



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**May 17, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2012, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jody Carreiro presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jody Carreiro  
Michael Nellums  
Charles Armstrong  
Greg Adams  
Melanie Fox  
Dianne Curry  
Norma Johnson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Morris Holmes, Superintendent of Schools  
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Mr. Carreiro called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Six members of the board were present at roll call; Mr. Armstrong arrived at 5:42 p.m. Teacher ex officio, *Alissan Jones*, from **Woodruff Early Childhood Center** attended the agenda meeting, but was not present at the board meeting. Student ex-officio, *George Elrod*, from **Central High School** was present.

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

**A. Superintendent's Remarks**

At the agenda meeting on May 10, 2012, Dr. Holmes presented numerous citations and commendations to students and employees.

During the week dedicated to teacher appreciation, the district held the annual Crystal Awards banquet. At that event, sixty-four outstanding teachers were recognized and rewarded for their achievements and devotion to the teaching profession.

The Crystal Award Teachers of the Year were:

- Sarah Jane Relano, Williams Magnet Elementary school, elementary level
- Natalie L. Holliman, Dunbar Magnet School, middle level
- Keith Richardson, Central High School, high school level
- Bridget Shinn, Mann Magnet Middle School, overall winner and recipient of the Marian G. Lacey Educator of the Year Award.

The district's administrative professionals were honored at a luncheon held annually to recognize their contributions to the success of our schools.

Margo Bushmaier recognized several nurses for exceptional service in life-threatening situations:

Kim Alvis, Gibbs Magnet Elementary	Linda Barnett, J. A. Fair High School
Patricia Brown, Hamilton and Felder	Kathey Haynie, Mann Middle School
Kim Maemmerle, McDermott Elementary	Teri Davis, Otter Creek
Ann Agee, Metropolitan	Carla Kelley, Williams Magnet Elementary

In addition, Gwen Efird was recognized as the volunteer nurse of the year for her service to students at Mabelvale Magnet Middle School

Margo Bushmaier was also recognized for being named the School Nurse Administrator of the Year for the Arkansas Nursing Association. She will be honored in June at a conference in San Francisco.

Student Keeling Baker, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, was recognized for being a finalist in the Arkansas Geography Bee.

Members of the Destination Imagination Teams were recognized for advancing to the Global Competition in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Gene Williams, team manager, introduced members of the DI teams from Carver Magnet's Cardinal Chaos:

Kalyan Sankar	Dhruv Modi
Nathania Nischal	John Swaim
Peter Mouw	Lindsey Yarbrough

From Gibbs Magnet's Gidgets, Gadgets and Gears, Gizmo's, and Go Green teams, Jodi Pullen and Rhonda Adams introduced the students:

Ben Pullen	Artem Apostolov
Becket O'Brien	Noah Wilcoxson
Melina Wilkins	Julianna Pinson
Sam Triplett	Jennifer Song
Julia Greenfield	I'mani Jackson
Emma Hall	Joseph Massirer
Alex Lein	Adam Mann
Ava Horton	Dorothy Johnson
Helen Wedaman	Jay Henry
Hunter Ramsey	Amanda Brown
Sally Kashala	Caroline Wilson
Lola Simmons	Jacob Evans-Funk
Terrence Hollimon	Zack Diamond

Amanda Brown  
Caleb Nichols  
Caleb Smith  
Tracy Steele

Torey Carroll  
Xavier Parker  
Javery Smith  
Ivan Thomas

Numerous students representing the LRSD in the EAST program's Media Festival were introduced. Students from all five high schools, and from Cloverdale, Dunbar, Forest Heights, Henderson, Mann and Pulaski Heights Middle Schools, and from King and Roberts Elementary Schools were introduced.

Theresa Knapp Gordon, media specialist at Jefferson Elementary, was recognized for being selected as the AAIM Outstanding Library Media Specialist.

Lydia Page was recently selected as a recipient of a Dell Scholarship.

Students who received a 2012 Comcast Scholarship were introduced:

- Chelsea Gillespie, J. A. Fair High School
- Josilyn Mitchell, Parkview Magnet High Schools
- Jakyra Stewart, McClellan High School
- Autumn Brown, Central High School

Winners of the District 7 History Day competition were introduced:

- *3<sup>rd</sup> place, Junior Individual Exhibit* – Alex Crawford, Pulaski Heights Middle School
- *3<sup>rd</sup> place, Junior Individual Paper* – Christian Hitt, Pulaski Heights Middle School
- *1<sup>st</sup> place, Junior Group Website* – Zoe Tollette and Samantha Fish, Pulaski Heights Middle School
- *4<sup>th</sup> place, Junior Individual Website* – Aaron Mann, Dunbar Magnet Middle School
- *1<sup>st</sup> place, Senior Group Website* – Alexander Zhang and Ayush Saraswat, Central High School
- Special award, Junior Division, \$100 prize from the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies - Alex Crawford, Pulaski Heights Middle School

Arts in Education awards were presented to:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place, Attorneys General Safety Poster contest - Ahlia Williams, Carver Magnet
- 1<sup>st</sup> place, AAE Central Region Poster Contest – Asia Cain, Carver Magnet

Several commendations were presented to students and teachers from Parkview Magnet High School:

- Students who participated in the National Debate Tournament in Las Vegas:
  - Daniel Schexnayder
  - Ian Wren
- 2011-12 Comcast Student of the Year, Josilyn Mitchell
- 2011-12 Arkansas Association of Student Councils Student of the Year, Zach Chastain
- 2011-12 Stephens Student Award Winner, Catie Edwards
- 2011-12 Sigma XI Scientific Research Society Debate Tournament winner, Laura Yoder
- Recognition to Pat Treadway for her years of serving as the Parkview Debate Coach

- Parkview ROTC Program received two Area Eight awards: Most Improved Unit and Most Distinguished Unit, recognition to Commander James Castleberry and Petty Officer Ken Rice
- Debra Rogers, State Chemistry Teacher of the Year
- Kayla Jones, State Gold Medal winner in the Food and Beverage Skills USA Competition. Will represent Arkansas at the National Leadership & Skills Conference in St. Louis
- Coach Williams Hardiman and Coach Al Flanigan introduced athletes from Parkview:
  - Eric Nathaniel, ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. in the 400 meter track & field event. Eric also broke the previous overall 400-meter record set 27 years ago.
  - Anton Beard, named Arkansas Outstanding Sophomore basketball player of the year
  - Imara (I.J.) Ready, named starting point guard of the All Arkansas Basketball team
  - Brianna Swinton, won four events in track: 100-meter, 200-meter, 400-meter and the Triple

Ex officio representatives for the month of May were presented with a certificate of appreciation for their service: **George Elrod**, student at Central High School and **Alissan Jones**, teacher from Woodruff Early Childhood Center

## **B. Partners in Education**

Debbie Milam presented new partnership information for the board's review and approval.

Dodd Elementary established three new partnerships with:

- The Castle on Stagecoach
- Little Rock Carriage Company
- Oak Park Church

Terry Elementary established a new partnership with Arkansas Federal Credit Union

Ms. Fox moved to approve the partnerships presented; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## **C. Remarks from Citizens**

None present.

## **D. Legal Update**

Chris Heller reported briefly. The State had responded to the LRSD motion to dismiss. He expected Judge Marshall to set a hearing on that in the near future. Mr. Heller also reported on his visit with the Pulaski County Election Commission regarding the selection of the Option 7 zone map. The map had been filed with the Pulaski County Clerk's office. Arkansas Education Commissioner, Dr. Kimbrell, was also notified of the board's selection and adoption of the Resolution.

### E. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. The student ex officio, George Elrod, read the list of donations. Ms. Fox made a motion to accept; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

#### DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Dunbar Magnet Middle School	18 Apple iMac computers and 27 Gateway laptops valued at approximately \$22,050.00	U o A, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Geyer Springs Elementary School	\$1,000 Payless Shoes gift card for students in need	UALR – Children's International
Hall High School	\$2,000 cash to the music program	The Grammy Foundation on behalf of Best Buy Mobile
Mann Magnet Middle School	Cash donations for the Mann Archery Team to attend the NASP National Archery tournament: \$50.00 \$100.00 \$200.00 \$300.00	Vondran Orthodontics Arch Street Hardward John Wesley Hall, Attorney River Valley Horticultural Products
Pulaski Heights Middle School	Yamaha Electronic Piano, valued at \$160.00	Sherryl Dahlstoom

### F. Little Rock PTA Council

Henri Smothers, past president of the LR PTA Council, introduced Sarah Bernhardt, the incoming president. Ms. Bernhardt addressed the board, stating it was her intent to work on increasing community involvement in the schools. She also encouraged board members to attend the monthly council meetings. Dr. Holmes expressed appreciation to Ms. Smothers for her term of service and encouraged her to remain involved with the work of the Council.

