The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2010, 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 5:36 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Curry arrived at 5:55 p.m. The teacher representative, Christine Lipsey from Franklin Elementary School, and student representative, Darrius Orr from McClellan High School, were also present.

II. **REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

A. Superintendent’s Remarks

Katherine Snyder attended the meeting to make a presentation from the 2009 Race for the Cure and an announcement about the upcoming 2010 Race. The LRSD team raised over $3,000 in donations last school year and was awarded the prize for the largest school team. The race this year is scheduled for October 16, and Ms. Snyder encouraged employees, families, and friends to register and participate in the race.

Dr. Watson made a brief announcement regarding this years 2010 *Heart of Arkansas United Way Campaign*. Reginald Merritt, the district’s United Way Coordinator could not be present, but provided information on the campaign, which is set to run from October 1 to October 15, 2010. A workplace campaign kickoff was held on September 17th with a breakfast for all school based campaign coordinators. During the 2009 campaign, LRSD employees contributed $31,916.95. Over the last five years, the District has raised over $179,669.85 in support of the Heart of Arkansas United Way and its efforts.
At the agenda meeting on September 9, 2010, the superintendent recognized Dr. Jane Meadows and Ms. Robin Kratzke. Dr. Meadows is a chemistry teacher at Hall High School, and she was recently named the 2009 Mentor of the Year by the Arkansas Department of Education. In addition, Robin Kratzke was named 2010 Mentor of the Year. Robin is a Spanish teacher at Dunbar Magnet High School.

A plaque was presented to board member Baker Kurrus in appreciation for his twelve years of service to the LRSD and the city of Little Rock. Mr. Kurrus served from September 1998 – September 2010, and was president during the 2001-2002 school year. Mr. Kurrus chose not to run for a fifth term as the Zone 4 representative.

The ex officio representatives for the month of September were: Darrius Orr, student at McClellan High School, and Christine Lipsey, teacher at Franklin Elementary School.

Dr. Watson announced that the Promised Neighborhoods Planning grant in the amount of $430,000 had been awarded to the LRSD, City of Little Rock, UALR, New Futures, and other community partners to assist in planning for implementation of a Promised Neighborhood in central Little Rock. The superintendent expressed appreciation to Linda Young, and others in the LRSD who worked on the grant application. A press conference is planned for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, at the Stephens Community Center to announce the grant.

B. Partners in Education

At the agenda meeting on September 9, 2010, Debbie Milam presented new school and business partnerships for the board’s approval.

Brady Elementary, represented by Ada Keown, in partnership with Ballet Arkansas

Roberts Elementary, represented by Barbara Anderson and Robin Johnson in partnership with:
- Izzy’s Restaurant
- Party City, represented by Mitchell Keathley
- The Toggery, represented by Phil and Penny Ollinghouse
- Web-Jive, represented by Eric Caldwell

Ms. Fox made a motion to accept the partnerships presented. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. Mr. Carreiro read the list and then made a motion to accept the donations; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### DONATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DONOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central High School</td>
<td>School supplies, valued at $38,751.62, in recognition of stop on bus tour by U. S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan</td>
<td>Target Stores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT</td>
<td>ITEM</td>
<td>DONOR</td>
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<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dodd Elementary</td>
<td>Three inflatable jump houses and face paint, valued at approximately $200 for back to school bash</td>
<td>Little Rock Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School supplies, backpacks, crayons, binders, baby wipes, valued at approximately $2,500.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paint and landscaping supplies, valued at approximately $150.00 for sprucing up the building and grounds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Breakfast food and items, valued at approximately $300.00 for welcome back staff meeting</td>
<td>Arkansas Family Dental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, valued at approximately $120.00 for back to school bash</td>
<td>Life Skills for Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Punch, plates, napkins, and cups valued at approximately $70.00 for back to school bash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Park Early Childhood Center</td>
<td>$12,500.00 cash to be used to purchase equipment and classroom materials</td>
<td>The Roy &amp; Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek Elementary</td>
<td>$50.00 cash to be used to purchase school supplies for students</td>
<td>Linda Lundy of the Otter Creek Women's Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Elementary</td>
<td>$411.63 cash to assist with cost of Fun Dunk entertainment equipment for field day</td>
<td>St. Andrews Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000.00 cash to assist with field day, graduation, and student incentives</td>
<td>UALR Children International</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Remarks from Citizens

Mary Louise Williams thanked Dr. Daugherty for his work on the board. She reported that she had spent 30 years in the district as a teacher and administrator and that she was here tonight for the third time to encourage support for Dr. Watson as superintendent.

