

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

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 28, 2006**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2006, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Robert M. Daugherty presided.

Prior to the call to order, Judge Mackie Pierce administered the oath of office to newly elected board members Charles Armstrong and Melanie Fox. The original oath of office was filed with the Pulaski County Clerk's office, and copies will be made a part of these minutes.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert M. Daugherty
Baker Kurrus
Charles Armstrong
Larry Berkley
Tom Brock
Melanie Fox

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Katherine Mitchell

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 5:35 p.m. Six members of the Board were present at roll call; Dr. Mitchell was absent. Ex officio representatives for the month of September were also present: Brandon Love, student from Central High School and Kimberly Meek, teacher from Geyer Springs Elementary School.

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

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Superintendent's Citations & Commendations

Dr. Brooks recognized a group of students from Central High School who traveled this summer to Edinburgh, Scotland to participate in the annual Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Drama instructor **Melinda Beith** and assistant director **Kimberly Dade** were present along with several of the students who performed at the festival.

Superintendent's citations were presented to Central drama students **Richard Block, Michael Johnson, Kanome Jones, Megan Motley, Allie Schexnayder, Michael Scott, Victoria VanderSchilden, Ross Weems** and **Anthony Williams**.

The U. S. Department of Education's American Star of Teaching Award was recently presented to **Kathy Williams**, teacher at Forest Heights Middle School. This award highlights effective teaching practices under the "No Child Left Behind" Act; only one teacher in each state is selected for this prestigious honor. The Director of the U. S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative, **Carolyn Snowbarger**, presented the award to Ms. Williams.

Vanessa Cleaver was presented with a Superintendent's Citation in recognition of her appointment to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics task force on Leadership Development. This task force develops strategies to address the nationwide shortage of both mathematics teachers and those who serve in leadership roles.

Superintendent's Quality Service Awards were presented to **Annette Jones** and **Leathel Sanders** from Pulaski Heights Elementary School. Mr. Sanders and Ms. Jones were recently recognized by the Facility Services Department as being responsible for keeping the cleanest building in the Little Rock School District. This is a noteworthy accomplishment due to the age of the building and the difficulties associated with keeping an older facility in exceptional condition. Principal Lillie Carter and Pulaski Heights teachers were present in support of Mr. Sanders and Ms. Jones.

Quality Service Awards were also presented to **Marcy Eckolls** and **Edna Walton**. Marcy, a Human Resources Specialist, was nominated by **Charlotte Kirby**, a new LRSD teacher. Ms. Kirby's nomination indicated a positive impression from the first contact with the LRSD in Marcy's attitude and caring spirit. Ms. Walton received three separate nominations and an additional nine responses were received from visitors to Fair Park indicating that they receive high quality, courteous, and friendly service at Fair Park Early Childhood Education Center.

The final citations were presented to ex-officio Board representatives for the month of September, **Kimberly Meek**, teacher from Geyer Springs Elementary School, and **Brandon Love**, student at Central High School.

Dr. Brooks introduced **Ronald Laurent**, Coordinator of the Southwest Learning Academy. Mr. Laurent requested an opportunity to introduce members of the Academy's Advisory Committee.

B. Remarks from Citizens

There were no citizens requesting time to speak before the board.

C. PTA Council

Bernadette Turner, PTA Council president, welcomed new members of the board by greeting Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Fox. In addition, she encouraged voters of Zone 7 to participate in the runoff election on October 10. Ms. Turner expressed appreciation to Dr. Brooks and staff members for hosting the first council meeting of the 2006-2007 school year and she invited Board members to attend the monthly Council meetings. These meetings are listed on the district calendar and information is available on the website.

D. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association

Katherine Wright Knight greeted the audience and welcomed the new board members. She reported that negotiations were continuing for transportation employees, psychological examiners, and security employees. Ms. Knight had attended a presentation by the Arkansas Department of Education on the "Next Steps" program and reported that television advertising would be done to encourage our students to achieve success after high school.

IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Meeks, teacher ex officio representative, expressed appreciation to the Board for giving her the opportunity to serve as her school's representative.

Mr. Armstrong stated that he was looking forward to working to make the LRSD the best school district in the country.

Mr. Kurrus welcomed the new members of the board and stated that he was looking forward to working with them. He asked the administration to invite the Central High School 50th anniversary committee to attend the agenda meeting in October and to provide an update to the board on the anniversary planning and events.

