



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

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
April 27, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2010 immediately following a special worksession. The meeting was held in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Charles Armstrong presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Armstrong
Melanie Fox
Jody Carreiro
Dianne Curry
Mike Daugherty
Baker Kurrus
Katherine Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Linda Watson, Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Mr. Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call.

II. ADE Grant Submissions: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

The administration recommended approval to submit an application to the Arkansas Department of Education for a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. These learning centers would be established at Mabelvale Elementary and McClellan High Schools. Students would receive academic enrichment activities designed to support their regular academic program before school, after school, and during the summer months. One year of funding would be between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

Dr. Mitchell made a motion to submit the grant applications. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it was **unanimously approved**.

III. Secondary Fine Arts Adoptions

The secondary fine arts textbook adoption committee provided recommendations for the board's review and approval. The committee included representatives from music, art, and drama at the secondary level and selections were aligned with the Arkansas Benchmark requirements. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the committee's selections. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

IV. Forest Heights Middle School / Staff Reconstitution

At a worksession immediately preceding the special meeting, the board conducted a review and in-depth discussion of the issues surrounding the possible reconstitution or restructuring of the staff at Forest Heights Middle School.

Employees at Forest Heights had been provided prior notification by e-mail from the principal, Ms. Ruffins. Mr. Hartz responded to questions, and a vote by the board to reconstitute the staff would result in additional follow up and written notice from the Human Resources Department.

Mr. Carreiro offered a motion to maintain the notice that had been given to the Forest Heights staff with a period of discussion to determine if there are "less painful" steps that could be taken. Current employees would be required to reapply and no more than 49% would be rehired for Forest Heights. There was no second to the motion.

The motion was reworded: To continue with the intent of the staff reconstitution as discussed tonight, but to allow the administrative staff to work on other ideas and bring a final recommendation by the May board meeting. There was no second to the motion.

The motion was again reworded: To maintain the notification of staff reconstitution of all certified staff excluding the principal. No more than 49% of the current staff would be retained. The administration would bring back modifications at the May meeting before implementation. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion.

After additional discussion, Dr. Daugherty withdrew his second and Mr. Carreiro withdrew the motion.

Mr. Hartz responded to additional questions regarding the notification of staff at the school and Dr. Watson discussed the possibility of restructuring instead of reconstituting.

Dr. Mitchell encouraged the teachers who were present at the meeting, and it was stated again that none of the current teachers would be unemployed if the reconstitution takes place. Those teachers will be allowed to apply and interview for other positions across the district.

Mr. Kurrus stressed the importance of the teachers' performance in the classroom, and he asked: "Are teachers present?" "Are they on time?" "Are they on task in the classroom?" He asked the administration to focus on the things that can be measured, such as the tardy rate for teachers, whether they dress appropriately, and if they have a high level of commitment and dedication to the students. Mr. Carreiro agreed and asked to see attendance reports from Human Resources and the teacher absentee rates from FHMS.

V. School Improvement Interventions – Reconstitution of Schools

No action was taken.

VI. Discussion & Consideration: Strategic Planning Consultant

Board members requested action to consider contracting with Dr. Carl Cohn on the implementation of the district's strategic plan. Mr. Carreiro made a motion followed by a written summary of the motion:

I make a motion that the board president and superintendent on behalf of the LRSD board enter into negotiations with Dr. Carl Cohn or other similarly qualified consultant. These negotiations are intended to produce a contract between Dr. Cohn and the board, within the meaning of Policy BDH, of maximum duration of one year, to provide his advice and counsel on the implementation of the strategic plan, which the board enacted last month, and provide board member training on implementation.

The contract for services would be brought back to the board for approval. On a roll call vote, the motion **carried 6-1**, with Dr. Mitchell casting the no vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

APPROVED: 05-20-10

Originals Signed by:
Charles Armstrong, President
Jody Carriero, Secretary