Mark Perry spoke on behalf of New Futures for Youth. He thanked Dr. Daugherty and Mr. Kurrus for their service to the children in the city and for their commitment to make the schools the best they can be. He expressed personal support for Superintendent Watson and asked the board to consider the increases in test scores, stability in enrollment, and the implementation of the strategic plan as they go through the process of deciding how to retain or select a new superintendent. He also noted the announcement earlier in the meeting of the Promised Neighborhoods grant award, with Little Rock being one of only twenty-one communities in the nation to be selected.

E. Little Rock PTA Council

Henri Smothers thanked the district for hosting the first PTA Council meeting last week at Roberts Elementary School. She encouraged listeners to join their local PTA unit and to support PTA activities in the schools. She announced the upcoming Council meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 11:30 a.m., and asked each school to send three representatives to the council meeting.
F. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler reported that she had started her day in a school, reading to kindergarten students. She was encouraged by the enthusiasm of the students and expressed pride in the great employees in our schools. She was also pleased to see the preliminary enrollment numbers and was “astounded” by the award of the Promised Community grant and the three School Improvement Grants recently announced.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Fox related a personal story about the difficulty of being a classroom teacher. She thanked Dr. Daugherty and Mr. Kurrus for their years of service on the board.

Ms. Curry also expressed appreciation to Dr. Daugherty and Mr. Kurrus for their service. She reported attending elementary and high school open houses, and was pleased to witness more parental involvement at the open houses. She congratulated all the partners who worked to complete the grant applications, stating she was aware of the hard work involved in making it happen.

Dr. Daugherty spoke to members of the LR Education Association, asking them to support President Cathy Kohler. He stated that she goes above and beyond to represent the teachers and employees. He expressed appreciation to his wife, Ronna, for supporting him during his time on the board and during his recent campaign. He also thanked Terri Hollingsworth for assisting in his campaign. Although he did not win the recent election, he pledged to continue to support the children in Little Rock by always putting children first.

Dr. Daugherty continued by commending Mr. Kurrus for making a sacrifice for him several years ago, and expressed regret that he was unable to make up for that sacrifice. He thanked Mr. Kurrus for always being a friend to him. He closed by stating that some of the comments made during the election campaign were derogatory and untrue and he regretted the perceptions in the community about poor board relationships.

Mr. Kurrus thanked Dr. Daugherty for his comments and agreed that they were always on good terms even when they disagreed on the issues. He stated that he had enjoyed his tenure on the board, and that it had been a pleasure to serve the community. He expressed appreciation for the “visionary people,” who see what’s going to happen and then change it for the better. He reported that he would be mentoring LRSD students, and that he would be happy to serve in the future if the board ever called. Mr. Kurrus introduced Greg Adams, his successor on the board, and stated that he was optimistic and positive about the future of the LRSD.

Dr. Mitchell expressed appreciation to Mr. Kurrus and Dr. Daugherty for their service on the board. She encouraged parents to get involved in the education of their children and she encouraged students to take advantage of the opportunities available to them in school and in their neighborhood.

Mr. Carreiro also thanked Dr. Daugherty and Mr. Kurrus and said he would be taking them up on their offer to be of service.
Mr. Armstrong thanked Mr. Kurrus and Dr. Daugherty for their service and said that he was looking forward to working with the Promised Neighborhood planning group. He continued to encourage parents to be more involved in the education of their children.

B. Update: Strategic Plan

Dr. Watson reported that James Randall would be back on September 28th & 29th to work with staff and to visit schools with Dr. Mitchell and Mr. Babbs. She reported that she would be communicating with Dr. Cohn so that he could meet with the new board members on his next trip to Little Rock.

