



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

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
December 1, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held a special meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. 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
Michael Nellums
Greg Adams
Charles Armstrong
Dianne Curry
Katherine Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Linda Watson, Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. All members of the board were present at roll call.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Nellums made a motion to convene an executive session to discuss the superintendent's contract. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

The board returned from executive session at 6:28 p.m. and Ms. Fox reported no action was taken.

ACTION

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve a separation agreement between Dr. Linda Watson and the LRSD Board of Education, dated December 1, 2010. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion.

Dr. Mitchell spoke in opposition to the motion and stated she would be voting against the separation agreement. She discussed Dr. Watson's progress in the area of student achievement, and she noted the recent notification from the U.S. Department of Education that the LRSD had been awarded the Promise Neighborhood grant, one of only 20 in the United States.

Mr. Carreiro remarked that the board had decided a few months ago that Dr. Watson's contract would not be renewed. He noted that there had been no change over the past few months in that decision, and it was his belief that the best thing for Dr. Watson, the board and the district was to reach a logical, reasonable way to conclude her service to the district in a professional manner. He expressed belief that the agreement would allow the board to be respectful to Dr. Watson and at the same time start the process of selecting a new superintendent. The agreement would provide base pay, health benefits through the end of June, and a period of time for Dr. Watson to pursue other opportunities.

Ms. Curry thanked Dr. Watson for the sacrifices she had made while serving as superintendent. Although she was not entirely happy with the agreement, she did express understanding that the decision would allow the board to move forward in the best interest of the district. She expressed disappointment in dismissing a superintendent who had done a great job.

The written separation agreement was **approved 5-2**, with Dr. Mitchell and Ms. Curry voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

APPROVED: 12-16-10

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