



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 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:

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 5:46 p.m. All members were present at roll call. In addition, teacher ex officio, *Vicki Webb* from **Western Hills Elementary School** and student ex-officio, *Cheyenne Hampton-Hall* from **Hall High School** were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

At the agenda meeting, Dr. Holmes recognized **Dr. Dexter Booth**, principal of Parkview Arts & Science Magnet High School. Dr. Booth was chosen as the recipient of the prestigious *Thomas E. Patterson Education Award* by the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus. Dr. Booth has been principal at Parkview for two years, but has served there as a teacher and assistant principal for 19 years. The *Thomas E. Patterson Award* recognizes Dr. Booth's fight for equality of educational opportunities for students and employees.

At the board meeting, Dr. Holmes spoke briefly about the middle school effort underway at this time. Meetings have been held at middle schools across the district to communicate the intent to reconfigure the middle schools from block scheduling to an eight-period day. Dr. Holmes thanked Dr. Whitehorn, Mr. Burton, Mr. Glasgow and Suzie Davis for facilitating the meetings and for explaining the impact on student learning to the parent and teacher groups. The final parent meeting will be at 5:15 p.m. Monday at Henderson Middle School. He thanked Mr. Carreiro for serving as the board's representative to the Middle School Task Force and Cathy Kohler for her leadership during this process.

B. Partners in Education

At the agenda meeting on February 9, Ms. Milam presented new partnerships for the board's consideration and approval.

Booker Magnet School in partnership with the **Downtown Kiwanis Club**

Mabelvale Middle School in partnership with **Geyer Springs Baptist Church**

Williams Magnet Elementary School in partnership with **Maggie Moo's Ice Cream**

Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the partnerships; Ms. Fox seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

C. Remarks from Citizens

Ms. Johnson invited Consuelo Whitney to address the board regarding the Upward Bound Program at Philander Smith College. Ms. Whitney provided information on the current recruitment efforts and guidelines for acceptance into the program. There are income eligibility limits; however there are also stipulations for students who are first-generation college students. The program provides college tours, field trips, and other educational activities for participating students. Once accepted into the program students are paid a stipend if they successfully meet the requirements. The district's high school counselors have the information needed for students to access the program.

Ms. Johnson also invited Neoka Smith, Hall High School graduation coach, to provide information on Hall's recent Reality Fair. The fair is geared to attract students who are not candidates for college to provide options for careers after high school. Financial counselors were available, along with representatives from businesses who were available to speak with the students on career topics.

D. Legal Update

At the agenda meeting on February 9th, Mr. Heller discussed the brief due tomorrow on a motion to enforce the settlement agreement and to ask the court to intervene on issues related to charter schools and achievement disparities. He reported the State has until mid- to late-February to respond and noted there is a hearing before Judge Marshall on March 29.

The board asked questions regarding progress on developing maps for rezoning for 2012 election. Mr. Heller provided copies of letters submitted to Metroplan with the request to provide options. Mr. Armstrong had also written a letter specific to zones six and seven.

E. Donations of Property

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

DONATIONS

| SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT | ITEM | DONOR |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Bale Elementary School | Cash, \$1,025.00 | Mr. Hardin Bale |
| Baseline Elementary School | Four (4) iPads for the special needs speech class | Schawnee Hightower / Verizon Wireless |
| Mann Magnet Middle School | \$500.00 cash to the science department | Jerill and Angela Green |
| | \$100.00 cash to the cheerleading team | Denise Laster |
| Roberts Elementary School | Donation of flowers, valued at \$480.00 to be planted in the Founder's Garden outside the media center | The Good Earth Garden Center |
| | \$280.00 cash to the activity fund to support student activities and achievement recognitions | Murphy Oil Corporation |

F. Little Rock PTA Council

Mr. Becker addressed the board on behalf of the Little Rock PTA Counsel. He reported on the recent Founders Day luncheon, held the previous week and announced the next meeting would be held on March 13, at Mabelvale Middle School.

G. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler addressed the board and thanked people who served as mentors and support for her during her career, several who were in attendance at the meeting. She recognized and introduced Thelma Shorter, Edie McCoy, Dr. Katherine Mitchell, and Ira Nicholson.

She spoke briefly regarding the current negotiating process and expressed concern about being given fair consideration for salary increases and benefits. She requested serious consideration for the negotiations process and asked the board to be supportive of all the employees in the LRSD.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Adams thanked the middle school task force and those involved in that process. Also thanked the teachers and the parents and teachers who attended the meetings and those who have served on the middle school task force who actively participated in developing the plan.

Ms. Curry thanked the parents who attended the middle school meetings and commended the LREA for being there and supporting the board as they make this decision.

