

RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Pulaski County Special School District was held at 925 East Dixon Road on the 10th day of February, 2009. The following business was transacted:

Opening
2/10/09

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Shana Chaplin, Mr. Tim Clark, Mr. Danny Gililand, Mrs. Mildred Tatum, Mr. Bill Vasquez, Ms. Gwen Williams, Mr. Charlie Wood, and Superintendent James R. Sharpe.

Absent: None

Angela McCaster, a senior at Oak Grove High School, served as the student board member.

Maumelle Middle School Choir performed the National Anthem.

A moment of silence was observed for quiet reflection. Mrs. Tatum asked to remember the Owens family who lost a father and son in a fire this past week. The son was a student at College Station Elementary School.

**Special
Recognition**
2/10/09

Appreciation
Plaque

Pastor Rod Loy, First Assembly of God Church in North Little Rock, was presented a plaque by Superintendent Sharpe in appreciation for allowing Clinton Elementary School the use of the church's facilities during the recent roof repair of Clinton Elementary School. Pastor Patrick Lander accepted the plaque on behalf of Pastor Loy.

Certificate of
Achievement

KeDarius Washington, a fourth grade student at Jacksonville Elementary School, was presented a Certificate of Achievement for winning first place for fourth grade in the Elk Drug Awareness Contest. He won first place in the state competition, and his entry will be entered in the Elk's Drug Awareness National Contest.

Suspension of
Rules

Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, suspension of the rules to reaffirm the construction of the new Maumelle/Oak Grove High School and Sylvan Hills Middle School. The motion carried.

Mr. Clark read a resolution and confirmed that every board member had received a copy of the resolution. The resolution stated that the District authorized Stephens Inc., as fiscal agent for the District, to file an application with the State Board of Education to issue second lien bonds in the estimated amount of \$81,365,000 for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new high school in Maumelle. Mr. Wood asked Mr. O'Briant, Chief Financial Officer, to explain so the people of Sherwood would know why they were not specifically named in the resolution for the construction of the new Sylvan Hills Middle School. Mr. O'Briant explained that when these two schools were voted on to be built two years ago, the District felt that both could be built in the range of approximately \$80,000,000 since Maumelle Middle School had been built for approximately \$18,000,000. He said at that time they

thought with one bond resolution and issuing second lien bonds, this would be possible. He stated that with the escalation of the price of construction, a decision was made to do the ground work and proceed to build the Maumelle/Oak Grove High School and follow-up with the Sylvan Hills Middle School. He said they discovered that out of the general revenues that it would not be possible to build both schools. Mr. O'Briant said that ideally what would happen in the next year that the climate of the District would change in such a way that a millage would be passed, not only to complete the Sylvan Hills Middle School but help the District pay for the Maumelle/Oak Grove High School. Mr. O'Briant said he hated that a decision had to be made and Maumelle/Oak Grove High School was given the priority to be built and the Sylvan Hills Middle School would have to be put off for at least a year. Mr. Wood stated that he did not understand this explanation and it was his understanding that the only hold up for the delay was with the architect's plans. He asked who made the decision to slow down the plans to build the Sylvan Hills Middle School. Several Board members voiced concerns regarding the cost of building these two schools and suggested a delay in making a decision until after the board workshop to review the budget. Mr. Sharpe said no one had informed the architects to slow down on the plans; that the building of the Maumelle/Oak Grove High School was a priority on the Facility Plan and that the ground work had been started before the Sylvan Hills Middle School. He said it was a reality when this was decided that the District could afford to build both schools with the \$81,000,000, but the escalation of the cost of the Maumelle/Oak Grove School had eroded the funds to build the Sylvan Hills Middle School. He stated that the District could not afford the \$5.6 million payment annually to pay off the \$81,000,000 starting in 2010 as projected. Mr. Wood stated he had never been in on any discussion regarding this decision and wanted to know who made the decision. Mr. Sharpe asked Mr. Wood if he recalled a conversation held in Mr. O'Briant's office and that I told you at that time we were torn with the idea of throwing some what ifs around; that we could comfortably build the Sylvan Hills Middle School first and then come back to the Maumelle/Oak Grove High School. Mr. Wood stated that was exactly what was told him, which would give him a reasonable expectation that the District could go full speed ahead. Mr. Sharpe stated he had no authorization to do that, it was just a what if after getting the report from Mr. O'Briant which showed the amount of money the District had. Mr. Sharpe stated that in the Board workshop last Friday that Mr. O'Briant did not talk about that conversation, but he stated under our current conditions we can only issue second lien bonds which will generate \$81,000,000, and as the Chief Financial Officer, he was not even comfortable doing that, because he could not project out with any reasonable certainty that in the third year the District would be able to make the payment. Mr. Sharpe stated that was the only formal Board conversation that has been held.

Mr. Clark stated that it was up to the Board to make sure that the construction was as cost efficient as possible, and that he would take it upon himself to make sure the Maumelle/Oak Grove High School will be as good and inexpensive as possible. Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to initiate the construction immediately based on the construction plans for the new Maumelle/Oak Grove High School.

A roll call was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Vasquez, Williams, Wood

No: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum

The motion carried.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Ms. Williams to continue plans for the construction of the new Sylvan Hills Middle School as indicated in the Ten-Year Plan on the same time schedule as the Maumelle/Oak Grove High School.

A roll call was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Vasquez, Williams, Wood

No: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum

The motion carried.

Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to adopt the resolution as previously read. Mr. Wood asked to amend the resolution to include the new Sylvan Hills Middle School. This was accepted by Mr. Clark. (see attached resolution)

A roll call was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Vasquez, Williams, Wood

No: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum

The motion carried.

Public Comments

2/10/09

Presentation of
Presidential
Inauguration

Ms. Lori Lachowsky and a group of students from the Jacksonville High School AP Government class gave a PowerPoint presentation of their recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the Presidential Inauguration.

Jacksonville Middle
Schools Merger

A group of parents, faculty, students and patrons from the Jacksonville community presented their concerns regarding the merger of the two middle schools in Jacksonville. This group was in favor of keeping the Jacksonville Middle School Girls and Jacksonville Middle School Boys separate. The group included: Keith Straughn, Ron Lewis, Sharon Hawk, Quyuci Williams-Joyner, State Representative Mark Perry, Ricky

Brown, Keelon Carthron, Marty Moore, Lynn Seaton, Mary Spann, Carl Phillips, Lovina Robertson, and Michael Nellums.

Bats at Sherwood Elementary

A group of parents, faculty, students and patrons from the Sherwood community addressed the Board with their concerns regarding the colony of bats in Sherwood Elementary School and the unsafe conditions of the staff and students. This group included: Brad Lawrence, Susie Laurence Boaz, Erica Miller, Octavia Ashford, Reid Altom, Travis Holmes, Christi Hall, and Rhoda Dussex. Mr. James Warren, Executive Director of Support Services and Mr. Jack Lemmer, Maintenance Supervisor, presented an update and detailed report on the status of what was being done to eliminate this problem.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, complimented the Maumelle Middle School Choir, congratulated KeDarius Washington from Jacksonville Elementary School and his teacher, and commended Ms. Lori Lachowsky and her students regarding the trip to Washington, D.C. She gave condolences to the Owens family and to the family of Melissa Skrdlant, a teacher at Tolleson Elementary School, who recently died. Ms. Nix stated that PACT invited everyone to participate in the Read Across America on March 2nd sponsored by NEA. She said that the PACT Friend of Education Award was presented to Mr. David Hendricks for his leadership and actions he has given to PACT, teachers and students of the District. She spoke on the condition of Sherwood Elementary and voiced her concern for the health and safety of the students and the faculty. Ms. Nix stated that under a provision in the contract that she was notifying Mr. Sharpe of a potential group grievance for unsafe working conditions at Sherwood Elementary. Ms. Nix said there were several GradeQuick/EdLine concerns at Mills University Studies High School regarding evaluations and grades, and that she was notifying Mr. Sharpe of a potential group grievance. She said there were several concerns regarding the catheterization issue and the District needed to be sure they were not allowing personnel to do what they were not licensed to do. She thanked Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Clark for the interest they have shown in solving several serious issues at Mills University Studies High School. She asked support for the adoption of the 403(b) Plan and requested if the adoption of the 2009-2010 calendar was approved, to approve it with flexibility for negotiations especially regarding parent/teacher conferences. Ms. Nix questioned the action of combining the Jacksonville Middle Schools.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, congratulated Mr. Clark on his position as president. He thanked the Board for approving the contract and thanked Ms. Coley for her help in the negotiations of the contract. He asked for support and approval of the 403(b) Plan. He thanked Mr. Wood for his vote for the PASS contract.

