



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

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
April 20, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special board meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 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  
Katherine Mitchell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Michael Nellums

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Morris Holmes, Interim Superintendent  
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

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

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call. Mr. Armstrong arrived at 3:15. Mr. Nellums was absent.

The only item on the agenda was to receive an oral report from the AdvancEd Accreditation team. Dr. Holmes also welcomed members of the team, and introduced the team leader, Dr. David Stipe from North Carolina.

Dr. Stipe introduced members of the review team and congratulated the board for taking the risk of going through the districtwide accreditation process. He noted that LRSD schools had been individually accredited for many years, with individual school leaders taking the lead in providing the necessary documentation related to their individual school. Districtwide accreditation, however, is a more intensive process for the district administrators and requires a more intensive review process by the accreditation team.

Dr. Stipe also stated that the recommendations presented in the final report would be partially based on the Board's responsibility and willingness to follow through with the components in the strategic plan and with their diligent follow up to improve overall organizational effectiveness.

His comments to the board included commendations for:

- The district's strong emphasis on Pre-Kindergarten education with the pre-K centers and pre-K classrooms in our schools.
- The high level of volunteerism in the schools. The schools have an impressive number of volunteer hours and most schools have multiple partners in education. The district has an entire department devoted to volunteerism.
- The schools and central office have stability in their personnel. Teachers and administrators at the schools and in the central office have been able to move the district ahead even in light of the instability in the superintendent's position.

In addition, the following recommendations were offered:

- The district should evaluate its programs and eliminate those that don't work well. In the case of programs working well at some sites but not others, the district will need to decide if it can support the programs at the schools where they are working and eliminate them at the other sites.
- The district must develop a monitoring process for all school improvement efforts in the schools and evaluate their effectiveness.
- The central office should be realigned or reorganized so that it can serve the schools more effectively.
- The culture of the Board of Education should change so that the sole focus is on school effectiveness and student achievement.

A written report will be submitted to the district within thirty days. After receipt of the report, the district is expected to review and communicate the findings with the school community and address the areas of concern to insure continuous improvement.

Dr. Stipe closed by announcing that the Quality Accreditation team would be making a recommendation that the LRSD be fully accredited as a district.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

APPROVED: 04-28-11

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