Mr. Armstrong thanked parents for attending the community meetings and for showing concern about what is taking place at the middle school level. He expressed appreciation for their input, their comments and questions. He encouraged parents to remain actively involved.

Mr. Nellums thanked parents and others for their comments on the middle school modifications being considered. He noted the board has to make the decisions which will cause the district's students to achieve. The decisions have to be made based on whether improvement in achievement is evidenced.

Ms. Fox invited parents to contact board members with questions and concerns on the middle level changes. She also discussed the American Education Week essay winners which were recognized at the PTA Council meeting last week. She read an essay by Rivers Runion Driskoll, who wrote he was "wealthy with knowledge" because of his public school education.

Ms. Johnson thanked the LRSD transportation department for inviting her to their department's Black History Month celebration. She reported she had read to second grade students at Gibbs Elementary, and she encouraged the other board members to be visible and recognizable to the students and the community.

B. Report: Racially Identifiable Scholarships

Dr. Holmes reviewed the information provided in the agenda on the racially identifiable scholarship program and asked the board to consider it an action item. This post-secondary scholarship program was established as part of the January 11, 2001 Covenant for the Future. Students who attended a LRSD racially identifiable elementary school for a minimum for three years are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The other qualifications for these funds were detailed in the board's agenda.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve and accept the report; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Update: Middle School Meetings with Teachers and Parents

Dr. Whitehorn briefly addressed the board and thanked them and others for their support and assistance in getting the middle school proposal communicated to the public. He expressed pride in the collaborative effort and hard work of all involved.

Dennis Glasgow addressed the board regarding the likelihood of having to modify the charter for Cloverdale Middle school to make the change to an eight period day. He will attend the Arkansas Board of Education meeting on March 12 to ask for their approval to modify the charter. He requested a special meeting of the board after the agenda meeting on March 8th to take action on the recommendation to modify the current middle school block schedule to an eight period day schedule.

D. Election Zone Maps / Rezoning

Mr. Eddings responded briefly to questions. Board members requested additional time to review and discuss options on the maps provided by Metroplan. A decision on when to place the rezoning on the agenda for action was not made.

E. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was printed in the board's agenda. No other information was requested.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on January 26, 2012, were presented for review and approval. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A. Board Regulation Revision: DKC-R, Travel Expense Authorization / Reimbursement / Travel Limits

Mr. Bailey addressed the board and explained the reason for bringing the Travel Expense regulation to the board with revisions. He noted the procedures are already in place and had been implemented; however the regulations were not in line and were therefore revised to be in compliance.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dr. Katherine P. Mitchell Scholarship, 2012 – 2013

Attorney B.J. and Dr. Edie McCoy formally presented information for the establishment of the *Dr. Katherine P. Mitchell Scholarship* fund. These scholarships will be awarded to

two African American male graduates from Little Rock Central High School. The eligible students will have participated in the wellness center activities at Central High School, and they must have served as mentors and positive role models for their peers. The McCoy's daughter, Lydia McCoy, will serve as the administrator of the selection committee for the scholarship program.

Dr. Mitchell addressed the board and expressed gratitude for the establishment of this scholarship. The board was asked to formally accept the scholarship. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the recommendation for the establishment of the Dr. Katherine P. Mitchell Scholarship Fund. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **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**.

B. School Calendar, 2012-2013

Mr. Hartz responded to questions from the board regarding the calendar for the 2012-13 school year. The administration recommended approval of the calendar presented. School will start on Monday, August 20, 2012. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the calendar as presented; Mr. Nellums seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

VIII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. GAAP Financial Statements and Audit Report for June 30, 2011

Eric Grant from Hudson Cisne provided a brief overview of the 2011 audit report. A copy of the report was provided as part of the board's agenda. A summary of findings was provided and reviewed. Ms. Fox moved to accept the audit report as presented; Ms. Curry seconded the motion. It **carried unanimously**.

Mr. Carreiro reported the audit committee had met to review the report with the administration. He felt it was important to note, the district is in compliance on all the key issues and items accounted. There were no findings of concern. The only finding in the federal section of the audit was an item self-reported by the LRSD from internal controls.

B. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey provided a brief update in conjunction with the monthly financial statement review.

C. Report: Vendors and Contracts

Mr. Bailey provided summary vendor and contractor reports as part of the board's agenda. He responded to specific questions from the board.

Dr. Holmes provided a draft of procurement regulations for the board's review. Mr. Becker has begun the initial drafting process and Linda Young will assist in creating the final revision for the board's review. Staff is reviewing options to streamline the process of selecting vendors and contractors with an emphasis on increasing minority vendors.

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Becker responded to additional questions regarding the current purchasing processes used.

D. Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial reports were provided in the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

APPROVED: 03-15-12

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