



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 25, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2012, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jody Carreiro presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Carreiro
Michael Nellums
Greg Adams
Dianne Curry
Leslie Fisker
Norma Johnson
Michael Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

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 5:34 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call. Teacher ex-officio Angie Butcher from Cloverdale Middle School, and student representative Roznae Bowman-El from J. A. Fair High school were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

At the agenda meeting on October 11, Dr. Holmes introduced members of the staff of Williams Magnet School, which was recently selected as a "high achieving school" by the National Center for Education Achievement. Lori Brown, principal, and Sandra Register, former principal of Williams Magnet School, received citations in recognition of outstanding leadership.

Pamela Smith recognized several business and community partners who had recently donated to the LRSD to support parental involvement: Playtime Pizza, Straight Right Fitness & Boxing, Pyramid Gallery & Hearne Fine Art, Capital Cuts, Whole Hog Café, Trio's, Graffiti's, Homer's, Best Buy, Professor Bowl, Rave Motion Picture Theater, Catering to You, and Tease Salon. In addition, Childrens International provided more than 200 bags of school supplies which were used as door prizes at the school open houses.

Adrienne Jung representing Wright, Lindsey & Jennings was recognized for a donation of 81 computers which were used as door prizes at the district's open houses. Sandy Becker received a superintendent's citation for his efforts in coordinating the Computers for Kids program. Mr. Becker recognized Dorothy Teresa Harris from Watson Elementary School. He credited her for the original idea to develop the Computers for Kids Program.

B. Partners in Education

Debbie Milam presented a recently established partnership between **Terry Elementary School** and the **West Little Rock Rotary Club**. Sandra Register and staff from Terry were present, in addition to Nancy Leonhardt, representing the West Little Rock Rotary Club

Dr. Nellums made a motion to accept the partnership. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Remarks from Citizens

Yolanda Jones addressed the board regarding a situation at McClellan High School where her daughter is a senior. Her daughter was involved in an altercation and other students videotaped the attack. She reportedly had discussed the concerns with the security officers at the school and with the principal. She stated other students had posted the video on You Tube, and her daughter continues to be harassed over the incident. Dr. Holmes asked Ms. Jones to further discuss her concerns with the principal and with Marvin Burton.

D. Donations of Property

Student representative Roznae Bowman-EI read the list of donations provided in the board's agenda. Ms. Curry moved to approve the donations presented. Dr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Baseline Elementary School	School supplies valued at \$100.00	Queen of Sheba Grand Chapter #1258 , Order of the Eastern Star
	\$3,000 cash to provide incentives and materials for students and staff	RCN Enterprises

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	\$2,000 cash to the Band Department \$100 cash to the AVID program \$50 cash to the AVID program \$1000 cash to the AVID program \$100 cash to the AVID Program \$5000 cash to purchase computers for the Freshman Academy technology lab 70 pair of Under Armour game cleats, valued at \$5,600 to the football program	Gerald Anderson James R. Mitchell, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Clay Teague Mr. Jeffery T. Lozier Ms. Catherine Meghan Steadman Mr. Larry E. Lichty, TTEE Mr. Deion Sanders
Mann Magnet Middle School	\$250.00 cash for Maurice Guest's classroom	Entergy Services, Inc.
McClellan High School	Two Olympus camera bodies, lenses and accessories, valued at approximately \$1,500 to the Journalism Department	Mr. Jay Hiatt
Parkview Magnet High School	Two Olympus camera bodies, lenses and accessories, valued at approximately \$1,500 to the Journalism Department	Mr. Jay Hiatt
Romine Elementary	\$100 cash to purchase student uniforms	Rev. Keith Jackson, Rock Creek Church
LRSD Secondary Literacy and Foreign Language Department	15 Reader's Digest Great Biographies and 9 Reacher's Digest Best Non-Fiction books valued at approximately \$240.00	Ms. Maxine Kirk

E. Little Rock PTA Council

Mr. Becker provided a reminder of the next PTA Council meeting, November 13 at Otter Creek Elementary School. He reminded PTA units to submit their membership dues to the state by the end of the month.

F. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler welcomed Mr. Peterson and Ms. Fisker to the board, and congratulated Ms. Curry on her reelection. She thanked the board for allowing her to participate in the goal setting worksession last week as further evidence of continuing on the path of collaboration, cooperation and communication.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Johnson reminded parents to expect report cards soon, and she encouraged parents to provide support for students who are not doing well in school. She also asked listeners to begin identifying students who will need toys for Christmas, and she noted several agencies and organizations where donations are being accepted.

Ms. Fisken noted this was her first board meeting, and she complimented the support staff for the level of professionalism exhibited by the staff.

Dr. Nellums noted he had visited Gibbs last week and was impressed by the orderly and well organized school environment. He complimented Principal Hobbs, and was impressed with a new classroom teacher who was obviously enthused about her job. He had also visited the J. A. Fair homecoming celebrations and was happy with the high level of parent participation and involvement in the program. He was pleased with the students' orderly and supportive behavior. He thanked Mr. Owah and his staff for their efforts.

