

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 March, 2009. The following business was transacted:

Opening 3/10/09

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

Shelby Turpin, Sylvan Hills High School, served as the student board member.

Sylvan Hills High School Band members Cassandra Travalle, Natalie Kerr, Katherine Thompson and Chris Owen performed the National Anthem.

Mr. Clark welcomed Col. Greg Otey, 19th Airlift Wing Commander from the Little Rock Air Force Base, to the board meeting.

Special Recognition 3/10/09

Certificates of Achievement

Certificates of Achievement were presented to winners of the Arkansas Stock Market Game at Maumelle Middle School. The winners were: Clayton Riding and Aaron Woodall, 1st place; Abigail Gatmaitan and Reagan Rucker, 2nd place.

Good Apple Award

Darrel McField, Band Director at Jacksonville High School, was presented the Good Apple Award.

Presentation

Dr. Kim Truslow, Principal at Robinson Elementary School, introduced winners of the Black History month and each student presented their entry. She invited everyone to view the students' display in the lobby. The presenting students were: Tina Lee, Johanna Young, Katie Boyle, Evan Chair, Corrie Wolfe, Brandon Hudson, Samiah Woods, Savannah Clements, Sarah Allison, Jeremiah Toney, Leah Gilbert and Evan Boyle.

Public Comments 3/10/09

Ivory Tillman from Jacksonville approached the Board for allowing a flyer to be distributed at the meeting which contained malicious information.

Michael Nellums, principal at Jacksonville Middle School Boys, voiced his concerns regarding the combining of the middle schools in Jacksonville.

Reid Altom, speech pathologist at Sherwood Elementary, requested funding from the Board for the Odyssey of the Mind team at Sherwood Elementary to go to national if they win state.

Tiffany Greene, a parent from the McAlmont community,

presented a petition requesting the Board to replace the aging and dilapidated Harris Elementary School and stated concerns that Jacksonville be allowed to do with their Boys and Girls schools as their community sees fit. The petition stated that replacing Harris Elementary should be the top priority and not building new schools in other areas. She stated that the community is concerned about the poorest, minority student area in the District being left out of the new building process.

Ms. McClurg, a parent from Jacksonville, congratulated the coaches and the basketball team for going to state.

Rizelle Aaron, a parent from Jacksonville, voiced his concerns regarding the division of the board members and their actions.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, and PACT's executive committee recognized Mr. Joe Murawlski as receiving the PACT Friend of Education Award. Mr. Murawlski was nominated by Pine Forest Elementary School. She thanked those who participated in the NEA Read Across America. She requested items #1 and #2 in old business be tabled, and asked that the policies be presented to the IMS Committee for input. She stated PACT signed an MOU last week concerning the timeline of combining the Jacksonville Middle Schools. Ms. Nix asked the Board to approve new business item number #10 so the implementation of combining the schools could move forward. She requested support of new business item #9 regarding an arbitrator, and handed out a list of all arbitrations pending decisions. She said she was concerned about new business #8 regarding the master schedules for secondary schools. She said that Fuller Middle School, North Pulaski High School, Sylvan Hills Middle School, and Sylvan Hills High School had received notification that they were not being recognized as Site Based Decision Making Schools and questioned this decision made by the administration. Ms. Nix stated that she had minutes from Fuller, Sylvan Hills Middle, and Sylvan Hills High schools verifying they had the six required meetings during the school year, and said she could obtain the minutes from North Pulaski High School. She asked the administration to rescind this memo. Ms. Nix questioned why an employee had not been paid for services. Mr. Sharpe was asked by the Board to meet with PACT to resolve these grievances.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, stated he did not wish to address the Board.

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.

Activity Funds

The Board addressed questions regarding activity funds being used to fund field trips such as requested by Mr. Altom for the Odyssey of the Mind trip. Mrs. Chaplin stated that she still had not been given reports by the principals at each school showing balances of the activity fund accounts. She recom-

mended each school to present a report at their next PTA meeting and for these reports to be available to the board members at the next board meeting. The Board did not agree to fund the trip requested by Mr. Altom, and requested him to see if there was funding available in the activity fund at Sherwood Elementary School.

New Business

Jacksonville
Amended
Resolution

Mr. Sharpe asked the Board to suspend the rules in order to address new business item #11.

Mrs. Chaplin moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, suspension of the rules to address new business item #11. The motion carried.

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to table the proposed amended resolution respecting second lien bonds and Jacksonville area tax base. After a lengthy discussion regarding the legality of the amended resolution; Mrs. Tatum called for the question.

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Williams, Wood, Clark

No: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum, Vasquez

The motion failed.

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve the proposed amended resolution respecting second lien bonds and Jacksonville area tax base. (See attached resolution)

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum, Vasquez

No: Williams, Wood, Clark

The motion carried.

Minutes

3/10/09

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin, approval of the minutes of the February 10, 2009 regular school board meeting. Mr. Vasquez requested a change. The motion carried with noted correction.

Mr. Gililand stated he wanted to make a public apology regarding comments he made at the last board meeting.

Reports

3/10/09

Second Semester
Student Assign-
ment Report

The Second Semester Student Assignment Report 2008-2009 was presented by Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Pupil Services.

2008-2009
Scholastic Audit
Reports

June Haynie, Principal at Robinson High School, and Danny Ebbs, Principal at Sylvan Hills High School, presented solutions

regarding deficiencies reported in the Scholastic Audit for their schools.

Old Business

3/10/09

Adoption of Board
Policy IAA / Second
Reading

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval to adopt board policy IAA, Planning for Educational Improvement. Mrs. Tatum requested to amend the policy with site based added in the second paragraph between parent and community. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Gililand asked Mrs. Tatum to accept a friendly amendment to allow the IMS Committee to look at this policy before approving. Mrs. Tatum agreed. Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to table this item.

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum, Vasquez, Williams,
Wood, and Clark

The motion carried.

Revision of Board
Policy IG / Second
Reading

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval to table revision of board policy IG, Curriculum Development/Adoption/Review. The motion carried.

Revision of Board
Policy IKE/
Second Reading

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of revision of board policy IKE, Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students. The motion carried.

Revision of Board
Policy JLCB/
Second Reading

Mrs. Chaplin moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of revision of board policy JLCB, Immunization of Students. The motion carried.

Revision of Board
Policy JLF-E/
Second Reading

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin, approval of revision of board policy JLF-E, Child Abuse Report Form. The motion carried.

New Business

3/10/09

Revision of Board
Policies IJJ, IJJ-R,
IJJ-E/ First Reading

Approval of revision of board policies IJJ, IJJ-R, and IJJ-E, Textbook Selection and Adoption. First reading – no action required.

Revision of Board
Policies IJL, IJL-R,
IJL-E /First Reading

Approval of revision of board policies IJL, IJL-R, and IJL-E, Library/Media Center Materials. First reading – no action required.

Revision of Board
Policy JEA /
First Reading

Approval of revision of board policy JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages. First reading – no action required.

Revision of Board
Policy JEB /
First Reading

Approval of revision of board policy JEB, Entrance Age Requirements. First reading – no action required.

Revision of Board Policies JLCC/ First Reading	Approval of revision of board policy JLCC, Communicable/ Infectious Diseases. First reading – no action required.
Revision of Board Policies JLCC-R – First Reading	Approval of revision of board policy JLCC-R, Communicable Diseases (HIV Infection AIDS). First reading – no action required.
Revision of Board Policies JLCE/ First Reading	Approval of revision of board policy JLCE, First Aid. First reading – no action required.
Master Schedules Secondary Schools	Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval that the District administration will strictly follow State Law, School Board Policy and the PACT PNA supporting the implementation of decisions made by the Site Council of each site based decision making school. The motion carried.
Arbitration with PACT	Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval to continue to use the services of Arbitrator John Barnard in all PACT Level III arbitration cases. After discussion, Mr. Vasquez withdrew his second to the motion. The motion died for lack of second.
Timeline for Staffing Combined Jacksonville Middle School	Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval that the principal of the combined Jacksonville Middle School is named no later than March 17 th and that the PACT PNA MOU specifying the timeline for staffing the combined Jacksonville Middle School is followed.

