



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

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 18, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Little Rock School District held their regular board meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2010, in the auditorium of Parkview Magnet High School, 2501 John Barrow Road, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Charles Armstrong presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Armstrong
Melanie Fox
Jody Carreiro
Dianne Curry
Baker Kurrus
Katherine Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Daugherty

ALSO PRESENT:

Linda Watson, Superintendent
Beverly Griffin, Recorder of Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Armstrong called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Five members of the board were present at roll call; Ms. Curry arrived after roll call and Dr. Daugherty was absent. The teacher representative, Lee Etta Lewis from Baseline Elementary was also present.

II. REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Superintendent's Remarks

At the agenda meeting on March 11, Dr. Watson presented citations and recognitions to the following students and employees:

- **Nancy Rousseau**, principal at Central High School, made a presentation to Siemens Award winners **Yi Wu** and **Helio Liu**. This award is presented annually to two students from each state in the United States.
- **Dr. Vickie Logan** from Parkview Magnet High School was selected to receive the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement for Teachers. Dr. Logan was the only teacher from Arkansas to receive the award this year.

- **Michael Anda** and **Lindsey Garland**, Central High School students, recently won the Junior Varsity Debate Tournament at Harvard University. They were one of 86 teams to participate in the tournament. Michael also won 3rd place debate speaker out of all 172 debaters at the tournament. Their debate coach, **Kathleen Holladay**, was also recognized.
- The Central High School Science Bowl team recently won a two-state competition encompassing Arkansas and Oklahoma. They will go to the national Science Bowl competition in Washington, DC, in May. Team members are **Helio Liu**, **Jackson Berry**, **David Ye** and **Bob Zhao**. Their coach is **Lenora Murray**.
- Students who were named winners in the “*Lessons from the Past...Visions of the Future*” Art and Writing Contest, sponsored by the *Testimony to Tolerance Initiative* and the *Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission of Little Rock*, included middle school students from Mann Magnet Middle School: 3rd place, **Anna Wahls**, 2nd place: **Destiny Duguid**, and 1st place: **Faith Roberts**. In the high school category, the winners were 3rd place: **Brandon Word**, from J.A. Fair; 2nd place: **Patrick S. Phelan**, from Central and 1st place: **Lucy Richardson**, from Central.
- **Vicki Stroud Gonterman**, the International Studies Specialist at Gibbs Magnet School, was recently named Arkansas History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America. She has been teaching for 29 years and has been at Gibbs since 1987.
- **Duell Robbins**, Service Representative from Lifetouch National School Studios, was recognized for his company’s contribution of thousands of photographs of students for the Child Nutrition Department’s new accountability software.
- Students who were named winners in the 2010 THEA Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship Awards were recognized. Mr. **Mr. Paul Leopoulos**, Founder of the THEA Foundation, was present.

In the Visual Arts category, **Okieve Blackwood** from Hall High School won second place and a \$3,500 scholarship. **Cathleen Brignac** from Parkview Magnet High School won third place and a \$3,000 scholarship.

In the Performing Arts category, **Shannon Rookey** from Parkview won first place and a \$4,000 scholarship. **Isaiah Bailey** from Central High School won third place and a \$3,000 scholarship. **Darlane Mull** from Central won seventh place and a \$2,000 scholarship. **Brandon Nichols** and **Jeremy Grandison**, both from Parkview, won ninth and tenth places, respectively, and each won a \$2,000 scholarship.

- The JETS team and their coaches from J.A. Fair High School were recognized for winning the Division 5 JETS Team competition. The team members include **Corlin Burks**, **Andrew Culberson**, **Reginal Glenn**, **Yessica Herrera**, **Karlynn Jones**, **Khameron Jones**, **Austin Klais**, **Darreal Mems**, **Cyran Murry**, **Ebony Rose**, **Ashton Thompson**, **Donje Turner**, **Jordan Turner**, **Terrell Wainwright**, **Blake Washington** and **Jeremy Wolfe**. Team sponsors are **Nancy Klais**, **Gerald Harper**, **Dennis Jones** and **Sue Nelson**.

- Certificates of appreciation were presented to the ex officio representatives for the month of March, **Ms. Lee Etta Lewis**, teacher from Baseline Elementary, and **Tyneshia Hill**, student from Hall High School.

B. Partners in Education

Ms. Milam introduced two new school and business partnerships for the board's review and approval. Present were:

- **Longley Baptist Church**, represented by *Pastor Dwight Townsend* and *Johnny Parks*, in partnership with **Cloverdale Middle School**, represented by *Principal Willie Vinson*
- **New Millennium Church**, represented by *Pastor Wendell Griffen*, *Joyce Williams*, and *Suzette Cannon*, in partnership with **Bale Elementary School**, represented by *Principal Barbara Anderson*, *LaQuita Bennett*, and *Pamela Lewis*

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the partnerships. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Remarks from Citizens

None.

D. Little Rock PTA Council

No remarks.

E. Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association

No remarks.