ODM, Joshua
and Knight
Intervenors,
PCSSD Equity/
Pupil Services

No representative from ODM, Joshua and Knight Intervenors, or PCSSD Equity and Pupil Services expressed a desire to address the Board.

Minutes
2/10/09

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2009 regular school board meeting, and January 23, 2009 special board meeting. Mr. Gililand asked for a correction in the January 23, 2009 to verify that he attended the meeting. The motion carried.

Reports
2/10/09

Elementary Racial
/Gender Report

The Elementary Racial/Gender Report was presented by Mrs. Rhonda Harnish, Director of Elementary Education.

Secondary Race/
Racial Isolation
Report

The Secondary Race/Racial Isolation Report was presented by Mr. Bill Barnes, Director of Secondary Education.

Mrs. Chaplin and Mr. Vasquez requested a report with an ethnic race breakdown for each school at the next board meeting.

First Semester
Discipline Report
Summary
2008-2009

The First Semester Discipline Report Summary 2008-2009 was presented by Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Pupil Services.

Hiring and
Deployment
Report

The Hiring and Deployment Report was presented by Ms. Deborah Coley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Scholastic Audit
Report –
(Mills and NPHS)

Dr. Beverly Ruthven, Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services, and Bill Barnes, Director of Secondary Education, presented a report on the Scholastic Audit for Mills University Studies High School and North Pulaski High School.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to suspend the rules to give the department an aye or nay regarding the decision of the schedules requested by Learning Services.

A roll call was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum, Clark
No: Vasquez, Williams, Wood

The motion failed for lack of five votes.

Mr. Gililand stated that the Board had to give direction and leadership to the administrators of education. Mrs. Tatum

moved, seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the report. The motion carried.

Tracy Allen, Principal at North Pulaski High School, and Janice Haynes, Principal at Mills University Studies High School, gave a detailed progress report on the standards required by the

Scholastic Audit. Mr. Gililand asked if principals from each school would be giving a monthly progress report regarding the Scholastic Audit. He said that this information regarding what was going on in our schools was the most critical and beneficial information that had been presented at this meeting.

Old Business

2/10/09

Revision of Board Policy GCCBG – Second Reading

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to revise board policy GCCBG, Administrative Staff Attendance Incentive. Second reading. The motion carried with noted revisions.

New Business

2/10/09

Adoption of 403(b) Plan

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the adoption of the 403(b) Plan. The motion carried. Mrs. Tatum and Mrs. Chaplin voted no.

Approval of 2009-2110 School Calendar

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar with the provision of flexibility in parent teacher conference days and professional development days. The motion carried. Mrs. Tatum voted no.

Approval to Combine Middle Schools in Jacksonville

Superintendent Sharpe requested this item be tabled. Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval to combine the Jacksonville Middle School Girls and the Jacksonville Middle School Boys. After a lengthy discussion and comments by Board members a roll call was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Vasquez, Williams, Wood

No: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum

The motion carried.

Adoption of Board Policy IAA – First Reading

Adoption of board policy IAA, Planning for Educational Improvement. First reading – no action required.

Revision of Board Policy IG – First Reading

Approval of revision of board policy IG, Curriculum Development/Adoption/Review. First reading – no action required.

Revision of Board Policy JLCB – First Reading

Approval of revision of board policy JLCB, Immunization of Students. First reading – no action required.

