



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 23, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2011, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Melanie Fox presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melanie Fox
Michael Nellums
Greg Adams
Charles Armstrong
Dianne Curry

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jody Carreiro
Katherine Mitchell

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Holmes, Interim Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Mr. Carreiro and Dr. Mitchell were absent. **Anna Lloyd**, the teacher ex-officio from **Otter Creek**, and **Alexis Freeman** student ex officio from Parkview Magnet High School, were also present. **Mark Hudson**, Parkview student, attended the June 9 agenda meeting.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

At the agenda meeting on June 9, 2011, Dr. Holmes presented citations and commendations to students who won medals in the recent Arkansas **Skills USA** competition. The students ranked 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the state; the first place winners will go on to the national Skills USA competition later this month.

- **Commercial Baking**: 1st place, **John Cooper**; 3rd place, **Marlisha Phillips**
- **Culinary Arts**: 2nd place, **George Bond**
- **Food and Beverage**: 1st place, **Danielle Badgett**; 2nd place, **LaSonja Harris**; 3rd place, **Shelbe Sullivan**
- **Nail Care**: 2nd place, **Cherelle Fudge** and model **Breia Catholic**; 3rd place, **LaJoy Pettus** and model **Ollie Mills**
- **Advertising Design**: 2nd place, **Jazmine Carroll**
- **Graphic Communications**: 1st place, **Jordan Hunt**; 2nd place, **James Perkins**; 3rd place, **Desiree Parkin**
- **Computer Maintenance Technology**: 1st place, **Sean Kirkendall**
- **Prepared Speech**: 1st place, **Symone Hollis**
- **Medical Terminology**: 3rd place, **Sarai Martinez**

Liz Lucker, who is the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Hall High School, was named the **American Red Cross 2011 Sponsor of the Year**. She has sponsored Hall's FCCLA Red Cross blood drives for the past eight years, and with her help they have continuously grown. This year a record 154 units of blood were donated to the Red Cross by Hall High School students and staff members.

Valencia Piggee and **Brienna Haynes**, both seniors at Hall, received scholarships from the Red Cross for their exemplary ongoing work to benefit others. One of their many accomplishments at Hall was improving the school's blood drives.

Claudia Smith, Dunbar Magnet Middle School Media Specialist, was recently named **School Library Media Specialist of the Year by the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media**. Her "Millionaire Book Club" at Dunbar promotes literacy and encourages students to read.

Students from Mabelvale Magnet Middle School built and raced an electric car in the **2011 Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally**. Their teacher, **Randy Gullett**, was also recognized. The students competed against middle school, high school, and even college students in the rally, and they placed 2nd, losing only to Arkansas Tech University in a sudden-death Electrical Quiz Bowl match. It is the highest any middle school has ever placed in this competition. The students were: **Yvonne Dominquez, Skye Loftus, Alexys Lamkin, Treyvon Whitney, James Igwe, Johnathan Miller, Kelton Cole, and Jakayla Lovelace**.

The Troubadors from Central High School recently competed in the **state speech, drama and debate tournament**. The coaches, **Kathy Holladay, Helen Strickland, Agnolia Gay, Melinda Bieth, and Kim Dade** were also recognized.

Student winners include: **Michael Anda** and **Billy Hupp**, Varsity Debate State Champions; **Harsha Bande** and **Lane Siems**, Novice Debate State Champions; **Lindsey Garland**, Varsity Debate Speaker State Champion; **Alex Zhang**, Original Oratory Speaker State Champion; **Drew Ricciardone** and **Pouya Parsian**, 2nd place, Varsity Debate; **Greg Warren**, 2nd place, Varsity Debate Speaker; **Noah Whitney**, 2nd place, Mime; **Ian Wren** and **Daniel Schexnayer**, 3rd place, Varsity Debate; **Mary Martin**,

3rd place, Storytelling; **Megan Barker**, 3rd place, Solo Acting; **Megan Barker** and **Adrienne Banks**, 3rd place, Duet Acting.

Students who excelled on the **National Spanish Exam** were introduced and presented citations. Three students were from Central, and the others were all from Dunbar Magnet Middle School. Dunbar students were the only middle school students to score in the top ranking positions in the state of Arkansas in Spanish Level 1 and 2. Central's three students scored at Level 4, 5 and 6. I'd like to congratulate these outstanding students who scored nationally on this exam.

- **Level 1, Regular:** 1st place, **Yupeng Lui**; 3rd place, **Nemi Shah**.
- **Level 1, Outside Experience:** 1st place, **Coredelia Underwood**; 2nd place, **Danny Vivar**.
- **Level 1, Bilingual Native:** 1st place, **Karina Espinosa**.
- **Level 2, Regular:** 1st place, **Chandler Smith**; 2nd place, **Jace McPherson**; 3rd place, **Matthew Ponder**.
- **Level 2, Outside Experience:** 1st place, **Kassandra Castrillo**; 2nd place, **Aline Espinosa**.
- **Level 4, Regular:** 3rd place, **Jenna Sullivan** (Central).
- **Level 5, Regular:** 1st place, **Joseph Berleant** (Central).
- **Level 6, Regular:** 1st place, **Ples Spradley** (Central).

