



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 19, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2011, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. Vice President Jody Carreiro presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Carreiro
Michael Nellums
Greg Adams
Charles Armstrong
Dianne Curry
Katherine Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Melanie Fox

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Holmes, Interim Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Carreiro called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Curry arrived at 5:37 p.m. Ms. Fox was absent. Tina Blanks, the teacher ex-officio from **Dunbar Middle School**, and Fabian Ruiz, student ex officio from **J. A. Fair High School**, were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

At the agenda meeting on May 12, 2011, Dr. Holmes presented citations and commendations to the **2011 City Education Trust / Stephens Award** recipients. The Stephens Award recognizes outstanding educators and students in Little Rock and gives cash awards to teachers and scholarships to students. The teachers from the LRSD were:

- **Mary Elizabeth Maris**, a chemistry teacher at Central High School; and
- **Debra L. Rogers**, a chemistry teacher at Parkview High School.

Four LRSD students were selected to receive the Stephens scholarship award:

- **Miriam Pearsall**, a student at Parkview High School;
- **Lucy Richardson**, a student at Central High School;
- **David Ye**, a student at Central High School; and
- **Boshan (Bob) Zhao**, a student at Central High School.

In addition to being selected for the Stephens Award, **Debra Rogers** was also named the **2011 High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year by the Central Arkansas Section of the American Chemical Society**.

Members of the **Parkview Magnet High School Quiz Bowl** team were recognized for winning the **6-A Governor's Quiz Bowl** state championship. The team captain was **Jake Kimmerly**, and the co-captain was **Laura Yoder**. Members of the team were introduced and awarded a superintendent's citation: **Chris Altheimer; Catie Edwards; Danica Ordenez; Ryan Nakamoto; Kerry Richmond; Robert Rogers; Deborah Rookey; Neal Sanger; Alex Smith; Brian Strigel; and Josh Woods**. The team coaches were **Pamela Crane, Douglas Hammon and Judy Warren**.

Jeff Hankins of **Arkansas Business Publishers** and **Little Rock Family** magazine presented the district with an award for being selected as the Gold Award winner "2011 Family Favorite" school district in central Arkansas. The selections are made by the readers of the magazine.

Metropolitan Vocational-Technical students Sean **Kirkendall, Zang Thao, Tommy Lewis** and **Troy Hoover** were presented with citations in recognition of their completion of the **Cisco IT Essentials: PC Hardware and Software** certification course. This course is a hands-on, lab-oriented experience that prepares students for careers in the ever-growing field of computers and technology. **Harvey Johnson**, Metro instructor, provided guidance to these students to help them earn their certification.

Students from the first class of **AVID** seniors to graduate from the Little Rock School District were introduced by the superintendent. **AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)** is a college preparatory program that provides support to first-generation college-bound students who otherwise likely would not attend college after graduating from high school. **Tracy Mason**, teacher at Hall High School and **Stacy McAdoo**, teacher at Central High School coordinated the AVID Program at their schools and supported these students in helping them achieve their dream of attending college.

Students from Central High School and the colleges they will attend:

Laura Luz Castillo, Henderson State University; **Cenita Wilford**, Tennessee State University; **Alicia Saxton**, Pulaski Technical College; **DeShaun Lee**, University of Memphis; **Jalen Davis**, Howard University; **Clarissa Johnson**, Agnes Scott College; **Brandi Davis**, U of A – Pine Bluff; **Christine Watkins**, Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago; **Anuujin Sukhdavaa**, UCA; **Dan Baylark**, Philander Smith College;

Taria Lightner, Pulaski Technical College; **Drucilla Caster**, U of A – Fort Smith; **Railen Mason**, U of A – Pine Bluff; **Kerry Carson**, Harding University; **Dylan Purifoy**, Texas Southern University; **Michael Johnson-Williams**, U of A – Fort Smith; and **Charles McCray**, Arkansas State University

Students from Hall High School and the colleges they will attend:

Tianna Baker, Arkansas State University; **Eugenia Brannon**, UALR; **Chelsey Chaney**, U of A; **Cailein Dortch**, UCA; **Patricia Galvan**, UCA; **Justin Jackson**, UALR; **Velton Kennedy**, UALR; **Briahanna Kimbrough**, Oglethorpe University; **Hiteksha Patel**, UCA; **Ariel King**, Arkansas Tech University; **Shailisa Roberts**, UALR; **Malak Rogers**, U of A; **Alejandra Rojas**, UALR; and **Dominique Vincent**, school undecided

Fabian Ruiz from **J.A. Fair High School** was the student ex officio for the month. **Tina Blanks**, teacher at **Dunbar Middle School** was the teacher representative.

