



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
December 15, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2011, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jody Carreiro presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Michael Nellums

**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 5:37 p.m. Ms. Curry arrived at 5:50 p.m. Dr. Nellums was absent. Teacher ex officio, Debbie Conine from Washington **Elementary School** and student ex-officio, Tyler Elliott from **Central High School** were also present.

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

**A. Superintendent's Remarks**

The Voices Without Borders Choir performed for the board. This honors choir is made up of students who attend Baseline, Otter Creek and Rockefeller Elementary Schools. They were scheduled to make several appearances in the city during the holidays including the Clinton Presidential Library and the Mosaic Templers Museum.

The superintendent introduced the ex officio board representatives and presented citations in appreciation of their service to the board for the month of December.

**B. Partners in Education**

At the agenda meeting on December 8, Ms. Milam presented new partnerships for the board's consideration and approval.

**Roberts Elementary**, represented by *Counselor Pamela Lewis*, in partnership with **Chick Fil A**

**Meadowcliff Elementary**, represented by *Principal Karen Carter*, in partnership with **Moody Chapel AME Church**

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

### **C. Remarks from Citizens**

*No citizens requested time to speak.*

### **D. Donations of Property**

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. The student ex officio, Tyler Elliott, read the list of donations. Ms. Fox made a motion to accept the donations; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### **DONATIONS**

<b>SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DONOR</b>
Brady Elementary School	\$500.00 cash to provide incentives and materials for students and staff	Exxon Mobile Foundation
Henderson Middle School	\$500.00 grant to further studies in math and science	Exxon Mobile Educational Alliance
Roberts Elementary School	Two (2) Wii-Fit Bundle packages, valued at \$800.00 for indoor physical fitness	Susan G. Rogers
Williams Elementary School	\$500.00 cash for the science program	Exxon Mobile Educational Alliance

### **E. Little Rock PTA Council**

Sandy Becker reminded the board of the details for the next PTA Council meeting; the second Tuesday in January, at Forest Heights Middle School.

### **F. Little Rock Education Association**

Cathy Kohler spoke to the topic of gratitude, stating that she was very grateful to work in the Little Rock School District and grateful for others who work here who have a sincere commitment to the students. She wished the audience a blessed and peaceful holiday.

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

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

Board members each took a turn in wishing the audience a happy holiday season. Mr. Armstrong asked parents to consider education as the number one solution to the problems in the community. He asked for parents to become involved in the life of their children and to contribute to their success in school.

Mr. Adams noted this was “mid-term” for the board and for the students and stated he was looking forward to building on public relations efforts in the community and to working together collaboratively as a board.

Ms. Curry thanked Mr. Burton and the southwest Little Rock coalition of schools for inviting her to attend a community meeting this week. She also reported attending a service learning project with Cloverdale students where they volunteered at Our House and learned of the importance of giving back to the community.

Mr. Carreiro thanked the city of Little Rock Board of Directors for hosting a reception honoring the LRSD national merit scholars. He reported he attended Parkview Magnet School’s Medieval Feast and the holiday choral performance at Central High School. He expressed gratitude to his fellow board members for working together on the important issues, and thanked the district’s teachers and employees who support educational opportunities for our students.

#### **B. Legal Update**

Chris Heller reported on recent developments in the ongoing desegregation litigation and discussed the court’s review of charter schools related to the district’s achievement disparity. He commended Dr. Holmes for his recent participation in a deposition on that topic. He reported spending time with magnet school principals and was pleased they were able to relate how and why their schools are successful. The depositions continue next week and into the first week in January.

Mr. Heller also reported he expected to receive a decision from the 8<sup>th</sup> circuit court on the magnet school and desegregation funding issues within a few weeks.

#### **C. Informational: Early Childhood Education**

Karen James provided highlights of the characteristics of the early childhood program in the LRSD by a PowerPoint presentation. She noted open enrollment dates coming up in January, and discussed the criteria for enrolling in LRSD pre-K programs. She thanked the board for the commitment they made to support early childhood programs in the LRSD.

Teacher exofficio, Ms. Conine, also thanked the board and noted pre-K is where the district begins building parental interest and support.

#### **D. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker's report was printed in the board's agenda.

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

##### **A. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on November 17 were presented for review and approval. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Curry seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

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

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

Three policies were presented for second reading approval: IHCD – Opportunities to Earn College Credit; IKA – Grading Systems; and IKF – General Education Graduation Requirements. These policies were approved on first reading at the November meeting of the board. Several regulations were also presented for the board's review. Dr. Holmes explained some of the regulations that will require additional planning on the part of the administration to provide the notification of progress to parents.