Robin Kratzke, the Spanish teacher at Dunbar, and **Cindy Wage**, the Spanish teacher at Central, were also commended for their dedication to teaching foreign languages to our students.

Central High School students competed and won honors in various science fairs at the state level and have gone on to compete at the national – and international – levels.

Alex Zhang won 2nd place in Medical Sciences at the **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair** in Los Angeles last month.

Abhilasha Gokulan won the **Arkansas Stockholm Junior Water Prize** and will travel to Chicago later this month to compete in the national competition. This is the first time a student from Central has won this prize.

Arhita Dasgupta, **Nidhi Ghandi**, and **Richard Riccardone** presented their research at the **National Science and Humanities Symposium** in San Diego this past April. **Arhita Dasgupta**, **David Chen** and **Abhilasha Gokulan** recently participated in the **International Sustainable World Olympiad** in Houston.

Mark Hudson from **Parkview Magnet High School** attended the agenda meeting as the student ex officio. **Alexis Freeman**, also from **Parkview**, attended the June 23 meeting. **Anna Lloyd** from **Otter Creek Elementary** was the teacher ex officio.

Dr. Holmes asked **Chris Heller** to give a brief update on recent developments in the desegregation settlement. The 8th circuit court granted the district's request for a stay and Mr. Heller reported his belief the LRSD has a reasonable expectation of success on the appeal.

Mr. Heller reviewed the briefing schedule for presenting the case to the court of appeals. All parties will be heard on the issues the week of September 19th in St. Louis. The only issues raised by the LRSD were on the funding; North Little Rock and Pulaski County have asked for consideration on their request for unitary status. They may be scheduled separately on these matters.

Dr. Holmes closed by addressing questions received from the community regarding the budget and possible reduction in funds. He stated it would take time to adjust to the budgetary reductions and time to prepare for the continuation of the quality programs in the schools. He expressed hope that the magnet schools could be preserved as they set a high standard of performance for all schools in the district.

B. Partners in Education

At the agenda meeting on June 9, 2011, Debbie Milam introduced new school and business partnerships:

- Felder Middle School Learning Academy**, represented by interim principal, *Lynda Johnson*, in partnership with
- **Agape Church**, represented by *Monty Mansur*
 - **New Beginnings Behavioral Services**, represented by *Sheree Grimes*
 - **Safe Places**, represented by *Cathy Findley*

Mr. Armstrong moved to accept the new partnerships; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Update: Volunteers in Public Schools

No update provided.

D. Remarks from Citizens

All of the speakers addressed the topic of a reduction in the Reading Recovery program budget.

Leanne Sears reported she had taught for 13 years in grades kindergarten through 8th grade. She stated 75% of first graders achieve at or above grade level when taught with Reading Recovery methods. She asked the board to find a way to keep it in the schools.

Karen Rivers introduced herself as the parent of a student who had achieved success through Reading Recovery interventions. She believed Reading Recovery gave her child confidence and motivation for success in school.

Melissa Whitman credited the Reading Recovery program for helping students develop strategies and techniques for academic growth. She acknowledged the budget impact, but she asked for the program to be funded next year.

Kendra Orr introduced her daughter who read a storybook aloud. Ms. Orr credited Reading Recovery for providing hope for her children, and she asked that other children be given the same opportunities as her family.

Tiffany Jordan introduced herself as the parent of three children and a Reading Recovery teacher at Williams Magnet School. She believes Reading Recovery works for students who lack confidence in their reading abilities.

Amber Matthews, teacher at Jefferson, stated the program builds better readers. She stated belief in the program, and she asked the board to consider ways to fund it for the upcoming year.

Takesha Robinson, teacher at Mabelvale, provided examples of the success of her students who have been involved in Reading Recovery interventions.

Cory Hollingsworth reported her child just completed first grade at Jefferson Elementary School. She believes the one on one attention provided by the Reading Recovery interventions provided her with the confidence to learn the skills needed to be a reader.

Leslie Fiskien stated Reading Recovery had impacted many students and supported the Strategic Plan goal of reading proficiency by third grade. She asked for the board to maintain Reading Recovery in the schools.

Marcy Palachek, parent of four children at Forest Park, stated belief that one of her children would not have been promoted from third to fourth grade without the benefit of Reading Recovery.

Nathalie Massanelli, a literacy coach at Jefferson, reported she had been teaching for 19 years. She believes Reading Recovery is effective, and compared to other programs, feels it is the most effective remedial program available.

E. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. Student ex officio Alexis Freeman read the list of donations. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to accept the donations; Mr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Dodd Elementary	Teacher and Staff Appreciation week donations:	
	Ten (10) \$10.00 gift cards	TJC Group
	\$60.00 cash	Priority 1 Janitorial Services
	Staff pampering, valued at \$100.00	Cara Chapman
	\$250.00 cash	Bruce W. Randolph, MD
	Two \$10.00 gift cards	Nel Chambers

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Dodd Elementary	\$15.00 cash Five \$10.00 gift cards \$15.00 cash \$10.00 cash \$10.00 gift card Five \$10.00 gift cards Six gift cards and cash, valued at \$80.00	J. B. Gammon Transamerica Reola Gammon UAMS House of Delegates R. S. McCullough Daysprings Behavioral Health Services of AR Temple Baptist Church Family Life Center
Geyer Springs Elementary	\$2,000.00 cash for fifth grade and other general student/staff activities	Allied Waste Services
Henderson Middle School	Donations for Hawk Fest 2011: Five \$8.00 coupons Sixteen ice cream cones, valued at \$2.00 each Five dozen donuts, valued at \$3.50 each Ten \$10.00 gift cards Forty \$5.00 play cards \$25.00 gift card	TGI Friday's North Little Rock Chik-fil-A Krispy Kreme Dixie Restaurants, Inc. Playtime Pizza Sam's Club
Western Hills Elementary	\$400.00 cash to purchase music stand for the music classroom	Dr. Daniel Ross
Wilson Elementary School	\$400.00 cash to be used for field day activities	St. Andrews Church

F. Little Rock PTA Council

No speaker.

G. Little Rock Education Association

Teresa Gordon, vice president, spoke on behalf of the LREA in Ms. Kohler's absence. She reported that Ms. Kohler was no longer being invited to discussions with the administration which will affect the employees of the district. She encouraged communication as a preventative step in avoiding problems later. She read portions of the PN agreement which she believed were pertinent to the mandated collaboration.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Adams reported he had attended all of the high school graduation ceremonies, and reported on the amount of scholarships received by our students. He noted that Central High School students had taken over \$10 million in scholarships for the first time this year. Students at Hall High received three times the amount received in 2009. Students at J. A. Fair, McClellan and Parkview also increased the amounts received in scholarships over previous years.

Mr. Nellums thanked the speakers who advocated earlier in the meeting for Reading Recovery. He promised to support their efforts to maintain Reading Recovery as a tool to ensure their students are up to speed in reading.

Mr. Armstrong also thanked the speakers who attended the meeting. He encouraged them to continue to speak out and to take it further by speaking to their legislators to let them know how important it is to maintain funding for education in our district.

Ms. Fox spoke briefly regarding the budget and progress being made on developing the budget for next school year. She stated there were many challenges ahead, but that it was the board's desire to focus on providing a sound education for the students while maintaining financial solvency. She promised the board would be working very hard and would continue to hold work sessions to discuss the options available.

B. Future Smiles Dental Clinic

Freddie Fields and Margo Bushmiaer presented a brief report on the Future Smiles Dental Clinic. The LRSD is the only school district in the state that has a dental clinic to serve the needs of its' students. The clinic provides preventive treatment, fillings, dental sealants and other critical dental services. Arkansas Children's Hospital provides a dentist and other community partners assist in the financial support.

C. Internal Auditors Report

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

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES / REORDER OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Nellums made a motion to suspend the rules to reorder the agenda to allow action on personnel items at this point in the agenda. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**. Action was taken here, but will be reported in these minutes as listed in the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on May 19, 2011 and from special meetings held on June 9 and June 15, were presented for review and approval.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Ms. Curry left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. City Year: Establishing a National Priority Partnership

Sarah Robertson, Executive Director of City Year, reviewed the proposed agreement with City Year to implement the Whole School, Whole Child model of support interventions. The program targets students who have exhibited poor attendance habits, unsatisfactory behavior, and lack of achievement in English and math.

The Memorandum of Understanding details services to be provided to students at Meadowcliff and Mabelvale Elementary and at Mabelvale Middle School. Approximately 65 students per week at each school will receive tutoring, enrichment activities and mentoring. Ms. Robertson reported all Corp members go through a rigorous selection process, and of the new members, 75% have a bachelor's degree.

The LRSD will pay approximately \$60,000 per school. Community partnerships will provide the remainder of the funding. Mr. Nellums moved to approve the memorandum of understanding. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. 2011-2012 Evaluation Agenda

As specified in board policy IL, an annual evaluation agenda is to be prepared and presented for the board's review and approval. Karen DeJarnette reported on the process used to select the evaluations and on progress being made in getting information into the data warehouse. She had previously been asked to provide more cost-benefit analysis along with evaluation reports, and reported the data warehouse would allow more of that type of reporting.