Mr. Peterson thanked the audience for supporting him in his election to the board. He reported his 38 years as a teacher and administrator in the LRSD had prepared him to serve in this capacity. He had already visited all the elementary schools in his zone, and was attending PTA meetings and other meetings in his community. He spoke directly to parents who were in attendance at the Romine Elementary PTA meeting, stressing to them to stay involved in the educational process of their children. He said he would continue to work to gain the parents confidence and would encourage more parental involvement in the educational process. He had also visited Felder and had expressed concerns to Dr. Holmes. He was encouraged and promised to work hard to represent the students.

Ms. Curry thanked the people who reelected her to the board and she thanked the two candidates who also ran in the Zone 7 district. She expressed excitement about the goals which had been established in last week's worksession and looked forward to working toward gaining parental support and involvement.

Mr. Adams welcomed Ms. Fisken and Mr. Peterson to the board, and congratulated Ms. Curry on her reelection. He spoke to the importance of board members personally viewing the work done across the district, and the many ways the district staff comes together collaboratively to coordinate all the various activities. He spoke to dispel the perception that the board votes often along split lines. He noted only one incident in the past year where the board voted a split. He stated he was fully committed to providing a collaborative effort in all the issues the board has to address.

Mr. Carreiro announced several bands which are participating in marching contests, including Parkview and Central. All region tryouts have taken place and students from each of the high schools have been selected. There is a presentation on November 17.

Mr. Carreiro gave a tribute to his father, who would have been 84 today. He was a "lifelong learner and good example" who always encouraged him to continue to learn. He spoke about the jobs his father gave him working in a grocery store and the experiences he gained. His father went back to school after he sold the business and finished his doctorate at the age of 67 after having a stroke. He set an example of working with your kids and teaching them something every step of the way.

B. 2012-2013 SY / October Enrollment Report

A brief summary of enrollment statistics was provided in the board's agenda. Additional information and a presentation will be provided in November.

C. October 2012 PRE Quarterly Report

Mr. Glasgow was present at the agenda meeting to respond to questions regarding the October Quarterly report. Karen DeJarnette was in attendance at the board meeting to present the report and answer additional questions.

Dr. Nellums had questions regarding the middle school interventions and asked questions of Dr. Whitehorn regarding how these interventions were being evaluated as to their effectiveness, especially with African American male students. Dr. DeJarnette reviewed the process for conducting surveys and evaluations with the factors going into the development of the assessments. Teachers and staff will be asked to provide input into the process for developing strategies for increased effectiveness. Ms. Johnson asked if the student survey could include an identifier of students who are involved in athletics.

D. Informational: Operation Intercept Report

Dr. Holmes introduced Pamela Smith for a PowerPoint presentation in response to recent news reports of bullying of Latino and African American students in our schools. He stressed that efforts are underway to address and respond to these allegations. Ms. Smith provided a chronological sequence of events related to the Operation Intercept report which was written by Dr. Terry Richard. She reviewed a timeline of the events and the steps taken since the report was brought to the district's attention.

Other staff members who participated in the report included Dr. Sadie Mitchell, Les Taylor, principal of Wakefield, and Shoutell Richardson, principal at Chicot. Both of these schools have a high concentration of Latino students. They have for years had school-based programs and procedures to address concerns and prevent bullying in their schools.

Mr. Taylor reported the importance of remaining engaged with each group of students to encourage communication and prevent bullying. He works with his school staff, counselors and assistant principal, to ensure students remain engaged and parents involved in the school activities.

Dr. Mitchell responded to questions regarding community involvement in resolving bullying issues and strategies being implemented to develop better community collaboration.

Dr. Whitehorn and Mr. Burton discussed secondary level efforts to reduce bullying, utilizing public speakers, heritage month celebrations, and emphasis on equal academic access for Latino students. Ruth Shepherd with Just Communities of Arkansas (JCA) provides anti-bullying programs through access to Anytown and Unitown youth camps. An anti-bullying curriculum is being developed to provide a more cohesive districtwide effort. This effort will be called REACH, *Respect Everyone and their Cultural Heritage*. All communities will be represented on the task force and the first meeting will be held next week.

E. Informational: School Improvement Grants Update

Dr. Holmes introduced Linda Young to review and discuss the four SIG grants in the LRSD: Hall High, Cloverdale Middle, and J. A. Fair High School are in the last year of their three-year grant; McClellan High School, just awarded and in their first year of implementation. Mr. Burton and Dr. Whitehorn reviewed a PowerPoint update on the progress made in the schools during the implementation of the grant.

