

RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Pulaski County Special School District was held at 925 East Dixon Road on the 3rd day of March, 2009. The following business was transacted:

Opening
3/3/09

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 7:50 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

Mr. Clark stated that certain citizens of Maumelle had submitted a petition requesting a special meeting. He informed the public that this meeting was to listen to comments and no vote would be taken at the meeting. He welcomed Mayor Virginia Hillman of Sherwood and Mayor Mike Watson of Maumelle and thanked them for attending the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting included:

- The impact upon student retention in PCSSD of the Board's decision to build a replacement for Oak Grove High School
- Potential financial benefits and other reasons to proceed with the building of a replacement for Oak High School immediately
- Response to the arguments expected by Jacksonville petitioners against proceeding with the issuance of the funding for the building of a replacement for Oak Grove High School

Mr. Clark stated that the citizens of Maumelle had agreed to give Sherwood 15 minutes of their allotted 40 minutes to speak regarding their concerns of the construction of the Sylvan Hills Middle Schools.

Gene Manfredini expressed his concerns and asked for an action sheet with information of who was the architect, what prep work had been done, and plans for construction. He asked for the Board to give the architect authorization to proceed with the plans for the construction of the Sylvan Hills Middle School. Another concern was when would there be a ground breaking ceremony for Sylvan Hills Middle School.

Kris Smith, band director at Sylvan Hills Middle School, stated that part of her job was recruitment of students to the band program. She said that she had observed a loss of students to the program because they were choosing to attend other schools due to the condition of the facilities at Sylvan Hills Middle School.

Pam Roberts spoke in favor of building the new Maumelle/Oak Grove High School. Her concerns were how many students were being lost at Oak Grove High School due to the poor condition of the facility; and the rapid growth in Maumelle with no school to accommodate this growth. She stated that

new schools could pay for themselves with funds due to increase in student enrollment.

Allison Almond spoke on behalf of the citizens of Maumelle. She thanked the mayor and city council for all their hard work; and thanked board members, Mr. Wood, Mr. Vasquez, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Clark for passing the vote to go forward with the construction of the new school. She reiterated comments made by Ms. Roberts regarding that keeping the students in our district would pay for the new school.

Mayor Mike Watson expressed his thanks to the Board for their support of the construction of the new school to replace Oak Grove High School. He requested the Board permit the construction of the new high school in Maumelle to continue as scheduled to open in August 2011.

Ms. Williams voiced her support of the new schools being built.

Mr. Gililand stated that he was in support of building new schools, but wanted to know that the District was able to afford them.

Mr. Wood said that no matter what has been inferred, the motion at the last meeting was that the resolution stated both the Maumelle/Oak High School and the Sylvan Hills Middle School would go forward on the same time schedule.

Mrs. Chaplin stated that she was in support of building new schools, but wanted to wait until the budget was reviewed at the upcoming workshop to receive hard data.

Mr. Clark thanked everyone for coming out tonight and for their input. He stated he did not want just a school, but one that the District would be proud of. He thanked Mr. Wood, Mr. Vasquez, and Ms. Williams for passing the motion for the new school.

Adjournment

3/3/09

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary