



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 21, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2013, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Greg Adams presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Greg Adams  
Norma Johnson  
C. E. McAdoo  
Jody Carreiro  
Dianne Curry  
Leslie Fisker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Tara Shephard

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

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

Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call. Ms. Shephard was absent. The teacher ex-officio, Toni Thrash from Forest Park Elementary, and student representative, Sarah Newbern, from Central High School, were also present.

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

**A. Partners in Education**

Ms. Milam presented three new partnerships for the board's consideration and approval.

**J. A. Fair High School**, represented by *Allison Belcher, Chris Johnson and Vernita Wells* in partnership with the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Group**, represented by *Mike Sullivan and John Lee*

**Western Hills Elementary School**, represented by *Teresa Richardson*, in partnership with **First Tee of Central Arkansas**, represented by *Brad Martin and Monica Brown*

**Mabelvale Elementary School**, represented by *Darian Smith and Phillip Carlock*, in partnership with **Crosswalk Family of God**, represented by *Barry Fielder and Andy Pickle*

Ms. Milam closed by reminding listeners of the upcoming **VIPS Jane Mendel Reading Day** on Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>. Cards were available for signing up to read, and an online registration was available at [lrzd.org](http://lrzd.org).

On the partnerships, Ms. Johnson moved to approve. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

**B. Remarks from Citizens**

Ventrell Thompson addressed the board in support of the transformation of Forest Heights into a STEM school. He thanked the board for the work they do for the students in the district. He is a parent of LRSD students, and is a member of Arkansas Blacks in Energy. He is excited about the 1:1 technology plan being implemented in the district and about the implementation of STEM focused schools.

**C. Donations of Property**

Student ex-officio Sarah Newbern read the list of recent donations to the district. Ms. Curry made a motion to accept the donations. Ms. Fisken seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**. The donations are listed in the following chart:

**DONATIONS**

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	Baseball Team monetary donations:	
	- \$300.00	LR Climbing Center
	- \$150.00	Jonathan & Emily Wyatt
	- \$300.00	Michael & Cynthia Farzley
	- \$200.00	Donna Passini
	- \$900.00	Bass Charitable Foundation
	- \$400.00	Bradley & Jeanine Chilcote
	- \$110.00	Crockett Law Firm, P.A.
	- \$60.00	Billy Brumbelow
	- \$150.00	Lucy Abraham
	- \$110.00	Gary Ellison
	- \$100.00	Jessica Finch
	- \$500.00	Sim's BBQ
	- \$300.00	The Mission
	- \$200.00	Nancy Rousseau
	- \$50.00	Cindy L. Green
	- \$500.00	Jim & Jody Allison
	- \$400.00	Teague Eye & Vision Clinic
	- \$300.00	Kavanaugh Rx, LLC
	- \$300.00	Deval, Inc.
	- \$300.00	Centennial Bank
	- \$50.00	Law Office of Kenneth V. Crow
	- \$200.00	James V. May
	- \$100.00	Randy & Gayla Sybert
	- \$100.00	Dennis Greenlee & Diana Pounder
	- \$100.00	Gary & Heidi Hogan
	- \$50.00	Toby & Ashley Frazier
	- \$50.00	Bruce F. Mitchell
	- \$150.00	M. Taylor & Brooke Mitcham
	- \$2,000.00	Nicholas Tenbenschel & Israt Zohra
	- \$750.00	Colin M. Johnson