Mr. Kurrus commented on recent news reports from Detroit where they are closing schools, and are fiscally unstable and unable to pay their employees. He noted that failure to build bridges across racial lines was a significant factor in Detroit's failure to thrive as a public school system. He noted that the LRSD is in a position to reach out and build coalitions across racial lines in order to achieve a racially diverse school district. He restated his opposition to the formation of numerous charter schools, which serve as a mechanism to weaken public school systems by attracting and recruiting the most successful students.

Ms. Fox reported that she is happy to be a part of the LRSD board, and stated that she is looking forward to working with Dr. Brooks, fellow board members, parents, staff, and the business community to ensure that we put our children first and provide the quality education they need to succeed.

Mr. Berkley congratulated Ms. Fox and Mr. Armstrong and wished them a pleasant experience on the board. He noted that the district faces many challenges, but his hope is that the new board will remain focused on the needs of the kids in our city.

Student ex officio Brandon Love thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as the student representative for the month.

Dr. Daugherty congratulated the new board members and stated that they can "expect an interesting experience."

B. Budget Update

No report.

C. Student Assignment Report

Mr. Kurrus requested information on current enrollment figures. Dr. Watson reported that the official count would be provided to the state by October 15, and that the board would be provided a copy of the final enrollment report at that time. She also reported that preliminary counts indicate the highest enrollment in the history of the LRSD.

D. Construction Report – Bond Projects / Bill Goodman present

Mr. Goodman's report was provided as part of the board's agenda. There were no questions or comments.

E. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided in the board's agenda. There were no additional questions or requests.

V. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS:

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting of August 24, 2006, and from a special meeting held on September 14, 2006 were presented for review and approval. Mr. Berkley moved to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Kurrus seconded the motion and it **carried 5-0**.

VI. SCHOOL SERVICES

A. Varsity Bowling Proposal

Dr. Brooks presented a proposal prepared and submitted by Associate Superintendent Junious Babbs and Athletic Director Johnny Johnson. The proposal requested the board's authorization to add varsity bowling to the athletic program in the Little Rock School District; the superintendent recommended approval. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the addition of bowling to the district's varsity athletic program. Mr. Berkley seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Dr. Daugherty requested information on the number of coaches or athletic sponsors who are CPR certified. Coach Johnson indicated that approximately half of the current coaching staff is certified in CPR and first aid, and that training was on-going to insure that the remainder of the staff becomes certified.

VII. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were included in the board's agenda. The Superintendent recommended approval. The recommendation was **unanimously approved** on a motion by Mr. Berkley, seconded by Mr. Kurrus.

B. Salary Proposal for Meet & Confer Units

A recommendation to approve a 3% salary increase for maintenance employees, clerical support staff, nurses and CARE aides was presented for the board's review and approval. Mr. Hartz reported that negotiations are continuing with the district's safety & security staff, school psychologists, and transportation employees.

The same salary increase was previously approved for aides, child nutrition workers, custodians, administrators, and several special education groups such as speech pathologists, occupational and physical therapists. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the recommended increase; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. 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. The student ex officio read the items listed in the Board's agenda. Mr. Berkley made a motion to accept the donated items, Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Cloverdale Middle School	\$50.00 cash to purchase school supplies for students	Acxiom Cares Committee
Forest Heights Middle School	School supplies valued at approximately \$200.00	Dr. T. Tyler Thompson
	\$100.00 cash for the IB ropes course	FHMS IB Program
Jefferson Elementary School	Two Rainbow Climbers for the school playground valued at \$400.00 each	Cammack Village Parks & Recreation Department
Mabelvale Elementary School	School supplies valued at approximately \$400.00	Acxiom Cares Committee
Washington Elementary School	School supplies valued at approximately \$400.00	Acxiom Cares Committee
Watson Elementary School	School supplies valued at \$11,785.50	Junior League of Little Rock
Little Rock School District	Assorted office furniture, valued at \$335.00 to be used where needed	Alltel Corporation

B. Monthly Financial Reports

Financial reports for the months of July and August 2006 were printed in the board's agenda. Mr. Milhollen was present and provided brief remarks.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Berkley, seconded by Mr. Kurrus.

APPROVED: 10-26-06

Originals Signed by:
Robert M. Daugherty, President
H. Baker Kurrus, Vice President