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Vasquez, Williams, Wood, Clark

No: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum

The motion carried.

**Board Member
Comments**

3/10/09

Mr. Vasquez stated that Jacksonville Red Devils would be going to state. He commended Shelby Turpin as being a wonderful example of what our school system could produce. He complimented the winners in the Stock Market Game, the students' presentation on Black History month, and accolades for the band director from Jacksonville High School. He stated he had no idea where the handout referred to by Mr. Tillman came from. He commented on the atmosphere in Jacksonville regarding the middle schools, separation from the District, and the condition of Harris Elementary referred to by Ms. Green. He thanked Mr. Warren and staff for the hard work they did in the District. He reiterated comments made by Mr. Aaron regarding the atmosphere of the Board. Mr. Vasquez thanked the principals for doing a great job and complimented Sylvan Hills High School especially regarding discipline. He

congratulated North Pulaski High School, but said he would not steal the thunder from Mr. Gililand.

Ms. Williams congratulated North Pulaski High School and Jacksonville Red Devils. She thanked Mr. Clark and the citizens of Maumelle for the invitation to the reception for Oak Grove High School and for his donation to the District. She asked Mr. Sharpe and the administration to look at putting the sixth graders back at Harris and possibly at Bayou Meto and College Station due to comments from parents stating their children as sixth graders are not ready, mentally or physically, for the concept of middle school. Ms. Williams agreed with Mr. Vasquez regarding the atmosphere of the Board. She stated it had taken a toll on her, and told the media if information was printed about her, make sure the facts were correct. She stated she had not taken bribes; that the group Mr. Nellums previously was on had given her \$500, and another individual had contributed \$300. She stated to Ms. Green that she never put her schools on the back burner, and that she worked hard for her zone.

Mrs. Chaplin said she was proud of all the schools during Black History month and apologized for not being able to attend all events she was invited to. She thanked Dr. Fitz Hill, President of Arkansas Baptist College, for speaking and motivating students across the District. She congratulated Esther Park, a seventh grader at Robinson Middle School, winner of the state spelling bee. Mrs. Chaplin said she was proud of the international community which resides in her area and celebrated this being a unique opportunity for the students and the District. She congratulated Robinson Middle and High school's East Lab for their superior ratings for the second consecutive year. She stated she was looking forward to the board workshop; and reiterated comments regarding the relationship of the board. She thanked parents for their participation in meetings. Mrs. Chaplin stated she was not going to let up on her request for the Activity Fund Reports and the Strategic Plan to be addressed at the workshop, and to be placed on the agenda at the next board meeting; and if it was not on the agenda, she requested a full update and status.

Mr. Gililand congratulated North Pulaski High School basketball team for going to state and invited everyone to attend the conference in Hot Springs. He said that Robbie Walker, an inclusion teacher and coach at North Pulaski, will be on Arkansas Outdoors to discuss "Hooked on Fishing – Not Drugs" a program offered at North Pulaski High School. Mr. Gililand stated that North Pulaski High School had sixteen members of the choir elected to All Region Choir; three of those were elected to go to State Choir; and the 9th/10th female chorus received a first division competition score. He stated that the band had received twenty-five different trophies; and that North Pulaski was the only band to receive the sweepstakes award. Mr. Gililand said that North Pulaski hosted over 3,000 students recently at the All Region Concert Assessment; and thanked Mr. Warren and his staff for taking

care of a crisis with the speaker in the auditorium. He said the wrestling team took second place in the central and state wrestling tournaments. Mr. Gililand stated that he went to the site-based schools in his zone (Northwood and North Pulaski) and asked the principals to come up with the scheduling using the recommendations of the Site Based Committee which has now been done. He thanked and complimented them for coordinating these schedules. He thanked the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce for including North Pulaski High School in the parade they are having for the Jacksonville High School and North Pulaski High School basketball teams for making it to the state championship.

