



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

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
July 26, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 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  
Dianne Curry  
Melanie Fox  
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. All members of the board were present at roll call. In addition, ex officio representatives were also present: **Natalie Holliman**, teacher from **Dunbar Middle School**, and **Ashtone Dixon**, student from **Hall High School**.

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

**A. Superintendent's Remarks**

Dr. Holmes recognized **Jobrielle Winfrey**, Miss Arkansas USA Talented Teen 2012. Ms. Winfrey is a junior at Central High School and will represent Arkansas in the national USA Talented Teen competition in August in Washington D.C. It was also noted, Jobrielle's mother, Rosetter Dirden is a math teacher at LR Central High School.

## B. Remarks from Citizens

**Judy Watts** with the City of Little Rock public works department provided information on upcoming events sponsored by the city. There will be a carton boat regatta on October 7, 2012 at Two Rivers Park where entrants will construct and float a boat using empty cartons. Rita Miller with the Regional Recycling District was present to discuss an upcoming contest using recycled materials to create art. Participants will have the entire school year to work on their projects and will exhibit at the Museum of Discovery. Information is available on the website, and Dr. Holmes requested a formal letter to provide details for LRSD participation.

**Troy Thompson**, a parent who resides in west Little Rock, discussed LRSD middle school issues. He advocated for developing feeder schools in the LRSD where students are able to walk to school and attend with their friends throughout their public school experience. He reported that he and his wife volunteer in their children's schools and he expressed difficulty in participating in school activities when children don't attend school in the same area. He closed by asking the board to purchase land in west Little Rock and to move quickly to build a middle school.

## C. Donations of Property

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

### DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
LRSD Computers for Kids Program	60 Pentium 4 computers with monitors valued at approximately \$6,000.00	UALR
Western Hills Elementary School	Music K-8 downloadable magazines and audio files, valued at \$99.00 to the music dept.	Mr. & Mrs. Hank Buehling
	Books entitled "The Golden Encyclopedia of Music" by Norman Lloyd and "Musical Instruments of the World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia," valued at \$235.00 to the music classroom	Mr. & Mrs. James Douglass

## D. Little Rock PTA Council

Not present.

## E. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler congratulated Jobrielle Winfrey and encouraged her to apply for a scholarship available through the AEA for future teachers. She thanked the parties involved in negotiating the new professional agreement, and she requested a delay to negotiating the financial aspects of the agreement until more is known about the budget.

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

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

**Ms. Fox** reported attending part of this week's leadership institute. She enjoyed the presentations and expressed appreciation for the administrators responsible for the planning and preparation. She was encouraged by seeing the building leaders preparing for the kids to return to school.

**Dr. Nellums** reminded listeners that the start of the new school year is only three weeks away. He encouraged parents and students to be prepared and ready to begin.

**Mr. Armstrong** encouraged parents and others in the community to get involved in their children's education.

**Ms. Curry** reported attending some of the administrators' institute sessions. She also encouraged students to be prepared to return to school. She wished Ms. Winfrey good luck in the national talented teen competition.

**Mr. Adams** acknowledged progress made during this school year and he encouraged administration to continue on that path.

**Mr. Carreiro** attended the first day of the principals' leadership institute and was invited to make opening remarks. He reported conducting an informal survey of the principals asking for their input on what the board could do to help them do a better job. The principals' top 3 items were for the board to be more unified, objective, consistent and professional; to show more support for principals and the superintendent; and for board members to spend more time visiting the schools. He promised to visit with Dr. Holmes to see if there were steps that could be taken in response to their comments.

**Reports listed on the agenda for the July board meeting were presented at the agenda meeting on July 12, 2012.**

#### **B. July 2012 PRE Quarterly Report**

- **Exceptional Children**
- **ESL – ELL**
- **Gifted & Talented Education**
- **K-3 Literacy & Mathematics**

Dr. DeJarnette provided a review of the PRE quarterly report and briefly discussed the four evaluation areas for the 2011-12 school year including Gifted and Talented, English as a Second Language, Special Education and Elementary Literacy and Mathematics. A Powerpoint presentation was attached to the board's agenda which provided summary information of the report presented.

**Exceptional Children:** Barbara Barnes provided a review of the information included in the special education section of the report. Margaret Regnier discussed the STAR program and related training provided to LRSD teachers.

**ESL – ELL:** Ms. Hampton, elementary ESL specialist, reviewed the findings related to numbers of students served by English as a second language and English language learners. Services to these students include summer learning opportunities and the report provided evidence these students are achieving in the classroom.

**Gifted & Talented Education:** Lori Altschul reported on the findings and recommendations presented in the PRE report. The Powerpoint demonstrated an increase in Gifted program enrollment, with special emphasis on the enrollment of African American males.

**K-3 Literacy & Mathematics:** Karen James reviewed the elementary literacy section of the PRE evaluation report. Beth Clifford reviewed the section related to the elementary mathematics test results.

**I. J. Routen** reported briefly on initiatives used to integrate the arts into the core subject area curriculum to support and enhance student achievement.

**Dr. Sadie Mitchell** provided follow up and closing remarks and responded to questions from the board.

#### **C. Report: Target 2015 Strategic Plan and Board Goals**

Dr. Holmes introduced Mr. Glasgow for presentation of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Glasgow noted we are in the second year of the Target 2015 Strategic Plan. A copy of the report was provided electronically to the board.

Mr. Bailey reviewed information related to the implementation of the data dashboard and provided a brief demonstration of the information which will be available once the dashboard is operational.

*The board took a brief recess and returned to session at 7:30 p.m.*

#### **D. Report / Update: Middle School Initiative**

Dr. Whitehorn provided an overview of the middle school task force report. He reported meeting with middle school principals and teachers to develop strategies for teaming and tracking student progress. He expressed appreciation for Suzi Davis' efforts to support and redesign middle schools in the areas of safety, curriculum, instruction, culture and perception. Suzi Davis made brief closing comments.

#### **E. Report / Update: Schools on Arkansas School Improvement List**

Dr. Holmes remarked briefly on the discontinuation of NCLB for Arkansas and additional requirements being enacted by the U. S. Department of Education. He suggested the possibility of a special meeting on August 7 to review and discuss plans to implement these new requirements. He noted the state will be appointing a school specialist for the LRSD, and additional information will be provided for the board as it is received.

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

### **A. Second Reading: DJF – Minority Business Enterprises**

Policy DJF, Minority Business Enterprises, was presented for the second month for second reading approval. At the board's request, a sentence was added to the third paragraph which referred to the development of regulations to accompany the policy. There was discussion regarding the definition of businesses owned by women, and additional clarification for selection and review of these vendors. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the policy on second reading. It was seconded by Ms. Fox. After additional discussion, Ms. Fox withdrew her second. With no second, the motion on the table died.

Regulations will be prepared and presented for review. The policy will be returned for second reading at that time.

## **VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

### **A. Pre-kindergarten Handbook 2012-2013**

The updated pre-kindergarten handbook was provided as part of the board's agenda. Ms. James was present to respond to questions. Ms. Fox moved to approve the handbook as presented; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion **carried unanimously**.

## **VII. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **A. Personnel Changes**

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

#### **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES:**

Ms. Fox moved to suspend the rules to add additional administrative personnel recommendations. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the appointment of school administrators; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

The appointments were:

- Donald Richardson, appointed assistant principal at Central High School
- Thomas McDonald, appointed interim assistant principal at Central High School
- Thomas Noble, appointed interim assistant principal at Hall High School
- Jonas White, appointed interim assistant principal at Hall High School

## VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Holmes suggested a special meeting on August 9 after the agenda meeting to present plans related to schools on the state's school improvement list.

Mr. Carreiro also reported additional possible special meetings for employee hearings or budget workshops. Tentative suggested dates were Monday, August 13 and Thursday, August 16.

*Dr. Nellums left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.*

## IX. HEARINGS

### A. Student Disciplinary Recommendations

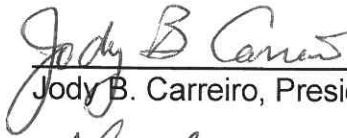
Dr. Fields presented recommendations for suspension and expulsion for infractions which occurred during the months of April and May 2012. Infractions were varied and included battery, possession of a weapon, possession of drugs, student verbal abuse and terroristic threatening. It was recommended these students begin the 2012-13 school year at Hamilton, Felder or other alternative learning environments.

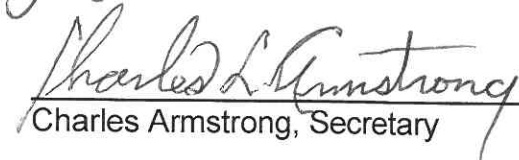
Ms. Fox moved to accept the recommendation on all students presented for review. Ms. Curry seconded the motion, and it **carried 6-0**.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

APPROVED: 8-23-12

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jody B. Carreiro, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Armstrong, Secretary