



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
February 3, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2011. The meeting was held in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Melanie Fox presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melanie Fox
Jody Carreiro
Greg Adams
Charles Armstrong
Dianne Curry

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Katherine Mitchell
Michael Nellums

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Holmes, interim Superintendent

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order and stipulated a quorum without roll call. Five members of the board were present; Dr. Mitchell and Mr. Nellums were absent.

The meeting was recorded and the minutes were composed from that recording due to the absence of Ms. Griffin.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to review proposals submitted by five superintendent search firms. Those firms were: McPherson & Jacobson, BWP & Associates, Ray & Associates, Inc., Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, and PROACT Search.

Inclement weather prevented representatives from these firms from travelling to Arkansas for a presentation; however each of the firms presented a written proposal for the board's information and review. Tom Jacobson, from McPherson & Jacobson had previously presented information on January 13, 2011.

Each board member was given an opportunity to state their impressions of the proposals and any concerns they had regarding the proposals.

- Mr. Armstrong reported he had previous conversations with the representative from BWP & Associates. His review favored BWP or McPherson & Jacobson.
- Ms. Fox also favored McPherson & Jacobson and BWP & Associates. Based on her review, the amount of stakeholder input provided by McPherson & Jacobson was most impressive which gave them an edge over the two firms in her opinion.
- Mr. Adams was pleased with the previous Arkansas experience of McPherson & Jacobson. He was also happy with the emphasis on transparency in the search. PROACT had a great deal of experience in large urban school districts, but the proposal was not as specific as that provided by McPherson & Jacobson. He noted the online survey tool of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, and also favored their suggestion to visit the community where the candidate currently serves or resides. He also expressed the importance of the board having access to the entire candidate list.
- Ms. Curry agreed with comments from Mr. Armstrong regarding BWP & Associates and McPherson & Jacobson. She felt the proposal from McPherson was most closely aligned with the LRSD criteria for selecting the firm.
- Mr. Carreiro expressed some concern with the proposal from PROACT, noting specifically the references for previous searches. He felt the proposals from BWP and McPherson & Jacobson were similar, but that McPherson & Jacobson had an advantage because of their experience serving districts in the south and of similar size to Little Rock.

Based on the comments from each board member they agreed by consensus to narrow the field to two firms: McPherson & Jacobson and BWP & Associates.

Mr. Carreiro offered a motion to hire McPherson & Jacobson to conduct the LRSD superintendent search. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Fox announced the board governance worksession scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2011 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Carreiro announced the PTA Founders Day luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without a motion at approximately 6:10 p.m.

APPROVED: 02-24-11

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