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Central High School	Tennis Team monetary donations: - \$50.00 - \$100.00 - \$100.00 - \$50.00 - \$50.00	Panamerican Consulting Frazier & Rickels, PA Larry Alman Terri Cohen & Marc Sherman Peter Owen Thomas
Hall High	\$200.00 cash – Quiz Bowl contribution	American Pie, LLC
J. A. Fair High School	Golf cart valued at \$525.00	Sean McKean, Pastor, The Church at Rock Creek
Mabelvale Magnet Middle School	\$50.00 cash for student lunches	Tommy C. McIntosh
Pulaski Heights Middle School	Girls Basketball team monetary donations: - \$100.00 - \$100.00 - \$90.00 - \$100.00  Band Program monetary donations: - \$100.00 - \$100.00	Brian & Tracie Sugg Samuel & Shelly Rayburn Jeffrey & Allison Hatfield Nikolai & Leslie Fisken  Kaye Leonard Charles Van Deventer
Wilson Elementary	\$500.00 cash for art supplies	Horace Mann High School Class of 1963
LRSD Computers for Kids Program	Apple iPad valued at \$499.00 (door prize for Computer Power Day)  Six gift baskets valued at \$90.00 (door prizes for Computer Power Day)  1,000 wristband USB flash drives valued at approximately \$5,000  Six 6-month gift certificates for free internet essentials valued at \$358.20; six netbook computers valued at \$1,194.00; and advertising for Computer Power Day valued at \$2,500.00.	Congressman Tim Griffin  Norman Jean Johnson  Axiom Corporation  Comcast Cable

**D. Little Rock PTA Council**

No report.

**E. Little Rock Education Association**

Cathy Kohler reported she had been reading at Williams this week. She expressed gratitude and thanked the board for giving so generously of their time to serve the LRSD. She encouraged listeners to be thankful they have a job. She attended an American Education Week celebration at Mosaic Templars, where there was a play on the importance of the educational support professionals. She recognized all of the educational support staff, including food service workers, bus drivers, custodians, clerical workers and others who keep the district running. She also thanked Mr. Bailey for agreeing to continue negotiations, stating they would be keeping the students in mind as the process continues.

## **IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Ms. Curry thanked the audience for allowing her to serve on the board. She stated she was working to make sure appropriate resources are provided to all schools in the district. She had gone on the bus tour to Parkview and Henderson, and she thanked the schools for their hospitality. She had eaten lunch with her grandson at Rockefeller for grandparents' day.

Ms. Fisker acknowledged Dr. Suggs for his vision, and expressed her appreciation for his statement "we cannot have cookie-cutter schools." She thanked the staff members and community people who are working on the Geyer Springs and Forest Heights transitions. She was looking forward to hearing input from the community on these schools at the upcoming community forums.

Mr. McAdoo noted the district consisted of 25,000 students, 4,000 employees, supported 2,300 vendors, and bused over 16,000 students every day. He thanked the teachers, the administrators, and community leaders for their commitment to putting children first. He expressed appreciation for everyone who keeps the district going day to day.

Mr. Carreiro congratulated Central and Parkview football teams and wished them luck in the playoffs. He announced upcoming weekend all region choir and band concerts, and noted Mr. Adams' son will be singing in the choir. He thanked all the readers who participated in VIPS Reading Day.

Mr. Carreiro also noted the historic nature of the desegregation settlement agreement. "This isn't the ending, but the close of one chapter and the beginning of a new chapter.... We now have a responsibility to write the next chapter."

Ms. Johnson discussed forming relationships. She had attended a National League of Cities initiative where a memorandum of understanding was developed with the US Department of Education. Community leaders must come together to build long lasting relationships. She then spoke to the STEM initiatives being proposed and asked why all students cannot have access to the same STEM curriculum. "All kids need the same amount of stimulation." Basic and below basic students need to be challenged as well as those students who are already achieving.

Mr. Adams reported on the November 9<sup>th</sup> anti-bullying rally which was held at the Clinton Center. The theme was "Build Communities not Bullies," and he thanked the NEA, the AEA, and the STAND committee for the work they committed to making this a successful event. He also thanked Stephen Young, who works at Booker Elementary, for spearheading the event.

### **B. Update: Geyer Springs and Forest Heights**

Sadie Mitchell reported on the process being used to develop plans to reconfigure Geyer Springs elementary to a High Ability Academy and Forest Heights to a STEM focused K-8 school. Committee members present were introduced. Board members were provided with a packet of information. Community meetings will be held to take comments from the public, and those comments will be taken into consideration during

the planning phase of the proposal development. Linda Young discussed the curriculum focus on engineering for the STEM school.

### **C. Update: Transportation and Safety Stop Information**

At the agenda meeting, transportation director Mike Martello provided an overview of the safety stop procedures used for addressing concerns regarding safety of students to and from their bus stops. He also responded to questions regarding the transportation review committee, which considers all requests for safety stops and makes the decisions for adding stops when necessary. Board members were provided with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation as a reference.

