

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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
August 28, 2008**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2008, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Katherine Mitchell presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Katherine Mitchell  
Charles Armstrong  
Melanie Fox  
Robert M. Daugherty  
Baker Kurrus

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Larry Berkley  
Dianne Curry

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Linda Watson, Interim Superintendent  
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

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

Dr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Mr. Berkley and Ms. Curry were absent. Yolanda Shelton, teacher at Brady Elementary School, and Darrion Coleman, student from Parkview High School were present as ex officio members of the board for the month of August.

Dr. Mitchell welcomed members of the audience and asked Dr. Watson to proceed with the citations and commendations.

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

**A. Superintendent's Citations & Commendations**

Dr. Watson recognized **Louis Butler** of Butler Furniture Depot for his donation of new furniture for the front lobby of the administration building. He was presented with a plaque in appreciation for this contribution.

**Lilly Bouie**, Director of the LRSD Child Nutrition Department was recently named Commodity Director of the Year for the Central Region at the recent state directors meeting of the ADE Child Nutrition Department.

**Gerald Clark**, Head Custodian at Bale Elementary, was nominated by Principal Barbara Anderson for a Superintendent's Quality Award. Ms. Anderson wrote in her nomination letter, ". . . In all my years of education I have never seen a more committed employee. Mr. Clark never seeks attention; he just goes about his work in a manner that is professional and caring."

Dr. Watson announced the district's receipt of a banner proclaiming the Little Rock School District as an exemplary model for creating healthy schools of excellence in the state of Arkansas from the Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Human Services. This award was received at a recent Coordinated Schools Health Programs luncheon at the Governor's Mansion. **Reginald Merritt**, the District's Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, and **Margo Bushmiaer**, Health Services Coordinator, were present to accept this honor on behalf of the district.

Ex-officios for the month of August were presented with certificates of appreciation for their service. The student ex-officio was **Darrion Coleman** from Parkview Magnet High School, and the teacher representative was **Yolanda Shelton** from Brady Elementary School.

## **B. Partners in Education**

**Debbie Milam**, Director of Volunteers in Public Schools, announced and presented several new business & school partnerships for the board's approval. **Anastasia Taylor** spoke on behalf of Metropolitan National Bank branches; representatives from each branch were present to accept their partnership certificates. Principals or representatives from each of the schools were also present.

- **Brady Elementary School** partnering with **Trinity United Methodist Church** and with **Metropolitan National Bank-Markham Street Kroger Branch**
- **Chicot Elementary School** partnering with **Coldwater Creek-Chenal** and with **Metropolitan National Bank-Geyer Springs Kroger**
- **David O. Dodd Elementary School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Colonel Glenn Branch** and with **Life Skills for Youth**, represented by *Larry Clark*
- **Dunbar Magnet Middle School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Center Street Branch**
- **Fulbright Elementary School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Financial Centre Branch**
- **Hall High School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Tanglewood Branch**
- **Henderson Middle School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Colony West**
- **Jefferson Elementary School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Heights Branch** and **Metropolitan National Bank - Heights Kroger Branch**
- **Rockefeller Elementary School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Tower Building** and **Metropolitan Motor Bank Branches**

- **Terry Elementary School** partnering with **Metropolitan National Bank-Markham & I-430 Branch**
- **Watson Intermediate School** partnering with **Coldwater Creek-Park Plaza** and with **Metropolitan National Bank-Baseline Branch**

Dr. Daugherty made a motion to accept the partnerships. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously.**

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

None.

### **D. Little Rock PTA Council**

Patty Barker, PTA Council president, addressed the board and congratulated the district on the newly established partnerships, thanking all of the partners who were present in the room. She reported that PTA Council representatives were in the schools during check-in on August 5-6 to assist the PTA units in getting their membership drives off to a good start. She announced that the first Council meeting would be held on September 9, 11:00 a.m. at the AEA / CTA building. Lunch will be provided and Board members were invited to attend.

### **E. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association**

Michael Coleman addressed the board introducing himself as an employee of the AEA, assigned to work with the LR CTA. He reported that Cathy Kohler was off on medical leave for a few days. Mr. Coleman reminded the audience that this was the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther King's *I Have A Dream* speech, and he reported that students from the LRSD had participated in the ceremonies at the Clinton Presidential Library commemorating this historic event.

## **IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Dr. Daugherty thanked the McDonald's employee who was in the news this week after being shot and critically injured. He expressed gratitude that the employee was willing to get involved, risking his own life while trying to help someone else. He also wished a speedy recovery to Dr. Marian Lacey who is recuperating from surgery.

Ms. Fox thanked everyone involved in getting the school year off to a great start. She had visited Brady Elementary school and had challenged students there to read a book before her next visit.

Dr. Mitchell commended employees for a successful two weeks of school. She also noted that this was a historically significant day and that she had attended commemoration ceremonies at the Clinton Library. She said that the program was motivational, entertaining, and informative, noting that many students don't know the history of Dr. Martin L. King. She commended Rev. Hunter for leading the tribute.

**B. Legal Update**

No report

**C. Student Registration Enrollment Report**

A comparative report of the third day of school enrollment was included with the board's agenda. Mr. Kurrus asked Dr. Watson to seek guidance from the state to determine if we would receive any funding for pre-K and three-year-old students and how the projections for declining enrollment would impact the district's funding levels over the next few years.

**D. Budget Update**

No report.

**E. Discussion: Maintenance & Operations**

Ms. Curry had requested a discussion of advancement opportunities for employees in the Facility Services / Maintenance & Operations Division. She was not present at the meeting and no information was presented or requested by the Board.

**F. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker's report was included in the agenda. He was present, but no additional information was presented.

