

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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 27, 2006**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held its regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2006, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Robert M. Daugherty presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert M. Daugherty
Baker Kurrus
Larry Berkley
Tom Brock
Bryan Day
Katherine Mitchell
Tony Rose

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Roy G. Brooks, Superintendent of Schools
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Dr. Daugherty called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All members of the Board were present at roll call. In addition, ex officio representatives to the board were also present: Jennifer Dilday, teacher from Dodd Elementary School, and Ellen Doramus, student from Central High School.

II. PROCEDURAL MATTERS / WELCOMING COMMENTS

Dr. Daugherty welcomed the audience and asked Dr. Brooks to proceed with citations and commendations.

III. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Citations & Commendations

Dr. Brooks began by introducing the 2006 Stephens Award recipients. **Mary Jacobs**, teacher at J. A. Fair High School; **Amanda Linn**, teacher at Parkview Magnet High School; and **Gail McKinnon**, teacher at Hall High School. The student scholarship recipients were: **Peter Liu** and **Laura Soderberg**, both from Central High School. Laura was also recognized for being selected as a 2006 U.S. Presidential Scholar.

Mitchell Perry, instructor at Metropolitan Career-Technical Center, introduced students who were medalists in the 2006 Arkansas VICA SkillsUSA competition in Hot Springs. The students present were: **Doug Pitts**, gold medal in diesel technology; **Jonathan Modal**, silver medal in diesel technology; **James Blanchard** and **Dustin Stewart**, bronze medals in collision / auto body repair; **Jeremy Barnes**, Arkansas' state pin design winner; **Christopher Young**, gold medalist, graphic communications; and **Alexis Oliver**, 3rd place in prepared speech. In addition, it was noted that Director **Carol Green** was presented with a lifetime commitment award from Arkansas SkillsUSA / VICA at the conference.

Athletic Director **Johnny Johnson** introduced **Brian Cox** from the Arkansas Children's Hospital sports medicine clinic and **Tom Cantwell** from Ortho Arkansas. These volunteers provided LRSD middle and high school students with annual sports physicals and provided assistance to our students at the state 5A tournament games. In addition, recognition was given to **Beth McKindrick**, director of sports medicine at ACH, for her contributions to LRSD athletic events.

Dorothy Doolittle, math coach at Brady Elementary School, was named the 2005-06 Arkansas Elementary School Teacher of the Year by the Oklahoma-Arkansas Mathematical Association of America. Dr. Brooks asked her to stand as he read the plaque presented in recognition of this honor.

Dr. Brooks asked **Junious Babbs**, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education, to stand. Mr. Babbs recently received the *2006 Living Legacy Award* at the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Dinner.

The superintendent recognized the Mann Magnet Middle School Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Lab team and their faculty facilitators, Rick Washam and Robin Miller-Bookhout. This team recently attended the 2006 EAST Partnership Conference in Hot Springs where they won the Founder's Award, designating Mann's EAST team as "the "best of the best in the nation." The participating students received a superintendent's citation: **Hamza Arshad, Rachel Best, Mari-Anne Caldwell, Catherine Fox, Michael Handy, Katie Holcomb, Jake Kimmerly, Janey Partin and Orlando Roberts.**

The final superintendent's citations were presented to ex-officio representatives for the month of April: **Jennifer Dilday**, teacher from David O. Dodd Elementary School, and **Ellen Doramus**, student from Central High School.

B. Partners in Education

Debbie Milam introduced new school / business partnership as listed. Mr. Berkley moved to accept the partnership; Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Martin L. King, Jr. Elementary School, represented by *Diane Rynders*, in partnership with the **Arkansas Federal Credit Union** represented by *Tammy Christian*

In addition to introducing the partnership, Ms. Milam asked Diane Vibhaker, representing the ViPS Board, to present a mock check representing \$10,458,888.00 in volunteer hours.

C. Celebrate School Libraries Presentation

District media specialists made a video presentation to the Board in recognition of School Library Media Month and National Library Week. Those presenting included Mary Gillespie from Pulaski Heights Elementary School and Betty Hansberry Harrison from Hall High School.

D. Remarks from Citizens

Carol Wilson addressed the board regarding the district's cell phone policy. Her daughter's phone was confiscated by the school principal after the phone was found during the school day in her backpack. The student served a three-day in school suspension.

Paul Pighee, Southwest Middle School parent and community volunteer, stated opposition to proposed changes at Southwest. He criticized the faculty at Southwest and expressed concern regarding the disparity in student test results. He expressed support for the building principal, and asked the board to allow the principal to remove poor teachers when they weren't meeting the needs of the students. He noted that the school campus looks better than it has in 20 years and that the community would not support reconfiguration of SWMS to an alternative learning center.

E. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association

Grainger Ledbetter ceded time allowed for the teachers union to one of the district's psychological examiners, Kim Hart, who spoke on behalf of school all school psychology specialists.

IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Berkley congratulated the ViPs board and staff on the annual volunteer celebration this week and thanked all volunteers for the time they give to our schools and students.

Mr. Kurrus reported that he had attended a PTA meeting at Forest Heights Middle School; he thanked Judge Vic Fleming for presenting information at that meeting on alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

Mr. Kurrus thanked members of the McClellan community who spoke at the recent meeting there. He acknowledged the students who asked for “a pat on the back every once in a while.” Mr. Kurrus noted that it had become routine to place blame on the schools when problems arise in the community. He reminded the audience that when community problems end up in the schools, school administrators and teachers do all they can to address these problems, but that the schools can’t be expected to cure the problems. It takes a combined effort between the community and the schools to make any significant improvements.

Mr. Brock thanked volunteers for what they do for our students and schools. He also commented on the meeting with McClellan community members, and noted that the board was there to listen, not to take any action. He echoed Mr. Kurrus remarks regarding the perception of fault with the schools. He asked that the city do their part to find a solution.

Mr. Rose reported that he had missed the community meeting at McClellan, and noted that it was the first meeting he had missed since being elected to serve on the board. He stated a personal commitment to do everything possible to make McClellan a great school; however he agreed with other board remarks that the LRSD doesn’t have the ability to make a great community. “It isn’t our responsibility to clean up that community; the city also has to do their part.”

Mr. Rose also noted that he would be having surgery in May and that he would probably miss a few board meetings.

Dr. Mitchell reported that she had attended the National School Boards Association meeting in Chicago in early April. She stated interest in the workshops, and excitement about the motivational speakers who presented, including Colin Powell and Jane Goodall. She reminded Dr. Brooks that Dr. Anne Bryant had taken a stand on small class size at the primary grades, and again encouraged the district to move in that direction to improve early student success.

Dr. Mitchell thanked the people who work in our schools and recognized the hard work that the faculty and support staffs do to ensure student success.

Teacher ex-officio Jennifer Dilday appealed to the board on behalf of instructional aides who have not yet succeeded in passing the Praxis exam. There are many aides who have a CDA license and 120 hours of classroom instruction, but will be dismissed because they cannot pass the geometry section of the Praxis.

B. Student Assignment Report

No report.

C. Budget Update

Mr. Milhollen addressed the board regarding questions on state foundation funding for next school year. The per-student allocation will increase from \$5,400 to \$5,528. A portion will go to reimburse districts for increased obligations to teacher retirement

benefits, the remainder will be used to provide employee salary increases, fund school programs and cover increased energy costs. Negotiations with the CTA have resulted in an agreement to provide an additional 1.6% to the base salary of all employees. A formal proposal will be provided for the board's approval in May. If approved by the board, the increase would be posted on the June 15 payroll checks, retroactive to July 1 for the current school year.

Mr. Kurrus stated emphatically that he would not vote for any extensions to the teacher contract. He stated emphatically that he expects the contract for next school year to be negotiated and finalized on time and without any extensions.

D. Construction Report: Proposed Bond Projects

The monthly construction update was provided as an attachment to the board's agenda.

E. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was printed in the board agenda. He was questioned about the plans for providing computers to students who do not currently have computers at home. Mr. Becker has worked with the technology, procurement and financial services staff to develop a plan, a process, and regulations for this effort. Additional information will be provided to the board next month.

V. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on March 23, 2006, and from a special meeting held on March 16, 2006, were presented for review and approval. Mr. Rose moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Day seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously.**

VI. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A. Posting of Grades and Attendance to Web-Based Reporting Program

A regulation was developed that would provide direction to teachers and building principals for reporting student grades and attendance to EdLine. Mr. Hattabaugh provided a brief overview and responded to questions from the board. The board members suggested postponing enforcement of the regulation until the start of the next school year. Administrators agreed to monitor the use of EdLine for the remainder of this year, and then to negotiate compliance within the contract for the 2006-07 school year.

VII. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Secondary Mathematics Textbook Adoption

The Secondary Mathematics Textbook adoption committee presented their recommendation for texts to be used in all secondary mathematics courses beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. Copies of the selected texts were displayed in the board room for review. Mr. Berkley moved to approve the committee's recommendations; Mr. Day seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. SCHOOL SERVICES

A. Computer Science Education Textbook Adoption

The Computer Science Textbook Committee reviewed available materials to support the computer science curriculum in the LRSD. This committee provided their recommendations for the board's review; members of the committee were listed in the agenda and the administration recommended approval. Dr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the committee's recommendations; Mr. Berkley seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Textbook Adoptions for Career Communications Courses

A textbook for use in a Career Communications course at Parkview next school year was also recommended by a committee who reviewed the curriculum and selected an appropriate textbook for student instruction. This course is a requirement of the Arkansas Department of Education Workforce Education program. The administration asked the board to approve the recommendation. Mr. Berkley moved to approve the committee's selection. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

IX. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were printed in the board's agenda. In addition, items listed as follows were also approved:

B. Appointment of High School Summer School Principal

Mr. Jerome Farmer, currently the Football Coach and PE teacher at Mann Magnet Middle School was recommended to serve as principal of the high school summer school program. The 2006 high school summer school will be held at Hall High School for students in grades 9 through 11. Twelfth grade students who only need .5 or 1 credit to graduate will attend the Metropolitan ACC program.

