



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 28, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2011, in the boardroom of the administration building, 810 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Melanie Fox presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melanie Fox
Jody Carreiro
Michael Nellums
Charles Armstrong
Dianne Curry
Katherine Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Greg Adams

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Holmes, Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Mr. Armstrong arrived at 5:45 p.m. Mr. Adams was absent. **Carman McBride**, the teacher ex-officio from **Roberts Elementary**, and **Chelsi Page**, student ex officio from Central High School, were also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Holmes made brief remarks regarding the progress in preparation of the budget. Two budget work sessions have been held, and input from those sessions have been used to create the budget that will be presented for the board's consideration and approval.

He reported that as vacancies occur due to retirement or other circumstances, the positions will not be filled unless they are required by state standards.

At the agenda meeting on July 14, 2011, Dr. Holmes presented citations and recognitions to the following students and teachers in the LRSD.

Boshan Zhao was recognized for being selected as the 2011 U. S. Presidential Scholar. Boshan just graduated Central High School. Only 141 seniors earn this honor each year, and students are selected based on outstanding academic and leadership accomplishments throughout their high school years.

Carolyn Blome and **Katrina Adams-Long**, first grade teachers at Gibbs Magnet School, recently completed **Cognitive Guided Instruction**, or CGI, leadership training. They are now CGI Teacher Leaders for the Arkansas Department of Education. CGI is the practice of listening to children's mathematical thinking and using it as a basis for instruction. Students achieve higher math scores with CGI-trained teachers.

Students who won individual medals at the recent districtwide **Go Figure! Math Olympiad** were recognized and presented with certificates of recognition:

Elementary school level:

Gold Medal: **Kelvin Kang**, Jefferson Elementary; Silver Medal: **Sarah Shepard**, Jefferson Elementary, and **Yasmin Givens**, Williams Magnet Elementary; Bronze Medal: **Kendall Sanders**, Gibbs Magnet Elementary, and **Morgan McLeod**, Pulaski Heights Elementary.

At the middle school level:

Gold Medal: **Jace McPherson**, Dunbar Magnet Middle; Silver Medal: **Julie Byrd**, Mabelvale Magnet Middle, **David Darling**, Pulaski Heights Middle, **Pooja Suri**, Pulaski Heights Middle; Bronze Medal: **Chandler Smith**, Dunbar Magnet Middle, **Jade Robinson**, Cloverdale Aerospace Charter Middle, **Tony Yue**, Pulaski Heights Middle, and **Elisabeth Graf**, Pulaski Heights Middle.

The exofficio representatives were presented with citations for their month of service: **Chelsi Page**, student at **Central High School**; and **Carman McBride**, teacher at **Roberts Elementary School**

B. Remarks from Citizens

Carrie Stewart, teacher at Watson Intermediate School, addressed the board regarding concerns from the staff at Watson. A list was developed through a survey which was administered over the past weekend and compiled by Ms. Stewart. Board members were provided a copy of the results.

C. Little Rock PTA Council

Henri Smothers, PTA Council President, reported on the planning and preparation by the PTA Council for the upcoming school year. She reminded the audience that the dates for PTA Council meetings are listed on the school calendar. She encouraged parents to join the PTA at their school next week during check-in, and to fully participate in school activities.

D. Little Rock Education Association

Cathy Kohler stated concerns regarding the identification of the qualifications for student success. She asked to board to develop their own standards above and beyond what the state requires. The LRSD has a high population of ESL and ELL students as well as students who don't have a high degree of parental support in the home. She asked the Board to consider the students first as they ponder the decisions they make and not to lose sight of why we are here.

She also asked that the LREA be included at the table as solutions are developed. She asked to continue a positive collaborative relationship with the board and administration, saying she didn't want to be in a position of opposing a proposal because the PN Agreement hasn't been considered at the initial development stages.