**V. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS**

**A. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on July 24, 2008, and from special meetings held on August 14, and August 21, 2008, were presented for the board's review and approval. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

**VI. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Conversion Charter – Letter of Intent to the Arkansas Department of Education**

Dr. Watson recommended approval of a letter of intent to be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education which would allow time for the district to explore the possibility of forming a charter school at the Aerospace Education Center. Mr. Kurrus and Ms. Fox spoke in opposition to the formation of the charter school. Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the submission of the letter of intent; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried 3-2**, with Mr. Kurrus and Ms. Fox voting no.

## **B. Modification of the Superintendent's Contract**

Ms. Fox made a motion for the board to convene in executive session to discuss modifications in the contract previously approved by the board. Mr. Kurrus seconded the motion and it **carried 4-1** with Dr. Daugherty casting the no vote.

*Mr. Berkley arrived during the executive session at approximately 6:50 p.m.*

The board returned from executive session and reported that no action was taken.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to reorder the agenda to move the contract to the end of the meeting for additional discussion. The motion died for lack of second. No additional action was taken.

## **VII. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

### **A. Arkansas Department of Education – Grant Submission: Enhancing Education Through Technology**

The administration recommended board approval to submit an Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant to the Arkansas Department of Education. This grant would assist in improving student academic achievement by enhancing the availability of technology at eight targeted elementary schools: Baseline, Dodd, Geyer Springs, Meadowcliff, Romine, Wakefield, Western Hills, and Wilson. The one year grant application is in the amount of \$150,000. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the submission, Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **B. Grant Continuation Proposal: McKinney – Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

The District has received the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant funding since 1992. The purpose of this grant is to ensure the educational rights and protections for all children who are experiencing homelessness and to insure equal access to the same free appropriate public education provided to other children and youth. The District's Homeless Education Program identifies an average of 500 LRSD students on an annual basis. The funding will be used for the coordinator's salary, tutoring, professional development, summer programs, referral for health services, school supplies, family emergency services, and enriched educational services linked to achievement of State established standards. The amount of the request for funding is \$33,000. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the submission; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Personnel Changes**

Routine personnel changes were printed in the board's agenda. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to approve the personnel items as submitted. Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **IX. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **A. Donations of Property**

Student ex officio Darrian Coleman read the donation listing in the board's agenda. The single donation this month was previously announced: Mr. Louis Butler of Butler Furniture Depot donated a leather sofa, loveseat and tables, valued at \$2,998.00. Mr. Kurrus made a motion to accept the donations listed. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

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

At its regular meeting on June 26, 2008 the Board authorized the issuance of \$13,195,000 in remaining bonds voted in 2000. The bond sale is scheduled for August 26, 2008. A resolution outlining the sale and award of these above named bonds was presented for the board's review and approval. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the resolution; Mr. Kurrus seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **C. Proposed Purchase of Buses**

The District has established a ten year cycle to keep the Special Needs bus fleet updated. The board was asked to approve the purchase of eight (8) additional buses for the 2008-09 school year. Seven of the eight buses will be outfitted with lifts, and all eight buses will replace 1996 and 1997 model buses. The estimated cost for each bus is \$85,000, financed over a seven (7) year period, or \$112,000 annually. Dr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the purchase; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

### **D. Purchase of Property at 13201 Kanis Road**

The board was asked to approve a Resolution authorizing the purchase of the property at 13201 Kanis and designating the person(s) authorized to execute documents on behalf of the District to finalize the purchase. The board had directed staff to seek land in West Little Rock for future development and construction of a middle school. The property at 13201 Kanis Road consists of approximately 9.6 acres and has been offered to the District for \$720,000. Mr. Berkley made a motion to approve the purchase of the property. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion.

Prior to the vote and after a brief discussion, Ms. Fox asked for additional time to consider the purchase. She made a motion to postpone the vote on the purchase until further information could be provided. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried 5-1**, with Dr. Mitchell casting the no vote.

### **E. Purchase of Property at 10319 and 10323 E. David O. Dodd Rd.**

The administration recommended Board approval of a resolution authorizing the purchase of property at 10319 and 10323 East David O. Dodd Road. These properties combined would provide approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of land adjacent to the David O. Dodd Elementary campus and would allow future expansion at that site. The resolution authorizes the Director of Maintenance and Operations or the Director of Procurement to execute any and all documents relating to the purchase. Ms. Fox moved to approve the recommendation; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried 5-1** with Dr. Daugherty voting no.

#### **F. Purchase of Property at 11112 Chicot Rd.**

The board was also asked to approve a resolution authorizing purchase of property adjacent to the Chicot Elementary School campus. This includes approximately 4.5 acres and would allow for future expansion at the Chicot Site. The resolution authorizes the Director of Maintenance and Operations or the Director of Procurement to execute any and all documents relating to the purchase. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the purchase of property; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. It **carried 5-1** with Dr. Daugherty voting no.

#### **G. Sale of Rightsell Property**

Previous approval was granted by the board to sell the former Rightsell Elementary School to the 34<sup>th</sup> Street Missionary Baptist Church. The prior offer to purchase expired before the purchaser could complete the transaction; therefore, the offer was renewed and comes back for approval. 34<sup>th</sup> Street Missionary Baptist Church has offered \$250,000 for the school. An updated resolution was presented. Mr. Berkley moved to approve the sale; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### **H. June 2008 Financial Statements**

The June financial documents were attached to the board's agenda. No action was taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Berkley, seconded by Ms. Fox.

APPROVED: 09-23-08

Originals Signed by:  
Katherine P. Mitchell, President  
Melanie Fox, Secretary