



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 17, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2011, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jody Carreiro presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jody Carreiro  
Michael Nellums  
Charles Armstrong  
Greg Adams  
Melanie Fox  
Dianne Curry  
Norma Johnson

**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 5:35 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call. Mr. Nellums arrived at 6:06 p.m. **Mae Banks**, the teacher ex-officio from **Wakefield Elementary School** and student ex-officio Mark Hudson from **Parkview Magnet High School** were also present.

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

**A. Superintendent's Remarks**

At the agenda meeting on November 10, Dr. Holmes began by recognizing two Central High School students who were selected as winners of the Achievement Award in Writing from the National Council of Teachers of English. Only 520 students in the United States, U.S. territories and Canada were selected to receive this award this year. **Carl Napolitano** and **Ian Wren** received a superintendent's citation for their accomplishment. At the agenda meeting in October, Parkview student **Stephen Jones** was also recognized for receiving the NCATE award. It was noteworthy that three LRSD students were selected for this prestigious award.

The **Parkview Magnet High School Debate Team** recently attended the World Mock Trial Championships in New York City. Teams from all over the world were invited to compete and Parkview placed 12<sup>th</sup> overall in the competition. Ms. Treadway, the debate team sponsor and coach, addressed the audience and introduced the students.

The **Central High School Math Team** participated in the 2011 Fall Startup Event, a national mathematics contest administered by National Assessment & Testing. Students worked for thirty minutes, racing to answer one hundred problems on a variety of mathematical topics. Central students placed 15<sup>th</sup> overall in the competition. Coach McFarland addressed the audience and introduced the students.

Dr. Holmes announced the LRSD had been recognized by the U. S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance with a Merit Award of Appreciation. This award recognizes the District's commitment to sound practices and fiscal management. Mr. Bailey and the Financial Services team were congratulated for this achievement.

**Mark Hudson** from **Parkview** was the November student ex officio; **Mae Banks**, representing **Wakefield Elementary School**, was the teacher ex officio. They each received a citation in appreciation of their service to the board.

## **B. Partners in Education**

At the agenda meeting on November 10, Ms. Milam presented new partnerships for the board's consideration and approval.

**Goldman Recycling**, represented by *Matthew Adams, Randy Pierce and Matt Miskin*, and the **City of Little Rock**, represented by *Melinda Glasgow and Suzanne Hirrel*, in partnership with **Roberts, Carver, Forest Park, Gibbs, Washington and Rockefeller Elementary Schools**, represented by *Building principals and staff*

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**, represented by *Betty Mitchell and other church members*, in partnership with **Woodruff Early Childhood Center**, represented by Principal *Sherkeyer Jackson*

Ms. Fox moved to approve the partnerships; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

## **C. Remarks from Citizens**

**Sheena Lewis** introduced herself as a member of *DIVAS, Inc.* and also serves as a member of the *Children Youth & Families Commission*. She spoke to the board requesting support for DIVAS, Inc. in their efforts to work with female students in middle and high schools. She reported they currently meet with students at Central High School and Nancy Rousseau is a supporter of their efforts. They hold an annual scholarship gala at the governor's mansion, and this year three scholarships will be awarded at that event.

#### D. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. The student ex officio, Mark Hudson, read the list of donations. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to accept the donations; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Bale Elementary	\$500.00 cash to assist the cheerleading team	Mr. Hardin Bale
Central High School	\$10,000.00 cash to the Sunshine Fund \$200.00 cash	Mr. & Mrs. Christoph Keller Kerrie L. Keith and Ragan L. Malott
Pulaski Heights Middle School	Donation of art paper products, valued at \$2,500.00 for use in art classes	Square Deal Builders, LLC
Rockefeller Elementary School	Donation of materials and labor valued at approximately \$650.00 for landscaping the grounds	Epoch Church

#### E. Little Rock PTA Council

Mr. Becker invited the board to attend the monthly PTA Council meetings, held every second Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. The December meeting will be held at Hamilton Learning Academy on December 13. The location of the monthly meetings is on the district's calendar, and the public and board are always invited to attend.

#### F. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler thanked college of education students for attending the board meeting as part of their class requirements. She also thanked the student ex officio for serving as a positive example of our student body. She thanked Mr. Carreiro for attending the LREA Council meeting to speak about the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and the current issues related to that topic. She thanked Norma Johnson for speaking at the appreciation dinner for Educational Support Personnel.

Ms. Kohler recognized Lillie Bouie and Les Taylor who recently met with representatives from the Walmart foundation to discuss Breakfast in the Classroom. She distributed a packet of information which had been provided to teachers specifying how to use the ten minutes set aside for Breakfast in the Classroom for educational purposes. Ten schools in the LRSD are currently participating.

### **III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Mr. Adams complimented the VIPS staff for organizing the annual Jane Mendel reading day, noting that this is a good opportunity for members of the community to visit the schools and support our students. He expressed appreciation to the administration for the quarterly reports provided at the last meeting. He reviewed the highlights provided in these reports, notably the overall indicators showing teacher absences are down, classroom walkthroughs are up, and efforts to increase enrollment in music and art are effective.

Mr. Adams reported attending part of the middle school summit. He discussed efforts by parents in the district who are looking at the middle level educational opportunities in the district and are making decisions to support the LRSD by sending their children to our schools.

Ms. Curry reported she had read at Chicot Elementary, and she agreed with Mr. Adams' comments on the compilation of the quarterly report.

Mr. Armstrong also agreed with previous comments on the indicators of progress provided in the annual report. He was especially pleased and encouraged that some schools have implemented efforts to increase the number of students who take the SAT.