Revision of Board Policy JLF-E – First Reading	Approval of revision of board policy JLF-E, Child Abuse Report Form. First reading – no action required.
Board Development Workshop	Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Gililland, consent for the Board to hold a Development Workshop. The motion carried.
Revision of Board Policy IKE – First Reading	Approval of revision of board policy IKE, Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students. First reading – no action required.

**Board Member
Comments**

2/10/09

Mr. Gililland said that he attended the All State Band tryouts and congratulated North Pulaski High School, Sylvan Hills High School, and Mills University Studies on making all-state. He complimented the Mills Orchestra Concert and Rock Orchestra Concert on their outstanding performance and encouraged everyone to attend their Formal Concert in May at the Clinton Center. He announced that North Pulaski High School would hold a Food Festival and the play "Fame" on Friday, February 13th and encouraged all to attend. He stated he was very pleased to see a room full of people at the board meeting and encouraged input from the parents and the public. He thanked the principals for attending the board meetings. Mr. Gililland gave his condolence for Mrs. Skrdlant's family. He wished Mr. Clark a happy birthday. He reiterated a comment made by a teacher regarding the conduct of the Board, and stated he hoped the upcoming workshop will build the team back because it is difficult to operate a District when we cannot operate as a Board. Mr. Gililland stated that decisions that are made are made as a Board, and was disappointed regarding some of the decisions made at this meeting, because he did not feel it was for the betterment of the children and their education, but for the betterment of the adults of this District.

Mrs. Chaplin congratulated Esther Park, a seventh grader at Robinson Middle School, who won the Pulaski County Scripps Howard Spelling Bee for the Tri-district area. She stated it had always been important for her to be respectful of her fellow board members, the union representatives, parents and administrators, however, this respect was not always reciprocated and that saddened her a great deal for the District. She said that tonight there had been evidence of this issue again and felt it was sad when students were present to witness it, and then wonder why we have discipline problems or disrespectful youth in our schools. She clarified that she supported building schools, that her zone had fought for 15 years to have their new school built, but the expense of \$80,000,000 was not something she could vote to support. She stated she was very concerned about the plans; that she could support the building if it was about half that cost. She stated that she did support building schools, but was concern-

ed about the cost and the fiscal condition of the District. Mrs. Chaplin stated that as the District continues to address the Scholastic Audits she hopes that we will give weight to those words; that it is obvious there are things we will not want to hear or do. She stated that Dr. James and the Department of Education had made it clear about shutting down or taking over school districts and that Dr. James at a conference had stated that he was under pressure to not continue to let the large school districts slide. She said she took this as a notice. Mrs. Chaplin stated that she hopes that the board could get together and work to put the education of the students first. She said that planning time seemed like a simple thing to do and most of the teachers she had spoken with supported this, and she hoped this would not be a roadblock. She said there was too much evidence when talking about data driven issues, that this is a national issue that has national data that has shown success. She stated that Bayou Meto Elementary has shown incredible success with that model, and it should not be too much to ask for adults to give their professional time to come together to talk about how students are learning and what they need to do. She said she is concerned that we are either professionals or hourly wage employees, and addressed this concern to Ms. Nix. She stated the collaboration issue was her biggest concern and hoped the District could get past this for the benefit of our kids.

Ms. Williams thanked Mr. Chesterfield for the corsage for her promotion with her job. She asked for everyone to keep her sister who will have cancer surgery in their prayers.

Mr. Vasquez congratulated KeDarius Washington and complimented Ms. Lori Lachowsky and her class on the presentation of their trip to the inauguration. He stated that the students and those that attended the inauguration were still buzzing about this historical event, and thanked the District for allowing this trip. He informed the Board that Mr. Tillman, a frequent and concerned patron of the board meetings, had undergone knee surgery.

Mr. Wood stated that the issue of the bats at Sherwood Elementary School had not been ignored. He said that Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Warren acted quickly in taking care of getting rid of the bats. He said that he had been assured by Mr. Sharpe that if the problem had not gone away, it would be recommended to pull the students out of the school. Mr. Wood said that he and Mr. Gililand over the last few months had received complaints regarding the roof at Cato Elementary School. Mr. Warren stated that portable buildings would be there the next day (February 11) if the weather permitted.