Mr. Clark commented on the upcoming Board Development Workshop with Horace Smith, and hopefully the Board would come back with fresh ideas and attitudes. He explained the \$2,700 plus bill regarding the reception at the Maumelle County Club that was reported by the newspaper. He said that he would never stick the District with the bill for the reception. He stated this would be a contribution to his community and zone, which he had decided to do before he had received the call from the reporter. He said that a stock pile of books had been donated to Pine Forest Elementary from the Scholastic Book Fair.

Superintendents

Report

3/10/09

Mr. Sharpe told Ms. Williams that he would look into the sixth graders being placed back at the elementary schools and would keep her updated on the status. He addressed the issue of students being late for class, and he said it depended on where they were going; if being late was condoned, the student knew it. He said the reason the Strategic Plan was not on the agenda was because President Clark had requested it to be addressed at the board workshop. He wished Mrs. Tatum a happy birthday. He reported that the District was moving forward on combining the Jacksonville Middle Schools for the fall semester and said it will alter the summer projects, especially the renovation of the restrooms in the District. He said in order for this to be done by the middle of August, some of this work will need to be contracted out.

Consent Agenda

3/10/09

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Gililand asked for the personnel agenda to be amended with an insertion on page 34. The motion carried.

Those items included:

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

Executive Session

3/10/09

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to go into executive session for personnel discussion. The motion carried. The board meeting reconvened to conduct an employee hearing.

Hearings

3/10/09

Support Staff
Closed
Mattie A. Stiff

Mattie L. Stiff, a school bus driver for the transportation department at Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD), requested a hearing to appeal Superintendent Sharpe's recommendation of termination with PCSSD. At the request of Ms. Stiff, the hearing was held during closed session. The reasons for this action being: conduct endangering the safety of others; failure to follow verbal or written directives; performance related deficiencies; and conduct unbecoming an employee. Henry Osterloh served as the Hearing Officer. Debbie Coley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented Ms. Stiff's case and the recommendation of the Superintendent to the Board. Sandra Roy, Executive Director of PACT, represented Ms. Stiff. Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation. Ms. Williams voted no. The motion carried.

All actions taken during the closed hearing were affirmed in open session.

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Tatum withdrew her motion.

Support Staff
Closed

Henry Osterloh stated that the grievant had been sent home by Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark confirmed this and said it was agreed with the grievant and the Board to reschedule this hearing on either Wednesday, March 17 or Thursday, March 18th.

Adjournment

3/10/09

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Vasquez withdrew the motion to adjourn.

The Board agreed to continue the meeting and the Board went back into executive session at 12:30 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:15 a.m. Mr. Clark affirmed no decision was made during executive session and requested the Board to have a special meeting on Thursday, March 11th at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to have a special meeting on Thursday, March 11th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss personnel. The motion carried.

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 a.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a majority of the Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Special School District ("PCSSD") has previously expressed its willingness to consider and approve the detachment of territory currently within the PCSSD to create a new and independent Jacksonville School District; and

WHEREAS, the PCSSD has previously expressed its desire and intent to issue second lien bonds for the construction of a replacement for Oak Grove High School and a new Sylvan Hills Middle School; and

WHEREAS, certain citizens from Jacksonville have expressed concern that the issuance of such second lien bonds and the debt service and pledge of taxes and revenue necessary to secure those bonds would impair Jacksonville's ability to form its own school district or might impair its ability to issue its own bonds when it becomes a separate and independent school district; and

WHEREAS, the PCSSD Board of Directors wishes to address all interests and concerns in this matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved that the fiscal agent for the PCSSD, Stephens Inc., and the District's counsel Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard are hereby directed to work in coordination with one another to determine if and how the second lien bonds could be structured and issued to build the replacements for Oak Grove High School and Sylvan Hills Middle School in a way that does not require a Jacksonville school district, if formed, to assume more than its proportionate share of current bonded indebtedness now existing within the PCSSD, including, if appropriate, suggestions for amendment of current state law.

IT IS FURTHER resolved that the Board of Directors of the PCSSD shall delay the issuance of the afore described second lien bonds until it receives the response from its fiscal agent and counsel as described above.

SO RESOLVED, this ____ day of March, 2009.