

Community Advisory Board Meeting

LRSD Board Room, Administration Building

810 W. Markham Street

Minutes

January 24, 2019

Board members present: Lupita Chavarria, Melanie Fox, Michael Mason, LaShannon Spencer, Jeff Wood
(Quorum present)

Board members absent: Anthony Hampton

Meeting commenced: 5:40 pm

- I. Welcome
 - a. President Jeff Wood welcomed the community and opened the meeting at 5:40. He expressed appreciation for the people who worked on the renovation of the Board Room, and reminded everyone of the Board's wishes to return the District to local control.
- II. Celebrations
 - a. Mr. Poore acknowledged key staff and contractors who worked on the renovations of the Board Room
 - b. Mr. Poore recognized the Community Advisory Board for their service with a Governor's proclamation and resolutions from the AR Department of Education and the Little Rock School District as part of AR School Board Member Recognition Month.
 - c. Mr. Poore discussed the Child Nutrition Audit. He shared specific comments from the exit interview related to student certification, supplemental programs, meal patterns (choices, recipes, snack options), and professional development.
 - d. Cloverdale, Mann, and Mabelvale Middle School received grants to provide tablets for every student at those schools
 - e. Once District One Book Culminating Events at Museum of Discovery. Read to Them, Arvest Bank, Southwest Power Pool were among the key partners.
 - f. Poore Man on the Roof – McDermott students chose February 12 as the coldest day of the month. Mr. Poore will work on the roof of the Administration Building if the donated items fill his office. This year the District will collect non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, and \$1.00 donations starting February 1- February 11, 2019.
- III. Remarks from Representative Sorvillo
 - a. Rep. Sorvillo expressed concerns about the secondary schools,
 - i. Pinnacle View – expansion of 9th grade
 - ii. Hall High – incident at Scott Field, fight during an assembly
 - iii. Southwest High School – behavior challenges

- b. State Funding
 - c. Vocational Education
 - d. Classroom Teacher Salaries
 - e. Rep. Andrew Collins, Rep. Tippi McCullough, and Rep. Jamie Scott greeted the community and gave brief remarks as well
- IV. Hall High School Update
- a. Dr. Mark Roberts, principal of Hall High School, shared highlights from the progress Hall High has made this year including one year's growth, credit recovery, reductions in tardies and absences, a social worker in the school (through UALR), Edugenuity, and High Reliability Schools.
 - b. He also shared details about Freshman Academy writing prompts; a breakdown of the High Reliability School process; School-based Committees; the Future of Hall High
 - c. Mr. Burton talked about exploratory discussions for a Medical Sciences Academy at Hall High
 - d. Superintendent made remarks about Mr. Roberts points
 - e. Melanie Fox asked Mr. Burton about a past plan created for Hall High that could work for Hall now. She suggested that Hall become a school of choice.
 - f. LaShannon Spencer invited a teacher from Hall, Sarah Merayo, to address the community to share her experience as a staff member.
 - g. Michael Mason asked for an explanation of "previewing."
 - h. Jeff Wood asked for a timeline for a recommendation for Hall High. Mr. Poore said that an update will be shared in February.
 - i. There was discussion about the pros and cons of moving Hall High to a choice model similar to Forest Heights STEM.
- V. Pinnacle View Update
- a. Dr. Jay Pickering introduced Pinnacle View Middle School. He shared some data and positive attributes of the school. He also shared results of 8th grade student and parent surveys which asked about plans for high school. The survey also surveyed interest in a 9th Grade Academy at Pinnacle View.
 - b. Dr. Pickering presented an overview of the framework of a 9th grade Academy.
 - c. Mr. Poore answered questions from the Board about how the District will address important components of the Academy that must be addressed to create a viable plan.
 - d. Dr. Pickering said that the parent task force will also be exploring 10th -12th grade options in the future.
 - e. Melanie asked about the "New Tech" option for the high school. She suggested offering a "virtual tour" of a New Tech school to parents to educate them on what this type of school is.
 - f. Mr. Poore said that there will be another update offered in February.
- VI. Fall to Winter MAP Report
- a. Mr. Poore introduced Dr. Danyell Cummings, Testing Director, who presented results from the NWEA MAP tests. The report exhibits achievement and growth data for all of the schools and the District overall.

