDA

A. Exalt Academy

Attorney Chris Heller reviewed the application and discussed the pros and cons of their planned school. The application indicated the enrollment would begin with K through third grades and eventually serve up to the 8th grade.

The application indicates they would serve low-income, African American and Hispanic or ESL families, with an extended day and longer school year. No transportation would be provided. The applicant expects to receive a waiver from requirements to employ certified teachers as a way to implement more flexible and innovative approaches to educating students. They would also receive an exemption from the teacher fair dismissal act so that once hired, a teacher could be fired without cause based on the educational needs of the students and the need to realign teaching staff. The population to be served already has available the Little Rock Preparatory Academy as well as LRSD elementary and middle schools.

Dennis Glasgow reviewed information on the Little Rock Preparatory Academy, reporting they are not doing anything new, different, or innovative than other schools in the SWLR section of the LRSD. Their achievement test scores came in significantly lower than the state testing performance. It was his analysis that the application did not offer any educational benefits over what is already provided in the LRSD at Cloverdale Middle School. As a note, Cloverdale provides after before and after school tutoring and a summer school program for its students.

Mr. Burton provided the administration's recommendation not to support this application based on the information provided and that no benefits were being offered above what was already available through LRSD and other charter schools in the area.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion not to support the application for the Exalt Charter School based on the general terms and issues presented for discussion: lack of transportation, financial and budgetary concerns, and the educational concerns outlined by the administration. Mr. McAdoo seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Mr. Adams stated for the public record, the board considers each charter school application on its own merits, and there have been occasions when the board supported a proposed charter school. The board considers whether a proposed charter would provide services to a student population that is underserved or if there are no programs currently available in the LRSD to meet their needs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

APPROVED: 10-24-13

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