After completing the citations and recognitions, Dr. Holmes asked Attorney Chris Heller to provide a brief report on the ruling issued earlier in the day by Judge Miller in the North Little Rock and Pulaski County School Districts' request for unitary status. The judge found that neither district was completely unitary; in addition, Pulaski County was harshly criticized for their desegregation efforts, especially in the area of student assignment. The Judge unexpectedly ruled all state funding to all three districts would cease with the exception of M-M transfer funding. The districts are required by the order to file briefs within thirty days to request reconsideration.

Mr. Heller reported uncertainty regarding the ruling's impact on funding for magnet schools and whether there was a possibility the magnet funding would be included as part of the M-M provisions. Mr. Heller reported that he would recommend asking Judge Miller for reconsideration since there was no previous notice that LRSD funding issues would be considered at this time. This hearing was expected to include only North Little Rock and Pulaski County unitary status issues and there were no findings of fact to support the decision to discontinue funding.

Mr. Heller expressed concern regarding the discontinuation of magnet school funding for next school year and the impact on students who are assigned to the Pulaski County magnet schools. He indicated intent to request an emergency hearing before the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

B. Partners in Education

At the agenda meeting on May 12, 2011, Debbie Milam introduced two new school and business partnerships:

- **Cloverdale Aerospace Technology Conversion Charter Middle School**, in partnership with **Little Rock National Airport**; *Principal Willie Vinson* was present to accept the partnership certificates.
- **Henderson Magnet Middle School**, in partnership with the **Bishop Leodies & Goldie Warren Community Development Center**; *Principal Steve Geurin* was present to accept the partnership certificates.

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

C. Update: Volunteers in Public Schools

Ms. Milam provided a brief update on the Arkansas Scholars Program. Arkansas Scholars challenges students to achieve academically, attend school regularly and focus on success in high school. Arkansas Scholars volunteers go into the middle schools and meet with all 8th grade students who will move into high school the following year. An ad will run in the June 17 Arkansas Democrat Gazette naming the current Arkansas Scholars. Each of them qualify for a scholarship to Pulaski Technical College upon graduation from high school.

D. Remarks from Citizens

No citizens signed up to address the board.

E. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. Student ex officio Fabian Ruiz 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 |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Chicot Primary School | Food items & beverage items for Parental Involvement Day, including cash donations, water, ice, etc. | Harvest Food – Chicot Kroger – Baseline Food Giant Grocery |
| | \$100.00 cash to purchase summer reading materials | Morris-Cox Insurance, Inc. |
| | \$200.00 cash to purchase summer reading materials | Landers Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge Benton, AR |
| Henderson Magnet Middle School | \$25.00 gift card for Hawk Fest / EAST Lab | Walmart – Cantrell |
| | \$45.00 gift card for Hawk Fest / EAST Lab | Walmart – Shackleford |
| | Two basketballs valued at \$51.96 for Hawk Fest | Sports Stop |
| | Six dodge balls / kick balls valued at \$47.94 for Hawk Fest | Academy Sports |
| | Ten hamburger coupons, valued at \$51.90 for Hawk Fest | Cheeburger-Cheeburger |
| | Ten \$10.00 gift cards for Hawk Fest | Las Palmas Mexican Restaurant |
| | Two \$10.00 Rhapsody gift cards, one \$15.00 iTunes card, a \$10.00 Facebook card, and three \$10.00 Radio Shack | Ms. Candice McHenry |

| SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT | ITEM | DONOR |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Henderson Magnet Middle School | cards for Hawk Fest Four movie passes, valued at \$37.00 for Hawk Fest | RAVE Movie Theater |
| Mann Magnet Middle School | \$51.00 cash to purchase books "How to be Confident, Capable, Cool, and in Control" for 6 th grade girls \$1,908.00 cash to purchase books, "Teen Girls Gotta Have It Guide to Money" for 7 th and 8 th grade girls \$250.00 cash to purchase books "Teen Girls Gotta Have It Guide to Money" for 7 th and 8 th grade girls \$200 cash to purchase books, "Teen Girls Gotta Have It Guide to Money" for 7 th and 8 th grade girls | National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Centennial Bank, Ms. Marsha Davis, Vice-President Ameriprise Financial, Mr. Elmer London Horace Mann Class of 1973 |
| Roberts Elementary School | Industrial weed mat and special soil, valued at \$245.00 for the science lab to develop outdoor vegetable garden | Maumelle Nursery |
| Williams Magnet Elementary School | \$500.00 cash to purchase graduation gowns | Patricia Lewandoski |

F. Little Rock PTA Council

Henri Smothers, president of the LR PTA Council, reported on her attendance at the annual PTA convention in Springdale. She announced the awards presented to LRSD schools: Roberts Elementary School was the number one local unit in Arkansas; the administrator of the year was Suzanne Ross, assistant principal at Central High School; Childrens' Champion for the State was Mildred Shumar, also from Central High School; and the teacher of the year was Will Dunn from Wilson Elementary School.

G. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler reported on her attendance at a press conference and community meeting announcing LRSD participation in the "Breakfast in the Classroom" program. This pilot initiative will provide a no-cost breakfast for students in six schools in a partnership between the district and the Walmart Foundation along with other community partners. She reported Governor Beebe's wife, Ginger Beebe, and Mayor Stodola attended the press conference.

The press conference was held at Mabelvale Elementary School, where the students, Principal Smith, and teachers hosted the guests of the press conference. Ms. Kohler commended Becky Smith, a first year teacher, and Lillie Bouie, Director of Child Nutrition.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Adams congratulated the Hamilton Learning Center graduates. He attended their graduation ceremony the morning of this meeting. He also welcomed Dr. Holmes to the superintendency.

Mr. Nellums also congratulated Dr. Holmes and made a few remarks about consideration of the “bare bones” budget. He expressed concern regarding a facilities equity issue at Parkview and noted that he had discussed the matter with Dr. Holmes.

Mr. Armstrong congratulated Dr. Holmes with a reminder that there are two years of hard work ahead. He stated belief that Dr. Holmes has the students best interest at heart, and with the help of total community involvement and commitment, it is possible to turn things around for the District.

Dr. Mitchell noted that it was the last board meeting of the school year. She expressed appreciation to all the teachers, administrators and support staff - - to everyone who contributes to the education of children on a daily basis. She expressed appreciation to Ms. Bouie, the LREA and the Foundation who all contributed to getting Breakfast in the Classroom. She thanked Dr. Holmes for accepting the challenge of being LRSD superintendent.

Ms. Curry also thanked Dr. Holmes, and stated she was happy to have him on board. She expressed pride in the board’s foresight to begin looking at reductions in the budget and moving forward with the work to continue reducing spending as much as possible.

Mr. Carreiro also welcomed Dr. Holmes and expressed appreciation for his willingness to accept the challenges ahead. He noted the schedule of graduations for the following week and congratulated all the students who will receive their diplomas. He also noted that he had attended a school board association conference this week, and he brought back information on Common Core.

B. Update: Third Quarter Reports from Schools on SIP

Dennis Glasgow presented a brief review of school improvement information which was provided in the board’s agenda. **Tyrone Harris**, principal of King Magnet, explained how teachers and administrators at King continually use test data to drive planning for improving student achievement.

Dr. Phil Clark spoke on behalf of the school improvement specialists. As they begin to review test information, they expect the strategies and interventions will have a positive impact on overall student achievement. He responded to questions from the board regarding the use of data and implementation of the strategies at the various schools where school improvement specialists are assigned.

The agenda was reordered to allow introduction of the representatives of City Year at this point in the meeting. Action will be reported as listed in the agenda.

C. Update: ESL

Karen Broadnax provided a PowerPoint presentation review of the ESL program and a comparison to the services provided in the 2000 school year. A copy of the PowerPoint was included in the board's agenda.

D. Information: Artistry in the Rock

At the agenda meeting on May 12, Dr. I. J. Routen reported on the success of the first ***Artistry in the Rock***. At that meeting, students presented framed artwork to Dr. Holmes and Dr. Mitchell.

E. Information: 2011-2012 Budget Plan Update

No information was presented. A budget planning session was scheduled for June 2, 2011. Additional budget review is being conducted by the administration.

F. Internal Auditors Report

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

The board took a brief recess at 7:36 p.m. and returned at 7:50 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Board Meeting Dates, 2011-2012 School Year

The board annually approves the calendar of meeting dates for the following school year. Dates for the 2011-2012 school year were provided for the board's review and approval. Regular meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. The exceptions to the calendar include: November for the Thanksgiving holiday; December for the winter holiday; March for spring break; and May for high school graduations. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the dates as proposed. Mr. Nellums seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on April 28, 2011 and from special meetings held on May 3, and May 12, 2011, were presented for review and approval. Dr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A. Second Reading: Board Policy Adoption: GCCAC Family and Medical Leave Policy

Board policies undergo periodic review and revision. The district did not have an existing policy for use of Family and Medical Leave; therefore Policy GCCAC was developed and recommended for approval. This policy will provide clear and specific information regarding the application of the FMLA for District employees.