She asked the board to approve the proposed agenda tonight, with the understanding that additional items may be brought forth later. Ms. Fox made brief comments regarding maintaining an evaluation focus on the strategic plan and measuring progress toward meeting those goals.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the evaluation agenda; Mr. Nellums seconded. The motion **carried unanimously**.

VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. AVID Membership Agreement, 2011-2012

Jeanne Huddle presented a recommendation for continuing membership in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID provides support and assistance to students to prepare them for college readiness and begins with students in middle school.

In the LRSD, Dunbar, Mabelvale and Henderson Middle Schools participate. Central, Hall, Fair and McClellan are the participating high schools. Each school pays their portion of the cost. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nellums seconded, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Elementary Literacy Textbook Adoption: K-5 Handwriting Curriculum

Karen James reviewed the recommendation for adopting a textbook for elementary handwriting instruction. Instruction in manuscript, cursive writing, formation, fluency and readability were included in the determination of selected materials for students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Mr. Nellums moved to approve the recommended materials. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Pre Kindergarten Textbook / Curriculum Adoption

The district's pre-kindergarten textbook adoption committee reviewed and recommended textbook and curricular materials for pre-kindergarten, three and four year olds. The committee selected materials approved by Arkansas Better Chance (ABC/DHS) and provided the recommendation for board approval. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the selected materials. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

VII. SCHOOL SERVICES

A. Naming Middle School ALE – Felder Middle School Learning Academy

The district has housed two separate 6th through 12th grade Alternative Learning sites since 2005. On March 17, 2011, the Board approved a recommendation to rescind the Felder Charter and convert Felder to a middle school alternative learning center. Dr. Holmes requested approval to maintain Arthur "Bo" Felder as part of the name of the new school.

Mr. Nellums moved approval; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

The agenda was reordered, and action on personnel changes was taken earlier in the meeting. The results are reported here.

In addition to routine personnel changes, the superintendent recommended several administrative assignments and reassignments as follows:

Dr. Daniel Whitehorn was recommended for appointment as the Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education, replacing Junious Babbs who is retiring.

Marvin Burton was recommended for appointment as associate superintendent / master principal. This is a new position to assist in improving school performance in the SWLR area.

Dr. Jeanne Huddle was recommended for reappointment from Associate Superintendent to Senior Director of Curriculum and Social Studies

Cassandra Norman was recommended to serve as Interim Director of Career and Technical / Alternative Education, replacing Director Carol Green who is retiring.

Kelan Watson was recommended for appointment as Coordinator of Hamilton Learning Academy

Dennis Glasgow was recommended for appointment as Associate Superintendent of Accountability. He had been serving in that same capacity as Interim.

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

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

Ms. Curry commended several employees who were included in the routine changes. *Marie McNeal*, retiring after 41 years of service, *Junious Babbs* who had served for 38 years, and *Carol Green*, who had 40 years of service in the LRSD.

IX. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Annual School Election Budget

Arkansas Code 6-13-622 requires publication of the school election budget not less than sixty days before the annual school election. The proposed school election budget for the 2012-2013 school year was provided for the board's review and approval. Mr. Bailey was present to respond to questions.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the budget as submitted; Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Reduced Meal Co-Payment Subsidy

House Bill 1910, approved in April of 2011, enables school food authorities to utilize National School Lunch Act (NSLA) funding to subsidize the reduced meal copayment for breakfast and lunch for eligible students. Implementation is intended to provide meals to students who are unable to afford meals on a daily basis and will increase breakfast and lunch participation at all schools.

The administration requested board approval to participate in this initiative. Mr. Adams moved to approve the request; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Special Assistance Alternative Provision 2 – Meal Initiative

House Bill 1910, approved in April of 2011, enables school food authorities to utilize National School Lunch Act (NSLA) funding to subsidize meals to children at no cost. This legislation allows the schools to replace the payment of the reduced and / or paid meals through a program referred to as “Provision 2” for the breakfast and / or lunch meal service. This would ensure students at the Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) sites would continue to receive breakfast at no charge.

The full list of recommendations and provisions was provided in the board’s agenda. Mr. Nellums made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

D. Monthly Financial Reports – May 2011

Financial reports were provided in the board’s agenda.

E. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey reported briefly on the current budget status. Delinquent tax collections are up slightly and other revenue is coming in slightly lower, but not significantly.

He stated that Financial Services staff was undergoing a tedious process of updating the coding of budgetary functions. The changes will assist in the proper preparation of budgeting reports and will enable better cost benefit analysis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED: 07-28-11

Originals Signed by:
Melanie Fox, President
Michael Nellums, Secretary