C. Update: Student Registration / Enrollment

Dr. Watson reported that the official October enrollment report was not complete, but that as of today enrollment figures indicated a total of 25,820. She noted that at the same time in 2009 enrollment was at 25,900. The final report will be provided for the board when it is complete.

D. Update: Title IX Report, 2010-2011

Dr. Daugherty requested the report and it was provided as part of the board’s agenda. Johnny Johnson, Athletic Director, was present to respond to questions.

In addition, Mr. Johnson reported that college coaches were visiting the LRSD looking at recruitment of a female basketball player from Hall High school. Texas A & M, Xavier, and the University of Arkansas had all expressed interest in this student athlete.

E. Budget Update

Ms. Fox offered a motion to suspend the rules and to reorder the agenda to consider the item Issuance and Delivery of Bonds which was placed on the agenda later in the meeting. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Discussion and action took place at this point in the meeting, but will be reported as printed in the agenda.

F. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker’s report was provided as part of the board’s agenda. Dr. Mitchell asked for a schedule of distribution for the Computers for Kids program. Mr. Becker reported that approximately 300-400 computers in the district were in process of being replaced at this time, and he would provide a copy of the schedule for the board’s review.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on August 26, 2010 and from a special meeting held on August 12, 2010 were presented, for review and approval. Dr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
V. ADMINISTRATION

A. 2010-2011 Districtwide ACSIP Plan

The preliminary ACSIP plan was presented for the board’s review. Dennis Glasgow responded to questions from the board and stated that a board vote was not absolutely required at this time. He reported that it would be returned to the board for review and official approval when it is complete. Priority 9 information was provided, which included the main requirements for the district.

Ms. Fox addressed concerns regarding the elimination of programs which PRE has found to be unsuccessful in addressing achievement and growth. She asked if any programs had been eliminated. Mr. Glasgow responded by explaining the state model for closing the achievement gap and the varying tiers of strategies that can be used to address achievement. Within the district's plan and the state model there is a “ramp up” to ensure accountability for student success and to increase achievement.

Dr. Watson agreed with Mr. Glasgow and stressed that implementation of the programs is the key to ensuring success. Building principals and the school staff are required to fully implement programs with fidelity.

Ms. Curry asked if a chart by school could be developed to ensure that the programs being used are effective.

Additionally, Mr. Glasgow explained some of the terminology included in the plan: “Rigor” is the description used when reading teachers were added at the middle schools; “Impact” is a semester course for students who failed the end-of-course algebra exam to prepare them to re-take the test again.

He also discussed the “common formative assessments” which are included in professional development and are a major part of the strategic plan. This involves the collaborative efforts of teachers to decide what to include on the classroom assessments.

Mr. Kurrus repeated suggestions made on other occasions . . . to simply recruit and retain a higher quality teacher instead of continuing to implement programs. He suggested paying a higher starting salary and recruiting quality teachers to ensure student achievement.

Dr. Watson agreed and reminded the board that the strategic plan called for increasing the starting salary for teachers to $40,000. She has been working with Mr. Bailey to see if it can be budgeted within the next three years.

B. Discussion / Action: Processes and Procedures for Retention of the Superintendent

Mr. Kurrus explained his purpose for placing this item on the agenda. He asked the board to consider their nine-month window of opportunity to begin the discussion on appointing the next superintendent. He asked that board take the first steps toward systematic fundamental reform by developing a process for selecting a new superintendent. He asked that the community be involved from the start to ensure that the superintendent has support from the board and the community.
Ms. Fox had provided some information from the Council of Great City Schools. She suggested that the board ask the strategic planning consultants to hold a work session to develop a timeline and recommend a process for revising the job description and selecting a search firm or in-district search committee. 

Dr. Daugherty made a motion to extend Dr. Watson's contract for two years. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn. 

The board took a brief recess at 7:15 and reconvened at 7:30 p.m. 

VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Approval of Contract: The Learning Institute

Dr. Watson recommended approval of the contract extension with The Learning Institute. She reminded the board that TLI is the resource for SOAR materials and had been working with the LRSD since 2007 for measuring student progress in literacy and mathematics. Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the contract; Mr. Carreiro seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. 