- b. Dr. Cummings answered questions from the Board about how parents have received data for their children. She said that schools shared individual student reports with parents at the fall parent-teacher conferences.
- c. Mr. Poore, Dr. Cummings, and Dr. Sadie Mitchell answered questions from the Board about results from last year to this year; how the District is preparing for improvement on the spring tests; what schools with high growth are doing that can be replicated at other schools.

VII. Literacy Approach

- a. Mr. Poore shared introductory remarks about the literacy program at the District.
- b. Stephanie Thompson, a multi-site literacy facilitator, explained RISE and Science of Reading at the request of the Board.
- c. Mr. Poore and Dr. Mitchell answered questions from the Board. Mr. Poore mentioned two ADE audits next week for Special Ed and Dyslexia.
- d. Mr. Poore introduced Chandle Carpenter, the recently appointed Dyslexia Specialist. Mrs. Carpenter shared her background and current work. She also answered questions from the Board about screening and identification of students with Dyslexia. She also shared plans for referrals for students after the K-2screeners.
- e. Mr. Poore invited Mr. Darian Smith, principal of Mabelvale Elementary, Mr. Jeff Grimmatt from Henderson Middle School, Nell Weaver, GT Reading Coordinator at Dunbar Middle School to answer questions and share experiences with RISE.
- f. Dr. Beverly Thrasher, District Secondary Literacy Coordinator, shared future plans for RISE training. She also discussed the state requirements for credentialing for teachers.
- g. Gina Khoury, Assistant Principal at Roberts Elementary, discussed how her school is ensuring that teachers are implementing RISE in the classroom.
- h. Mr. Wood expressed strong support of RISE Implementation as a top priority for the District.
- i. Mr. Poore and Dr. Mitchell explained the process and answered questions from the Board about new textbook selection. There was discussion about policies, the process and timeframe for the textbook selection and adoption.

VIII. Grade Level Reading Campaign – TABLED to next month’s meeting

IX. Policy Review

- a. Eric Walker, Staff Attorney, introduced the policies and took questions from the Board.
- b. Section 4 Revisions (First Reading) – School Choice, Sexual Harassment, Prescription Drugs
- c. Section 5 Revisions (First Reading) – Educational Philosophy

X. Budget Review

- a. Kelsey Bailey, Chief Financial Officer, presented this month’s budget review the Board about.
- b. Jeff Wood asked Mr. Bailey for outline of an aggressive starting teacher salary increase for next month’s meeting. There was discussion about current starting teachers’ salaries and the timing of the annual budget approval.
- c. Mr. Bailey discussed the increase in substitute pay in the minimum wage
 - i. Motion to approve the substitute pay increase was made and seconded. Vote was unanimous.

- d. Action Item - Kevin Yarberry, Director of Maintenance and Operations, presented a proposal for a pilot program for SSC Services for Education to provide custodial services in Stephens Elementary and Hall High School.
 - i. Motion to approve the pilot program was made and seconded. Mr. Yarberry answered questions from the Board. Vote was unanimous.
- XI. Action Item - Calendar 2019-2020
 - a. Robert Robinson, Director of Human Resources, presented the Student Calendar for 2019-2020. The first day of school will be August 13, 2019. There was discussion about the reasoning behind the selection
 - i. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Yea votes: 4 (Fox, Chavarria, Wood, Spencer, Mason); No votes: 1 (Wood).
- XII. Community Comments
 - a. Mrs. Webb spoke about her concerns about Hall High, community involvement at schools, and communication to the community about District meetings.
 - b. Wendy Sheridan spoke about timing of the meetings (as it relates to public comments), communication to the community about District meetings, and concerns about Hall High being reconstituted.
- XIII. Board Comments
 - a. Mr. Mason reiterated his desire for LREA President, Teresa Gordon, to attend Community Advisory Board meetings. He also expressed his support and appreciation for the progress at Hall High.
 - b. Mrs. Wood expressed a desire to review policies about the use of District facilities by the public and access to magnet programs.
 - c. Mr. Poore said that he will share an email with the Board about important legislative items. He also shared that the District is working on virtual agendas and documentation of the board. He said the goal is to make it available by March.

Meeting adjourned: 10:10 p.m.