Ms. Fox moved to approve the revised policies on second reading; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Ms. Curry requested information on the number of students who participate in the dual credit or concurrent enrollment programs. Mr. Glasgow responded to questions and agreed to provide additional information at a later date.

##### **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

Ms. Fox moved for a suspension of the rules to consider the approval of IKA and IKA-R, relative to the notice of failing grades. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it was **unanimously approved**.

Ms. Fox made a motion to support the superintendent's recommendation for mailing notifications for students who are receiving failing grades. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

##### **B. EDCA-R: Authorized Use of Computer Networks**

Schools and libraries receiving e-Rate funds are required to adopt and enforce internet safety policies, including a technology protection measure to protect against access to inappropriate information, obscenity or pornography. The board was provided with specific information on the district's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP, CIPA and FERPA). The board was asked to approve the recommendations presented. Mr. Glasgow was present to respond to questions. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. Approval of Revised Attendance / Truancy Policy Effective January 4, 2012**

Information on revising the district's attendance and truancy policy was provided for consideration. In order to remain in compliance with Arkansas Act 1223 of 2011, the district's truancy process, procedures and policies required modification. Two existing LRSD employees will be assigned as truancy monitors under the recommended revisions.

Dr. Fields responded to questions from the board, emphasizing the goal of the revisions was to promote student attendance. Parents have received notification of the changes to the handbook and the district's policy on attendance. The district's community truancy board continues to meet to plan interventions and collaborate with representatives of the city of Little Rock and other community based organizations.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VI. SCHOOL SERVICES**

### **A. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**

The superintendent recommended approval of a partnership between the LRSD and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education initiatives in both institutions. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed and presented for the board's review and approval.

Mr. Burton responded to questions from the board and provided additional budget information. Coordinators from the district's high school AVID programs will support the faculty at UAPB in furthering the partnership. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the memorandum of understanding. Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VII. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Personnel Changes**

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

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

### **A. Issuance and Delivery of Bonds**

Kelsey Bailey provided a brief overview and responded to questions regarding the recommendation to approve a Resolution in support of awarding the sale of refinanced bonds to Ross, Sinclair & Associates, LLC.

The board authorized the sale of bonds at the September 22 board meeting. Bids were received in November, 2011 with Ross, Sinclair & Associates winning the bid at an interest cost of 1.6%. This will result in a total savings for the district in the amount of \$332,259.00.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the resolution presented; Ms. Curry seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

### **B. Budget Update**

Mr. Bailey discussed the upcoming budget planning meetings expected to be scheduled starting in January. The board discussed setting a budget worksession early in the year to begin a review of the budget and the district's master facilities plan.

Dr. Holmes responded to questions regarding the possibility of staffing schools and classrooms closer to the state standards and reducing the number of employees by attrition.

### **C. Financial Reports**

The monthly financial reports were provided in the agenda.

## **IX. CLOSING REMARKS**

Dr. Holmes reviewed the holiday schedule; students and staff will be off beginning December 19<sup>th</sup>. Employees return to work on January 3; students return on January 4. He wished the listening audience a good holiday season.

*The board recessed briefly at 7:30 p.m. and returned at 7:48 to conduct student disciplinary actions.*

## **X. STUDENT DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

Dr. Fields provided background information for students who had pending disciplinary sanctions and who had been recommended for expulsion from the LRSD.

Seventeen of the students had appealed the recommendation for expulsion and had accepted a modified assignment to an alternative learning environment, either Hamilton or Felder Learning Academy. Ms. Fox made a motion to accept the administration's recommendation to reassign these seventeen students for one calendar year to Hamilton or Felder. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Action was also taken on the following individual students:

- Student W. B. was recommended for expulsion for one calendar year for possession of a pellet gun. It was recommended he receive homebound instruction due to his status as a special needs student. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the recommendation. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.
- Student C. M. was recommended for expulsion for a full calendar year for physical assault on a staff member. Ms. Fox moved to uphold the recommendation. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Student D. C. was recommended for expulsion for a full calendar year for physical assault on a staff member. Ms. Fox moved to uphold the recommendation; Mr. Adams seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.
- Student R. T. was recommended for expulsion for one semester on a charge of battery. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the administration's recommendation. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.
- Student Q. E. was recommended for expulsion for one semester on a charge of disorderly conduct, second offense. Mr. Adams moved to approve the administration's recommendation. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

APPROVED: 01-26-12

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