B. Approval of Contract: City Year

Information was provided on extending the contracts with City Year Little Rock to provide services to Mabelvale and Meadowcliff Elementary Schools. The City Year corps members partner with the schools to provide one-on-one tutoring and classroom assistance. Funding in the amount of $25,000 at each school would be provided under the terms of the contract. Mr. Kurrus moved to approve the contract. Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. 

VII. SCHOOL SERVICES

A. Approval of Impact Statement: Proposed Charter Application – LR SIA Tech

Attorney Chris Heller was present to respond to questions regarding an application to the Arkansas Department of Education for the School for Integrated Academics and Technologies Charter School (SIATech). This would be an open enrollment charter school in Pulaski County and would enroll approximately 275 students at the current Job Corp Center on Scott Hamilton Drive. They would accept students in grades 9 – 12, and include those who are eligible under federal guidelines for free and reduced lunch. The students would live on the campus so that transportation isn’t an issue. 

Laurie Planka spoke on behalf of SIATech and reported that their organization has twelve years experience in aiding high school students in completing their secondary education. They currently serve over 3,500 former drop-outs at 16 school sites in four states. More than 10,000 previous dropouts have earned their high school diploma at a SIATech Center.
Ms. Fox made a motion to send a letter supporting the SIATech application to the ADE. The motion was seconded by Dr. Daugherty and **unanimously carried**.

**VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES**

**A. Approval of the 2010-2013 Professional Negotiated Agreement for school Psychology Specialists and Security Officers**

Mr. Hartz provided information and responded to questions regarding the agreements for school psychology specialists and security officers. There was a question of the name change from the LR Classroom Teachers Association to the LR Education Association.

Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve the agreement for the school psychology specialists with changes that were noted and discussed; Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Regarding the contract with security officers, Ms. Fox had questions regarding some of the terms included in the contract, noting that they were inconsistent with the terms of other negotiated agreements. Mr. Hartz agreed to review and revise those as requested.

Dr. Daugherty moved to approve the contract with revisions as noted. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

**B. Personnel Changes**

Routine general personnel changes were printed in the board’s agenda. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the changes as submitted; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

**C. Staffing Update**

At the board’s request Mr. Hartz provided a brief update on staffing in the schools. He reported that there were currently only four FTE vacancies in the district. He reported that 18 teachers had been hired in the area of special education, and that one curriculum coach had been moved back into her position from the classroom. He reported that other coaches would be moved back into their curriculum coaching positions as the newly hired teachers were placed.

In addition, Mr. Hartz reported that only two new classrooms in the district had been created based on the possible increase in elementary enrollment. For staffing at the new Roberts Elementary School, twenty-five new teachers were hired and the remaining classrooms were staffed by teachers who transferred to Roberts from other schools across the district. Mr. Hartz gave credit to Robert Robinson and Renee Kovach for their processing of applicants on a quick turnaround.

He closed by reporting that the University of Arkansas at Little Rock was recently NCATE accredited and recognized for being in the top 1% of teacher education programs in the nation. He expressed appreciation for the district’s relationship with UALR for bringing newly trained teachers into the profession.

**IX. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**
A. 2010-2011 Budget

Mr. Bailey presented the 2010-2011 budget for the board’s review and approval. Ms. Fox commended the financial services department for the reports they have provided over the past week.

Mr. Carreiro also thanked the financial services staff for the detailed reports and spreadsheets provided. He did ask about the possibility of having a main spreadsheet which would provide a total amount of the entire budget. He expressed confidence in refining the budget and the budgeting process that will result in a budget document that meets the goals the board agreed to last year.

Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the budget for submission to the ADE; Dr. Daugherty seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Carreiro casting the no vote.

B. Issuance and Delivery of Bonds

A motion to suspend the rules was approved earlier in the meeting and action was taken at that time.

The board authorized the submission of an application with the State Board of Education for the refunding of the district’s bond issued dated June 1, 2001. On September 21, 2010, bids were received for the sale of the district’s bonds, and the winning bid was submitted by Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc. The interest cost of 3.625% will produce a total savings of $11,963,159, which will be invested in capital improvement to district facilities.

Dr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

APPROVED: 10-28-10

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