### G. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler made remarks of appreciation for the board's vote in support of the salary agreement, stating she was proud to work for the LRSD. She noted specific significant contributions of all the employees in the district. She thanked the McClellan staff and community members for the work they are doing to secure a SIG grant. She left the meeting at the conclusion of her remarks to attend the Woodruff Early Childhood graduation program.

### **III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **A. Remarks from Board Members**

Mr. Adams congratulated teachers who were honored at the Teacher of the Year Crystal Awards banquet. He thanked Ms. Smothers and Ms. Bernhardt for the work done through the PTA in our schools. He briefly commented on recent editorial articles in the newspaper and their reflection of opinion in the community regarding the board's "usual" split votes. His remarks were intended to dispel the myth that most of the board's votes are divisive, and he noted the board has been working hard to find ways to pull together.

Ms. Curry thanked Mr. Adams for his comments and asked the audience to understand the board is working together to make decisions based on what they believe is right for the children. Ms. Curry reported she had attended the spring luncheon, and she commended the PTA for the increase in memberships this year. She vowed to work hard to help the PTA across the district.

Mr. Armstrong asked the audience to remember why the board members serve . . . for only one purpose - - to serve in the best interest of the students. He stated there were no excuses for accepting less than the best.

Dr. Nellums commented on the end of year activities and reflected on the significant accomplishments of students and teachers. He stated the summer provides a time for enhancement and enrichment opportunities, with the District offering many students an opportunity to participate in free summer programs. He reminded the listeners that the board members are elected to represent varying areas of the city, with each area having many differences. The board comes together as a unit, representing their varying interests, to improve the state and the condition of the schools for all students.

Ms. Fox asked students, staff and administration to stay the course and finish strong. She noted the many employees who retiring after more than 30 years with the district.

Ms. Johnson expressed pride in the changes she has observed since starting her term in October. She stated board members are working together for the good of the children, and she looks forward to continuing forward progress. As examples of improvements, she acknowledged the Community Truancy Board and the Middle School Initiative as being responsive to the betterment of conditions in the schools.

Mr. Carreiro listed the numerous end-of-year events, banquets, graduations, and other activities. He provided a copy of the current *Arkansas Times* edition which recognizes all the honorees of the VIPS Evening of the Stars within a Junior League advertisement. He noted that Debbie Milam was participating in the Junior League banquet tonight.

#### **B. Informational: UAPB / STEM / AVID Initiative**

Mr. Burton reported briefly, and introduced Tracy Mason, the AVID coordinator at Hall High School and Cassandra Stoddard, AVID coordinator at McClellan. Ms. Mason and Ms. Stoddard summarized the programs at their schools and the cooperative efforts between Hall and UAPB. Ten students from each school participated in a Saturday program which emphasized and gave students hands-on experiences in the STEM field.



Students and parents made brief remarks about their personal experiences, excitement, and appreciation for the opportunity to participate.

Mr. Burton reviewed the UAPB / LRSD / STEM / AVID information provided in the board's agenda, and expressed interest in expanding the program. In addition to the partnership with UAPB, he is hoping to establish similar programs with UALR and UCA.

### **C. 2012 Summer Programs (Elementary and Secondary)**

Dr. Whitehorn updated information on summer programs previously provided at the April board meeting. Mr. Bailey responded to questions regarding the budget, stating much of the money would come from the general fund, including Title 1 funds, various grants and other outside sources. Dennis Glasgow was available to respond to questions regarding the evaluation component and explained the process to be used for tracking student progress from year to year.

Pamela Smith provided information on summer learning opportunities outside the LRSD, and provided information for review. The lists are posted to the LRSD website in English and in Spanish.