Ms. Johnson reported on attending a musical program at Gibbs Elementary, a PTSA meeting at Hamilton, and the secondary level principals meeting. She was pleased with efforts to keep the district progressing forward. She invited and encouraged the community to get involved and to be a part of the LRSD.

Ms. Fox reported she had read at Jefferson Elementary, where the principal had a six year old student shadowing her for the day, including doing classroom walkthroughs.

Mr. Nellums reported he had met with Joyce Elliott and the advisory board of Promise Neighborhoods. He encouraged the board to work to ensure our commitment to the Promise Neighborhood initiative is evident. He visited Parkview High School and has discussed with Dr. Holmes some issues which need attention and correction. He asked parents to speak with their children to encourage them to take their studies seriously.

Mr. Carreiro reported reading in a 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at M. L. King Elementary. He had a good time reading and enjoyed visiting with others from the community who were there to participate in reading day.

Mr. Adams mentioned the upcoming All Region Choir Concert on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at First Pentecostal Church. Students from middle and high school choirs will be performing.

## **B. Discussion and Review: 2012 Rezoning Board Election Zones**

Attorney Heller provided preliminary information regarding the required rezoning of school district election zones at the November agenda meeting. Copies of proposed rezoning maps were provided to the district by Metroplan and were displayed in the board's conference room. Mr. Carreiro provided information for the board's review, and reported Mr. Heller would be providing additional guidance and information as necessary.

## **C. Exploratory Activity for New Tech High School**

Dennis Glasgow reported on the exploratory process being used to implement a New Tech High School in the Little Rock School District. New Tech schools are STEM (Science, Technology, Math, and Engineering) based schools which prepare students to attend college. Mr. Glasgow reported the various considerations being reviewed including the preparation of staff, designation of facilities, purchase of equipment, allocation of funding, and development of policies.

Mr. Glasgow, Dr. Holmes, Ms. Fox and several others from the LRSD visited Manor Tech High School near Austin, TX. They were impressed with the project-based learning and self-motivation evidenced by the students. Students are given a project to work on and they are responsible for research, investigation, and collection of information. The completed projects are then presented to a panel of adults multiple times over the course of the year.

The group also visited Cross County High Tech high school near Wynne, AR. They found the students are excited about learning, love attending school, have full access to technology and enjoy the freedom to come and go from the classroom during the day in order to achieve the goals of their project.

After additional research, information on the costs associated with New Tech will be presented to the board for review and approval. Expected planning and start up costs would be \$472,500 paid over a four year period and a contract with the New Tech Network would be required. If the decision is made to move forward, the school would be ready to open in August 2013.

## **D. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Meeting with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**

Dr. Holmes provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the LRSD and UAPB for implementing a STEM collaborative in the LRSD. Marvin Burton reported on the discussions held with representatives of UAPB and the District regarding implementation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives in the LRSD. The M o U would be presented for the board's approval in December. Implementation of programs in the schools with AVID would begin in January.

## **E. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker's report was printed in the board's agenda. No other information was requested.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS**

### **A. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on October 27, and from special meetings held on October 13 and November 10, 2011, were presented for review and approval. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

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

### **A. Board of Education Policy and Regulations Revisions: First Reading for Policy Revisions**

Three policies were presented for first reading approval: IHEDA – Opportunities to Earn College Credit; IKA – Grading Systems; and IKF – General Education Graduation Requirements. Several regulations were also presented for the board's review. Ms. Fox moved to approve these three policies on first reading; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Curriculum Changes for the 2012-2013 School Year**

The administration recommended changes to the LRSD curriculum; the addition of Western Philosophy and GT Seminar. GT Seminar will be added to all middle schools for each grade and at all high schools for ninth graders. Western Philosophy will be taught at Central High school. The administration at Central recommended the implementation of Western Philosophy, but it will be available to other high schools if enough students are interested in enrolling. Ms. Fox moved to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Armstrong and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. Second Reading: Board Policy GCQ Reduction in Force**

The current personnel policies do not include a board approved process for the reduction in force for non-certified personnel. The policy was presented and approved on first reading in October. Ms. Fox moved to approve GCQ on second reading. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

### **A. Arkansas Department of Education Title I A, Section 1003 (a) Supplemental Grant Application**

The board moved this item to the agenda of the special meeting held on November 10<sup>th</sup> by suspending the rules. The recommendation was approved by a **unanimous vote**.

## **VII. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Personnel Changes**

Routine personnel changes were provided in the board's agenda. Ms. Fox moved to approve; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Revised Academic Coaches' Evaluation Handbook**

Mr. Hartz and Dr. Lloyd Sain presented an evaluation handbook for use in assessing the professional effectiveness of academic coaches. The board was provided with a copy of the handbook for review. Ms. Curry moved to approve the handbook; Ms. Fox seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

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

### **A. Budget Update**

Mr. Bailey reported briefly. The 2011 tax and property assessment information is expected shortly and will be provided for the board's information.

He responded to questions regarding expenditures of ARRA funding, noting that the money must be spent prior to the end of the year. Requisitions and payments are being completed and construction projects and installation of WiFi will be finished by the deadline.

Board members will be notified of audit committee meeting dates and are welcome to attend. Mr. Carreiro serves as the board's representative to the audit committee.

### **B. Financial Reports**

The monthly financial reports were provided in the agenda.

## **IX. CLOSING REMARKS**

Dr. Holmes was asked to provide a brief summary of the ruling provided from a judge regarding a recent request for information under the FOIA laws.

Mr. Carreiro reported on the National Merit Scholars reception held on Monday evening at Bailey Center at UALR. Twenty-six students were recognized for their performance on the national tests.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVED: 12-15-11

Originals Signed by:  
Jody Carreiro, President  
Charles Armstrong, Secretary