Ms. Curry moved to approve the policy on second reading. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Second Reading: Board Policy Revision: GBAA Sexual Harassment

The existing board policy GBAA Sexual Harassment was previously adopted in November 1999. The administration requested board review and approval of revisions which would include specific language to define sexual harassment and clarifies the responsibilities of reporting incidents of sexual harassment. Mr. Hartz was asked to read the policy aloud prior to the motion to approve. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the policy on second reading. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

A. City Year: Establishing a National Priority Partnership

Sarah Roberson, Executive Director of City Year, provided information for the board's review and consideration. The Whole School / Whole Child model would support interventions in schools where students have exhibited poor attendance, poor behavior, and lack of progress in English and mathematics achievement. The proposal would provide these services at Meadowcliff and Mabelvale Elementary Schools and at Mabelvale Middle School. City Year members would provide social and emotional support as well as one-on-one tutoring, small group intervention and programs during lunch, before, and after school.

Mabelvale Elementary Principal, Darian Smith, reported on the experience with City Year Corp members at Mabelvale Elementary, stating that their City Year Corp members help change the culture in the school and take the time to individualize the services to assist and support the students.

One third of the funding would come from AmeriCorps, one-third from fundraising efforts by City Corp members, and one-third from the LRSD. A Memorandum of Understanding will be provided at the June board meeting, and the administration will request board approval.

VII. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Secondary Literacy Textbook / Materials Adoption

The Secondary Language Arts Textbook Adoption Committee presented their recommendation for textbook and materials adoptions for board consideration. Suzi Davis was present and explained the recommendation to adopt elective language arts textbooks and textbooks for courses in grade 6-12 English. Since the state curriculum is being aligned to Common Core Standards, it was recommended the purchase of other texts be delayed until the 2013 school year. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the recommendations of the committee. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Transition to Teaching Program Federal Grant Proposal – Partnership with UCA

The administration requested approval to enter into a grant partnership with the University of Central Arkansas and the North Little Rock School District in submitting a request to fund the Transition to Teaching Program. This grant would assist in the recruitment, training and placement of 120 highly qualified teachers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. Teachers would earn provisional licensure and credentials while working as intern teachers in the partnership schools.

Linda Young responded to questions from the board. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the submission; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. School Improvement Grant (SIG) J. A. Fair and Hall Innovation Recommendation

Hall and J. A. Fair High Schools requested approval to implement a pilot program intended to reduce the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate of students from 17 – 19 years of age who have less than ten graduation credits and have failed one or more courses required for graduation. The program would provide credit recovery assistance, remediation and support and would allow the participating students to graduate with 22 credits as required by the Arkansas Standards for Accreditation as applies to accelerated and alternative learning programs. Ms. Curry moved to approve the administration's recommendation for implementation. Mr. Nellums seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. SCHOOL SERVICES

A. Student Tracking System for Discipline and Tardies

At the agenda meeting on May 12, information was provided on the PLASCO student tracking system for discipline and tardies. Mr. Babbs reviewed the recommendation and requested approval to proceed with implementing the system in all secondary schools. Forest Heights, J. A. Fair and Parkview served as pilot sites, and other schools expressed interest in implementation as the system allows greater monitoring of student attendance and behavior. The Public Education Foundation assisted with funding at the pilot sites. Other schools will include costs within their local school budgets. Mr. Adams moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried 4-0-2**, with Dr. Mitchell and Mr. Armstrong abstaining.

IX. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

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

X. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Monthly Financial Reports – April 2011

Financial reports were provided in the board's agenda. No action was taken.

B. Proposed Meal Price Increases

The administration requested approval to increase the amount of school breakfast and lunch. The current breakfast for both elementary and secondary students is \$1.25. Adults pay \$1.50. The proposal would raise the cost to \$1.50 for all students and \$1.85 for adults. Elementary students are currently paying \$2.25 for lunch; secondary students pay \$2.50, and adults pay \$3.00. The proposal would increase the elementary lunch to \$2.35. There would be no increase for secondary students or adults. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Budget Update

There was not an update at this meeting. A budget worksession was scheduled for June 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Board members were reminded of the upcoming week of high school graduations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED: 06-23-11

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