C. Appointment of Middle School Summer School Principal

Ms. Connie Green, currently an Assistant Principal at Mabelvale Middle School, was recommended for appointment to the position of middle school summer school principal. Summer school for students in 6th through 8th grades will be held at Pulaski Heights Middle School.

On all personnel items presented, Mr. Berkley moved to approve the administration's recommendations; Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

D. Approval of the 2005-06 Negotiated Agreement for School Psychologists

A negotiated agreement between the district and the school psychology specialists was presented for the board's review and approval. Director of Human Resources, David Hartz, responded to questions from the board and recognized that with this late submission for board approval, both parties had agreed to allow the agreement to continue through the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Any language changes that are adopted within the other negotiated contracts would be incorporated within the agreement.

Board members commented at length regarding the sixty-page agreement and suggested holding off on approval until July 1, 2006. Mr. Kurrus stated that an agreement of "minutia" was not an effective way to do business with employees; he asked for this and future contracts to be built on trust and on what is in the best interest of the students in the LRSD.

Mr. Ledbetter was allowed to address the board and stated that the board's policies encourage collective bargaining and that the agreement was negotiated in good faith by all parties. Mr. Brock suggested that the district review the policies that regulate these negotiations and make appropriate change where needed.

Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the agreement as submitted. Mr. Rose seconded the motion and it **carried 6-1**, with Mr. Kurrus casting the "no" vote.

X. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Donations of Property

The Board was asked to approve the acceptance of recent donations to schools and departments within the District. The donations are listed in the following chart. Ellen Doramus, student ex officio, read the items listed in the Board's agenda. Dr. Mitchell made a motion to accept the donated items, Mr. Rose seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Chicot Elementary School	KaBoom! Playground Unit, valued at \$35,000	KaBoom Foundation
Cloverdale Magnet Middle School	<p>Large wicker baskets, mirrors and lamps, valued at \$150.00, to be used as gifts for parents on EdLine Training Night</p> <p>\$75.00 cash for interpreter for EdLine Training Night</p> <p>Drinks for students and staff, valued at \$150.00, for EdLine Training Night</p> <p>Games, coloring books, yoyos and pencils, valued at \$25.00, for student use on EdLine Training Night</p> <p>30 cases of water, valued at \$360.00, for students and staff on EdLine Training night</p> <p>Large #10 cans of chili, valued at \$25.00, for EdLine Training Night and Teacher Appreciation luncheon</p> <p>Loan and set up of tables and chairs, valued at \$1,171.00, for use in student achievement testing</p>	<p>Linda Thomas, Kerry Waller, David Jeffers of Forbing Garage Sales / Silverwood Products, Inc.</p> <p>Dr. William Rutledge / Forest Park Medical</p> <p>Donnie Pointer of Coca-Cola and Dr. Pepper Bottling Company</p> <p>Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman, Associate Professor of Surgery, UAMS / ACRC Cancer Control Outreach Center</p> <p>Mr. Chuck Finney of Central Arkansas Water</p> <p>Clem and Jean Arnold</p> <p>David Withem of Southwest Party Time Rental, Inc.</p>
Fulbright Elementary School	<p>\$2,000 cash to be used to purchase a Smartboard for the computer lab</p> <p>\$500 cash to the kindergarten class to be added to donation to Heifer Project International</p>	<p>Fulbright PTA</p> <p>Wal-Mart Store #5244</p>
Metropolitan Career & Technical Center	State Police Car, 2000 Chevrolet, valued at \$11,000 to the Law Enforcement program.	Arkansas State Police
Parkview Magnet High School	Sprinkler heads and controller, valued at \$1,158.37, for use in irrigating and seeding the drill field	The Keeling Company

B. Financial Reports

Mr. Milhollen presented the monthly financial reports; no formal action was taken.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to the motion to adjourn, Mr. Brock announced that he had visited 48 schools and 46 school cafeterias. He thanked the people who work in our buildings and stated that he was impressed by his observations.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Brock.

APPROVED: 05-25-06

Originals Signed by:
Robert M. Daugherty, President
Bryan Day, Secretary