Mrs. Tatum thanked Anita Farver, Director of Professional Development/Federal Programs, on the outcome of the Title I Parent Meeting. She stated there were over a hundred parents that attended the meeting and complimented Mrs. Farver on her enthusiasm; and said that if you needed to know anything about Federal Programs, this was the person

to ask. Mrs. Tatum thanked LaJuana Green, Director of Counseling, for her part in the program. She invited everyone to come out to the Title I meetings and see what was being done in those schools. She stated that she had requested money for funding in those schools.

Mr. Clark thanked everyone for attending the board meeting. He stated this was probably the hardest job anyone could ask for, he said there were times he regretted it, but when he went home and saw his children and went into the school rooms and saw the students, it made him feel very proud he was part of such a great district. He thanked the Board for voting for the new school and that they could appreciate the severity of the need for a new school at Maumelle and to realize the importance of building new schools. Mr. Clark said that as Board members we cannot be true to ourselves at times and he is saddened by that. He stated that we all need to buck up and realize what we are here to do. This would make some people mad, but you are doing what you think is right and that is why you won the election. He thanked everyone for their support.

**Superintendent's
Report**
2/10/09

Mr. Sharpe wished Mr. Clark a happy birthday. He said we all make decisions and recommendations that we feel in our hearts and he could not say enough for the administration in our District and how hard they work. He told Mrs. Tatum how much he appreciated her comments about Mrs. Farver being an expert in her area. He stated there were many experts on our administrative team; that there is no one that outworks our Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Ruthven. He said we all have passions about what we believe, but we must have some civility about us and respect for others. He said he hoped that out of the upcoming board workshops that we come together and have some civility for the way we behave and exhibit the behavior for the District. Mr. Sharpe stated that along with Bruce Owens and Mrs. Skrdlant, the District has lost several loved ones since the last board meeting. He expressed condolences for Ed Dunn, husband of former school board member and teacher Cheryl Dunn, and Linda Johnston, former registrar at Sylvan Hills High School. Mr. Sharpe said when we look at the Scholastic Audits it gives the District a lot of opportunities. He stated that not only Pulaski County, but all school districts now are having to make a paradigm shift in the way in which we think and look at education. He said that those who do not make the bold move to make tough decisions with respect to what is going on in education will be left behind and our kids will be left behind. Mr. Sharpe stated he does not look at the audits as being critical, but he looks at them as opportunities to move forward so we will be competitive with respect to our students in academic achievement.

Mr. Clark announced Pine Forest Elementary would be presenting the musical "Annie".

Consent Agenda

2/10/09

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Those items included:

- expulsions
- personnel
- the bills for payment
- award of bids
- financial report

Executive Session

2/10/09

Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to go into executive session to discuss a potential pay increase for the Superintendent. The motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 11:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:20 p.m. Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to give the Superintendent a 1.66% raise retroactive to July 1, 2008. The motion carried.

Hearings

2/10/09

Student – Closed

A recommendation was presented for the expulsion of a 10th grade male student at the PCSSD Learning Academy. The student was charged with violation of Rule #2, #5, #30 and #42 of the Student Handbook; defiant behavior, profanity, disorderly conduct and terroristic threatening. The Hearing Officer recommended expulsion of the student for the remainder of the school year. Henry Osterloh served as the hearing officer at the board meeting.

At the request of the student, the Board conducted the hearing in closed session.

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. The motion carried. Mr. Wood voted no.

Student – Closed

Dr. Bowles informed the Board that the hearing for the 10th grade female student from Mills University Studies High School had been cancelled. She stated the student had decided to withdraw her appeal and accept the recommendation of the Hearing Office to be assigned to the PCSSD Learning Academy for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year. Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin, to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. The motion carried.

Student – Closed

Dr. Bowles informed the Board that the hearing for the 9th grade male student from Jacksonville High School had been rescinded.

After the final hearing, all actions taken during the closed hearings were affirmed in open session.

Adjournment

2/10/09

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary