

Little Rock School District

Community Advisory Board Meeting

November 29, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm

In attendance: Melanie Fox, Jeff Wood, Michael Mason, Mike Poore, LaShannon Spencer

- I. Welcome, Celebrations, and Norms
 - a. Mike Poore presented celebrations. He mentioned
 - i.
 - ii. One District, One Book campaign began this month – Zoey and Sassafras, Frank Einstein
 1. SW Power Pool, Arvest Bank and Museum of Discovery are sponsors
 2. Toothpaste Millionaire will come out in March or April
 - iii. Parkview Robotics Team will attend competition.
 1. Bright Futures donated snacks for the team
 - iv. Stephens sponsored Scholars Reception honoring Merit Scholars
 - v. One Rock Legends luncheon next Wednesday at 11:30 at Embassy Suites
 1. Honorees
 - i. Houston Nutt
 - ii. Sidney Moncrieff
 - iii. Dee Dee Brown Campbell
 - iv. Charles Ripley
 - v. Oliver Elders
 - vi. Wilson Matthews
 - vii. Charles Ripley
 - B. Jeff Wood advised the audience of norms for comments from the public
- II. Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce - Career Academies
 - A. Mr. Poore introduced the group and advised the board that the presentation will be a proposal.
 - B. Jeff Reddish from the LR Chamber presented the proposal, the Ford Next Generation Learning. The goal of the program is to provide students with career readiness and concurrent college credit.
 - i. Mr. Reddish gave some background on the academy model. The wall-to-wall academy model is currently in operation in Nashville, TN. He also mentioned other communities that have adopted the model. He said that the plan could be modified for our community.
 - ii. The timeline for the program would be 2 years and 9 months to 3 Years and 6 months.
 - iii. A video about the Academies of Nashville was presented to the board.
 - iv. Mr. Reddish answered questions from the Board.
 1. Possible industry sponsors were discussed.
 2. Mr. Poore said that this plan would not replace Metro or Excel.

3. Mr. Hampton expressed concern that the program could be limited due to attendance zone boundaries.
4. Mr. Wood asked for an overview of the next steps of the proposal. Mr. Poore answered questions about the next phases of the proposal. Mr. Reddish said that the program could be implemented by 2020.

III. AR. Department of Education

- A. Commissioner Johnny Key gave an overview of the purpose and goals of tonight's presentation, Student Centered Education. He also offered words of appreciation to the Board for their service to the District. During the presentation, Mr. Key discussed:
 - i. the vision and mission of the AR Department of Education
 - ii. The six spokes of student-centered education wheel
 - iii. equity for all students
 - iv. the AR ESSA Plan
 1. Focus has moved from assessment and accountability to support
 - v. comparison to No Child Left Behind
 1. Individualized plans, no labels for performance, Work at District level to support districts, stakeholder input, 5 Year graduation rate
- B. Dr. Mike Hernandez presented details on the components of the ESSA Plan (SQSS). He also led the Board through the My School Info website. The website offers reports on all AR schools' achievement and growth, graduation rates, and SQSS (School Quality and Student Success) stats and how they compare to other schools. The goal of every school should be to have a growth rate of 80% or more.
- C. Mr. Key addressed the board again to reiterate the importance of focusing on the right things. He discussed state-wide education initiatives such as RISE, AR Computer Science, Teacher Arkansas, PLC at Work and My School Info. He presented the timelines for plan approval.
- D. Mr. Key addressed questions from the Board
 - i. What things to look at to determine what kind of help each school needs
 - ii. Supports for discipline and behavior
 - iii. How the current rating system correlates to former federal designations

IV. District Improvement Plan

- A. Mr. Poore gave remarks on things that the District is doing to implement the plan. He also introduced Dr. Sadie Mitchell and Mr. Marvin Burton.
 - i. Dr. Mitchell told the Board that the Plan has been streamlined to focus on four general areas: PLC's, Data based Decision Making, Reading and Literacy and Improving Systems and Operations. She gave specific examples of ways schools are implementing their plans in the areas of PLC's and Literacy and Reading. Dr. Veronica Perkins presented a report on the progress of the RISE training. Dr. Perkins answered questions from the Board. Dr. Karen Henery, Director of ESOL, answered questions about Lexia.

- ii. Mr. Burton discussed the specifics of how Hall High is implementing the plan as it relates to data-based decision making and improving systems and operations. He mentioned standard lesson plans, the use of Naviance and the focus on disciplinary literacy. Ms. Spencer gave positive remarks on the turn-around at Hall High.
- V. Mr. Poore recommended how the facility plan will be presented.
- VI. School Accountability Report
 - A. Pamela Smith presented an overview of the components of the 2017-2018 Annual Report. She said that the complete community report is at the printer. It will be mailed to all LRSD homes over the winter break.
- VII. Professional Negotiated Agreement
 - A. Mr. Poore talked about the process of approval of the PNA.
 - B. He also read a letter from Teresa Gordon, president of the Little Rock Education Association.
 - C. Mr. Poore answered questions from the Board about the Fair Teacher Dismissal Act and the possibility of waivers. The Board also asked questions about the timeframe in which employees have to appeal termination, particularly due to poor performance. He talked about specific roles of the Board for appeals under the new agreement. He also answered questions about the teacher evaluation process. Jordan Eason gave a more detailed answer about teacher evaluations.
- VIII. Budget Update
 - A. Kelsey Bailey presented an update on expenditures and revenues of the District. He answered questions from the Board about the timing of revenue disbursements and the activity funds. Mr. Bailey informed the Board that the Legislative Audit team is visiting the District. Mr. Poore said that he and Mr. Bailey will present a preliminary budget for next year to the Board in February. He said that he will invite Jack Truemper, the District's Financial Advisor through Stephens, Inc., to speak to the Board about the possibilities of
- IX. Community Comments – no one signed up to speak
- X. Board Comments
 - A. Michael Mason encouraged the District to pursue the Ford NGL plan.
 - B. Mr. Poore invited the Board members to attend the Stephens, Inc. reception at the Capitol Hotel during the AR School Board Association
- XI. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.