### **D. Support for Priority Schools and Other High Needs Schools**

At the agenda meeting, Dennis Glasgow and Pearson Representative Judy Bryant provided an overview of the support provided to priority and focus schools. They responded to questions from the board, and provided follow up information via a Friday Update.

Mr. McAdoo had specific questions regarding “demographic profiling” and the use of an evaluation tool to include feedback from the teachers. He asked if Pearson could describe what they do in our schools if a parent wanted that information.

Ms. Curry asked if the accountability data from the state was available, and Mr. Glasgow indicated he would provide the reports on priority and focus schools.

### **E. Quarterly Report – Evaluation & Testing**

At the agenda meeting, Danielle Cummings, Maurecia Robinson and Ed Jackson provided an overview of the quarterly report which was attached to the board agenda. Board members asked Dr. Suggs if follow up reports could also include strategies for addressing areas of concern.

## **III. CONSENT ITEMS**

Ms. Fisker made a motion to approve the items included in the consent agenda. Mr. McAdoo seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

### **A. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on October 24<sup>th</sup>, and from special meetings held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, were presented for review and approval.

### **B. Personnel Changes**

Routine personnel changes were included in the board’s agenda.

**C. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker's report was provided as a part of the agenda.

**IV. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW**

**A. Board of Education Policy Revision – First Reading: IKF – General Education Graduation Requirements**

Mr. Glasgow provided an overview summary of the proposed revisions to policy IKF – General Graduation requirements. It was attached to the board's agenda. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the policy revisions on first reading. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**B. Regulation Revisions: IHBDA-R2 Academic Improvement Plan (AIP); IKEC-R1 Credit for College Dual-Credit Courses and College Summer Enrichment Programs; IKF-R – General Graduation Requirements**

Regulations were provided as information only. No action was required.

**V. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

**A. Budget Update**

Mr. Bailey was present, but there was no new information to provide as an update.

**B. Minority and Women Business Enterprise Monthly Report**

Procurement Director Darral Paradis provided the monthly report as requested by the board. He introduced Jan Burl, the new minority vendor specialist who briefly reported current activities.

**C. October 2013 Financial Statements**

The reports were printed in the board's agenda. No additional information was requested.

**VI. CLOSING REMARKS**

**A. Announcements & Reminders**

Mr. Adams reviewed the need for special meetings to clear the backlog of employee hearings, with the goal of addressing all of them before spring break. These hearings will be set after the monthly agenda meetings and another evening during the month. If all members cannot attend, the hearings can be held if there are just four members to form a quorum.

A worksession has been scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the agenda meeting, to review the protocols, superintendent's evaluation instrument, and a process for board self-evaluation.

Pamela Smith made several announcements of upcoming meetings including the community forums for the Geyer Springs and Forest Heights STEM school transformations.

## **B. Superintendent's Comments**

At the agenda meeting, Dr. Suggs made remarks regarding the facilities study and the process which will be used by the consulting firm of Fanning Howie to assess all school buildings. The Fanning Howie representatives will be here to provide information and an update at the December agenda meeting, and at each agenda meeting over the next several months. They are meeting regularly with district representatives as the process develops.

As part of the facilities review, each school will conduct a community forum to receive feedback about their school.

Dr. Suggs made a brief presentation regarding student enrollment, including the decline in enrollment of African American and White students, over the past few years. There has been an increase in enrollment of Hispanic students. These enrollment trends make it more important for the LRSD to diversify the way curriculum is delivered, and especially critical to be innovative and creative in providing educational opportunities for our students. It is up to us to find new ways to enrich our community academically.

The superintendent invited the community to support all district athletic teams, but especially the elementary students who play at Mabelvale Middle School on Saturday mornings.

He congratulated the Pulaski Heights Middle School football team who won the district championship.

He closed by asking parents to read to their children every day; "working together we can improve student achievement."

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

APPROVED: 12-19-13

Originals Signed by:  
Greg Adams, President  
C. E. McAdoo, Secretary