### **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

Ms. Fox made a motion to suspend the rules and reorder the agenda. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Bailey reviewed Item 5. A. First Reading on Policy DJF, Minority Business Enterprise. Action was taken at this point in the agenda, but will be reported as printed in the board's agenda.

### **D. Update / Information: Student Handbook**

Dr. Debbie Price asking the board to approve a reprint of the 2011-12 handbook for the 2012-13 school year. She reported the need to revise and rework the handbook, and a committee has been established to do that. The committee will include school based and administrative employees, parents and students, to ensure a comprehensive review and revision.

The committee will begin meeting soon, and it is hoped they will complete their work in January 2013. A representative from the board will be appointed to serve.

### **E. Internal Auditors Report**

Mr. Becker's report was provided in the board's agenda. He responded to questions from the board and discussed the *Internet Essentials* partnership between the LRSD, the LR Coalition of Neighborhoods and Comcast Cable. An event was scheduled for Henderson Middle School on a Saturday where approximately 200 refurbished computers will be distributed to students who are eligible. Comcast Cable will offer internet access for \$9.95 per month to eligible families.

Ms. Johnson offered five \$40 scholarships to students who attend the Saturday event from Zone 1.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS**

##### **A. Board Meeting Dates, 2012-2013 School Year**

A proposed schedule of regular meeting dates was presented for board consideration and approval. In most instances the agenda meeting will be held on the second Thursday of each month; the regular meeting on the fourth Thursday. The exceptions on this year's schedule were in November and December for seasonal holidays, and in May to accommodate high school graduations. Ms. Fox moved to approve; Dr. Nellums seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

##### **B. Minutes**

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on April 24, and from special meetings held on May 4, and May 10, 2012, were presented for review and approval. Ms Curry made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW**

##### **A. Board Policy First Reading: DJF Minority Business Enterprises**

Action on this policy was taken earlier in the meeting, but is reported here as printed in the agenda. Ms. Fox moved to approve policy DJF, Minority Business Enterprises, on first reading. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Dr. Nellums expressed concerns regarding the 20% participation goal included in the policy, and asked to amend the motion on the floor to increase the participation goal from 20% to 35%. His motion to amend died for lack of second.

Ms. Fox moved to amend the original motion to increase the participation goal from 20% to 30%. Ms. Curry seconded the motion to amend, and it carried 6-1, with Mr. Nellums voting in opposition.

Mr. Adams then offered a second motion to amend to include women owned businesses in the minority vendor policy. Ms. Fox seconded the motion, and it carried 6-1, with Dr. Nellums voting in opposition.

Policy DJF was approved on first reading with two amendments. One, to increase the minority participation goal from 20 to 30%, and two, to include women owned businesses in the policy requirements. The vote was 6-1, with Dr. Nellums voting no.

##### **B. Board Policy First Reading: GBEB Social Networking and Ethics**

Dennis Glasgow reviewed the development of the policy stating the model policy provided by the ASBA had been the guide followed to establish the LRSD policy.

He responded to questions from the board regarding teachers and students establishing relationships on social networking websites. Ms. Fox moved approval on first reading; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.



## VI. HUMAN RESOURCES

### A. Personnel Changes

Routine personnel changes were provided in the board's agenda. Ms. Fox moved to approve; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

## VII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

### A. Monthly Financial Reports

The routine financial reports were attached to the agenda. Mr. Bailey briefly reported, noting the balance does not yet include the payroll for across the board increases in salaries and benefits. The tax receipt revenues were anticipated soon and will be reported in the June final reports.

Mr. Bailey also reported the Assessor's office is updating the preliminary property tax adjustments and those will also be included in the next month's reports. A budget worksession was proposed for the end of May.

## VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Holmes noted the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant was pulled for additional development and completion. He will recommend approval at a special meeting in June in order to meet the submission deadlines.

Mr. Carreiro reminded the board of the dates for the high school graduations the week following this meeting. He also reminded the audience of the Saturday Computer Power Day, at Henderson Middle School, starting at 8:30 a.m.

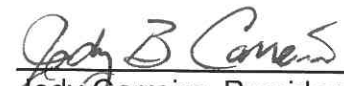
He also announced the annual Academic Signing Day, scheduled for Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 p.m. at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.


A budget worksession was scheduled for Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED: 6-28-12

  
Jody Carreiro, President

  
Charles Armstrong, Secretary