Conyell Bursac, SIG grant specialist, provided brief background information and introduced school-based support personnel who implement and coordinate the programs:

- *Trinity Bennett, Ahmad Martin, Melba Carter, Tracy Mason, and Shirley Forehand from Hall High School*
- *Wanda Ruffins and Dr. Angela Seay from Cloverdale Middle School*
- *Jeremy Owoh and Deidra Kearney from J. A. Fair High School, and*
- *Shirley Ferguson, Carla Harris, and Cassandra Stauder from McClellan High School.*

F. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided in the board's agenda. He announced again a reminder of October 6 as the next Computer Power Day.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on September 27 and from a special meeting held on October 11 were presented for review and approval. Ms. Fiskin made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Peterson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A. Policy Revision – Second Reading: JLCD Administering Medications to Students

The existing policy JLCD required revision to address the administration of certain medications such as Glucagon and Epipen injectables and other narcotic pain medications during the school day. The policy was approved on first reading at the

September meeting of the board. Ms. Curry made the motion to approve JLCD on second reading. Dr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Policy Revision – First Reading: IKF General Education Graduation Requirements and IKEC – Award of Credit

The existing policy IKF General Education Graduation Requirements required an update to include the state Smart Core graduation requirements as specified by the Arkansas Department of Education on-campus standards review (OSR) process. The revised policy IKF now includes the state Smart Core graduation requirements and the district's graduation requirements. The state's Smart Core includes a minimum of 22 units for graduation and the district's graduation requirements include four additional units for a total of 26 units for graduation.

Revised policy IKEC includes specified numbers of credits to be granted for high school courses. The policy was previously revised in June 2002. Regulation IKEC-R2 is provided in this agenda under the item listing various regulations for board review and discussion.

Mr. Glasgow presented the recommended policy revisions and recommended board approval. Ms. Fisker made a motion to approve on first reading. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Regulation Revisions: IHBDA-R2 Academic Improvement Plans R2 – Approval of New Courses: IKA-R Nine-Week/Semester/Yearly Grading Procedures; IKE-R Promotion, Acceleration, Retention and Administrative Placement of Students, Pre K-12; ID-R

Revisions to regulations provide necessary updates and alignment with state regulations, current district practices and identification of administrative personnel responsible for implementing related instructional tasks. Changes in the district's middle school schedule are reflected in the revised regulations, as well as requirements for posting grades on Edline at the elementary level, updates to elementary grading practices, and various other regulations related to specifications in the number of credits granted for correspondence courses, guidance and updates on end of course exams and emphasis on the scope of required activities. No action was required.

VI. GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A. Board Goals for 2012-2013

Mr. Carreiro presented a recommendation for adoption of the board's goals which were developed in a worksession on October 18, 2012. He requested a motion to suspend the rules to add the item to the action agenda. Ms. Curry moved to suspend the rules; Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Dr. Nellums made a motion to approve the goals as presented; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, a motion to amend was made by Mr. Adams to include the addition of mathematics as a measureable objective under goal 5. The intent is to include proficiency in reading and math by the third grade. Dr. Nellums seconded the motion to amend, and the motion **carried unanimously**. The main motion to adopt the goals as amended **carried unanimously**.

B. Board Reorganization and Election of Officers

Arkansas statues require reorganization of the board and election of officers at the first meeting following the annual school elections.

Mr. Carreiro opened the floor for nominations for the office of secretary. Ms. Curry nominated Ms. Johnson. There were no other nominations, and Ms. Johnson was **unanimously elected** as secretary.

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of vice president; Dr. Nellums nominated Mr. Peterson; Mr. Peterson declined the nomination. Ms. Curry nominated Mr. Adams for the position of Vice President. Mr. Adams was **elected 6-1**, with Dr. Nellums abstaining.

The floor was opened for nominations open for the office of president. Dr. Nellums nominated Ms. Curry. There were no other nominations, and Ms. Curry was **unanimously elected**.

VII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were provided in the board's agenda. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve; Dr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Budget Update

Jean Ring was present to respond to questions from the board. No action was required.

B. July – September 2012 Financial Statements

Three months of financial statements were provided as part of the board's agenda. There were no questions.

IX. CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Burton announced upcoming dates for ACT predictability testing, 8th grade EXPLORE and 10th grade PLAN.

X. HEARINGS

A. STUDENT REINSTATEMENT PETITION

<Student DD>, former Hall High student was expelled last year for possession of a firearm. He served the year required for weapons possession and requested reinstatement to the LRSD. He has received homebound services and has completed the required conflict mediation program. The administration recommended reinstatement with the superintendent deciding where the student should be placed. Mr. Carreiro made the motion to approve the administration's recommendation. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. EMPLOYEE HEARING

Dr. Nellums and Ms. Johnson left before the employee hearing commenced, leaving five board members present.

Mr. Eddings represented the LRSD in a hearing requested by <Employee>. <Employee> tested positive for marijuana in a random drug screening. Michael Coleman represented <Employee>.

In his statement of defense, <Employee> denied smoking marijuana, but admitted he was at a party and around people who were smoking. He requested an opportunity to address the board and requested leniency and a second opportunity to remain an employee of the LRSD.

The board convened a brief executive session and returned to report no action was taken. Mr. Carreiro moved to support the allegation contained in the letter recommending termination: "On June 28, 2012 after a random drug screening, you tested positive for marijuana." Mr. Peterson seconded the motion and it **carried 5-0**.

Ms. Fischen made a motion to uphold the superintendent's recommendation for termination. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

APPROVED: 11-15-12

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