F. Donations of Property

The board was asked to approve the receipt of recent donations to the district. The teacher ex officio, Lee Etta Lewis, read the list of donations. Ms. Curry made a motion to approve the donations; Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

DONATIONS

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
J. A. Fair High School	\$350 donation to the baseball program activity fund	Telcoe Federal Credit Union
	\$150 donation to the baseball program activity fund	TLM – Otter Creek, McDonalds of Otter Creek
	\$350 donation to the baseball program activity fund	Turner Holdings, LLD, dba Turner Dairies, Coleman Dairy

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DONOR
Mann Magnet Middle School	Two grants for Maurice Guest and the H2O Club, \$10,000 on December 11, 2009 and \$1,500 additional on January 28, 2010	Connie Fells / Clinton Foundation, Inc.
LRSD Computers for Kids Program	\$2,000 check to support Computers for Kids	LR Public Education Foundation on behalf of Bank of America
LRSD Special Programs	Five plinth tables, valued at \$250 each, a full body whirlpool with Chair, valued at \$1,500, exercise equipment for knee flexion/extension with weights valued at \$500	Advanced Physical Therapy of North Little Rock

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Remarks from Board Members

Ms. Curry congratulated McClellan High School for hosting a successful *Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG)* program. She reported that Martin L. King, III, attended the conference and addressed students from across the state of Arkansas.

Ms. Lewis, ex officio representative, thanked the Board and Dr. Watson for giving her the opportunity to serve. She also expressed appreciation to Principal Eleanor Cox for selecting her to represent Baseline Elementary.

Mr. Carreiro congratulated the McClellan Lions and the Hall High Warriors for their state basketball championships.

Dr. Mitchell congratulated the coordinators of the Parent Institute which was held on Saturday, March 13. She also expressed appreciation to St. Mark Baptist Church for allowing the LRSD to hold the institute there. She commended the participants and general session speakers.

Mr. Kurrus reported that he was present in Hot Springs for the Hall High School championship game. He noted that Central was within one point of also going to the championship, and he commended McClellan, Fair and Central on their successful seasons.

Mr. Armstrong also congratulated Hall and McClellan for their championship wins. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Booth and the Parkview staff for allowing the board to use the school auditorium for this meeting.

B. Budget Update

No report.

C. Internal Auditors Report

Mr. Becker's report was provided as part of the board's agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Minutes

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on February 25, and from a special meeting held on March 11, were presented for the board's review and approval. Dr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Fox seconded the motion, and it **carried unanimously**.

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A. Family and Consumer Science Education and Technical and Professional Education Textbook Adoption

The district's Family and Consumer Science (FACS) and Professional and Technical Education committee began the textbook review and selection process in December 2009. The committee completed the process in February after a thorough review of all textbooks, software and supplemental materials. The board was asked to review the recommendation and approve the selections of the committee. Carol Green was present to respond to questions.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the selections presented. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

B. Grant Proposal – US Department of Education: Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Grant

The administration requested approval to submit an *Improving Literacy Through School Libraries* federal grant application. The proposal would provide up to \$300,000 for six school libraries: Hall and J. A. Fair High Schools, Henderson Middle School, and Baseline, Booker and Carver Elementary Schools. These schools were targeted by virtue of the age of the current library collections, the school's poverty level and the students' literacy achievement.

The proposal will focus on four key areas: 1) updating library collections and materials, 2) acquiring advanced technology for school library media centers, 3) providing professional development for library media specialists, and 4) increasing access to school library media centers.

Ms. Fox moved approval to submit the grant. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously**.

C. Grant Proposal – US Department of Education: School Leadership Program

The administration requested approval to submit a grant to the US Department of Education School Leadership Program. This grant would provide between \$500,000 and \$750,000 per year for up to five years, and would support and assist in retaining principals by providing

coaching and other professional development activities. The goal of the grant program is to ensure that schools are lead by individuals who are prepared to meet the demands of the principalship. Linda Young was present to respond to questions.

Dr. Mitchell moved approval to submit the grant application. Ms. Fox seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously.**

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Personnel Changes

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

B. School Calendar – 2010-2011

The 2010 – 2011 school year calendar was presented for the board's review and approval. Mr. Hartz responded to questions. Ms. Fox moved to approve the calendar. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously.**

VII. FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A. Meal Price Increase – Adult Breakfast

The administration submitted a request for board approval of an increase from \$1.50 to \$1.75 for adult breakfast in school cafeterias. The district's school nutrition program receives varying amounts of reimbursement for each student meal served. However, no reimbursement is made for the preparation of adult meals. Ms. Fox moved to approve the administration's recommendation. Ms. Curry seconded the motion and it **carried unanimously.**

B. Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial reports were provided for the boards review as part of their agenda. Mr. Bailey was present to respond to questions. No action was required.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m. A public forum on the Strategic Plan was held immediately following the meeting.

APPROVED: 04-22-10

Originals Signed by:
Charles Armstrong, President
Jody Carriero, Secretary