Ms. Kohler closed by announcing a welcome back to school even for educational support personnel on Sunday, August 7, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. She invited board members and the superintendent to attend. She also announced the new address for the LREA office: 119 South IZard Street. An open house will be held on August 18, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Mr. Nellums agreed with comments made by Ms. Kohler regarding the special set of circumstances of students who live and attend school in the LRSD. He also expressed regret over the violence in the news this week, with young people being involved in tragic incidents. Students from other parts of the state may never experience these types of violence in their smaller communities.

Ms. Curry welcomed school administrators back after summer break and reported she had attended the Leadership Institute at Roberts Elementary. She was encouraged by the sessions for the principals and impressed with the information on using technology in the classrooms. She also reported visiting several summer school sites including Dodd Elementary, Bale Elementary and Cloverdale and Henderson Middle Schools.

Dr. Mitchell encouraged parents to become actively involved in the educational partnership between the home and the school. She asked parents to ensure their students do their homework and participate fully in the opportunities provided to them at school.

Mr. Armstrong commented on attending the summer school celebration at Dodd Elementary. He commended Katina Ray for the work done with the students there. He expressed the importance of having parental involvement and involvement by others in the community in order to show a total commitment to the children in our schools.

Mr. Carreiro encouraged parents to attend check-in registration days on August 4 - 5. He also encouraged parents to make use of Edline for keeping track of their student's progress, and stated that schools will make a computer available at the school for parents who don't have a computer at home.

Mr. Carreiro also briefly discussed the board's prioritized goals, and promised that everything done at the board table would be centered on those goals. "Decisions made tonight will be steps toward meeting the goals."

Ms. Fox welcomed back the building administrators. She reminded parents about registration dates the following week. She noted that teachers return to work next week, and she thanked everyone for the work they do to serve LRSD students.

B. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided as part of the board's agenda. Mr. Carreiro reported that he had visited with the auditors and that the process was getting started. He had met with Mr. Becker and promised to forward a report to the board for developing a plan for the internal auditing portion of the external audit.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on June 22, and from a special meeting held on July 14, were presented for review and approval. Dr. Mitchell 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. First Reading Board Policy: JRCA – Replication of Information from a School's CCTV System

The administration requested approval on first reading for policy JRCA, which provides procedures for reproducing footage from a school's closed circuit television system. The policy provides guidelines to ensure adherence to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the policy on first reading as submitted. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Regulation Revision: IHBB-R Gifted and Talented Programs

A revision to regulations under board policy IHBB, Gifted and Talented programs, was recommended by the administration. The last revision of these guidelines was in 1999, and the recommended changes will provide additional alignment with Arkansas Department of Education rules and regulations. No vote was required, however the board was asked to provide input.

Mr. Armstrong asked Dr. Holmes to provide information regarding the expansion and inclusion of more students in the districts Gifted and Talented programs. Dr. Holmes reported that he had been reviewing the test scores, demographics, and other indicators for identification of gifted students. He expects additional enrollment of African American male students as the programs are expanded.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

A. PRE Quarterly Report – July 2011

Dr. DeJarnette provided information at the July 14 agenda meeting, and was present to respond to questions from the board. The recommendations provided in the PRE report were included in the agenda. The administration requested acceptance of the report as presented. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to accept the report; Mr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Dr. Mitchell asked that attention to factors other than the Benchmark scores be considered when making decisions and recommendations in reports to the board. She stated more work was necessary to identify the deficiencies of the students in order to address individual needs when planning and providing remedial instruction.

B. Curriculum, Instructional Staffing, Budget, Instructional Intervention Programs

Dr. Holmes presented a rigorous academic program which he described as “clear, specific and naked.” It is desired that the curriculum frameworks developed by the state become the basic requirement for developing a plan for classroom teaching in the LRSD. He stated his plan would remove all the “stuff” from the curriculum and make learning clear, concise, and lean.

Information provided in the board’s agenda was reviewed in specific detail, and Mr. Glasgow and Dr. Holmes responded to questions.

Mr. Carreiro questioned the impact on the school ACSIP plans and whether the state would accept the modifications being recommended. Mr. Glasgow responded to questions regarding consulting with the ADE and stated confidence that the board’s recommendations would be accepted by the state. The ACSIP plans are due to the ADE on October 1.

The board recessed at 7:00 p.m. The returned at 7:15.

Dr. Holmes continued reviewing recommendations for revising curriculum, staffing, budgeting and intervention programming. He explained the realignment of staff assigned directly to the associate superintendents.

Dr. Sadie Mitchell provided a review of the curriculum revisions within the reading program in the LRSD and asked Lillie Carter, principal of Pulaski Heights Elementary to provide a personal perspective on the Houghton-Mifflin curriculum resources which were recently presented at the principals’ leadership institute.

Dr. Holmes assured the board that the revisions include no new positions; staffing will be realigned from the existing employees. He also indicated that he might consider appointing a deputy superintendent at a later date, but not until the desegregation issues are settled.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the recommendations presented; Ms. Curry seconded. The motion **carried 5-0-1**, with Dr. Mitchell abstaining.

VII. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Arkansas Department of Education Grant Submission: 21st Century Community Learning Center Application

Linda Young presented a request to submit a 21st Century learning center grant for Franklin Elementary School. The 21st CCLC program would establish a learning center to provide Franklin students with before school, after school, and summer academic enrichment activities designed to support the regular academic program. The five year grant would begin in September 2011.

Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the grant submission; Mr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Pre-K Handbook Revision

Karen James presented revisions to the Pre-Kindergarten handbook for board review and approval. In accordance with Arkansas Better Chance guidelines, a parent handbook must be distributed to each family entering the pre-K program. The handbook provides information on the program requirements and specific guidelines.

Dr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the handbook as revised. Mr. Nellums seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

VIII. STUDENT SERVICES

A. 2011-2012 Student Handbook Revisions

Dr. Freddie Fields presented the recommendations for revision of the student handbook for the 2011-2012 school year. The recommendations came from building administrators and from members of the district's discipline committee.

Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the revisions to the handbook as presented. Mr. Nellums seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

IX. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

Routine general personnel changes were printed in the board's agenda. Mr. Carreiro made a motion to approve; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Dr. Mitchell requested information regarding the placement of displaced teachers. Mr. Hartz and Ms. Kovach responded to questions and explained the process of selecting or being reassigned to a vacant position.

X. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Annual School Election Polling Sites

This item was added to the board's agenda at the request of the administration. Action required a suspension of the rules. Dr. Mitchell made the motion to suspend the rules to add the item; Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

Mr. Bailey responded to questions regarding the administration's recommendation to approve a Resolution to reduce the number of polling sites in election zones where no contested races are being conducted. By eliminating polling sites in these zones, the election expenses are significantly reduced.

Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the resolution; Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

B. June 2011 Financial Statements

Mr. Bailey reported to the board and responded to questions. He noted that June financial statements would be provided during the month of August due to the close of books for the 2010-11 school year.

C. Budget Update

Mr. Bailey reported that a budget worksession would be held in late August for review of the proposed budget for the 2011-12 school year.

Mr. Carreiro requested brief information on the upcoming external auditing. Mr. Bailey reported that a preliminary schedule had been developed and initial meetings had been held. The board will be given updates as information becomes available.

XI. CLOSING REMARKS

A. Announcements & Reminders

Mr. Fox reminded the audience of the dates for registration / check in the first week of August, and a reminder that school starts on August 15th.

B. Executive Session

The board convened an executive session to discuss the development of the superintendent's contract. Mr. Armstrong made the motion; Ms. Curry seconded, and it **carried unanimously**. The board returned at 8:50 p.m. and reported no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED: 08-25-11

Originals Signed by:
Melanie Fox, President
Michael Nellums, Secretary