

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 12th day of May, 2009. The following business was transacted:

Opening 5/12/09

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Present: Mr. Tim Clark, Mr. Danny Gililand, Mrs. Mildred Tatum, Mr. Bill Vasquez, Ms. Gwen Williams, Mr. Charlie Wood, and Acting Superintendent Rob McGill

Absent: Mrs. Shana Chaplin,

Akayla Jones, a senior from North Pulaski High School, served as the student board member.

College Station Elementary School Choir, directed by music director, Victoria Woodard, performed the National Anthem.

Special Recognition 5/12/09

Presentation
Sherwood Elementary/
Odyssey of the Mind

A presentation was given by the Sherwood Elementary Odyssey of the Mind Program students. A Certificate of Achievement was presented to these students for winning state which will allow them to participate at the national competition.

Certificates of
Excellence

Mrs. Tatum presented students from Mills University Studies High School Certificates of Excellence for the ROTC National Competition that was recently held in Daytona.

Certificates of
Achievement

Certificates of Achievement were presented to eleven schools designated as a Gains School. Group 1: Rating of 4 - Schools Exceeding Improvement Standards: Arnold Drive Elementary School, Bates Elementary School, Cato Elementary School, Crystal Hill Elementary Magnet School, Pinewood Elementary School, and Robinson Elementary School. Group 2: Rating of 5 - Schools of Excellence for Improvement: Harris Elementary School, Oakbrooke Elementary School, Oak Grove Elementary School, Tolleson Elementary School, and Warren Dupree Elementary School. The Gains Model Rating represents the academic growth of a school's students over the past two years on the Benchmark Exams in grades 3-8. This rating is included on the 2008 Arkansas School Performance Report Card. These schools will receive incentive money.

Good Apple Award

Frank Smith, Academic Dean of Robinson/Secondary Social Studies Coordinator, received the Good Apple Award.

Minutes 5/12/09

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the April 14, 2009 regular board meeting; April 11 and April 28 special board meetings; and April 29 emergency board meeting. The motion carried as corrected.

Reports 5/12/09

Scholastic Audit
Sylvan Hills Middle/
Oak Grove High

Cherrie Walker, principal at Sylvan Hills Middle School, and Joy Plants, principal at Oak Grove High School, presented solutions regarding the deficiencies reported in the Scholastic Audit for their schools.

Arkansas Leadership Academy:
Leadership Development

Chuck Leverett with the Arkansas Leadership Academy presented a handout and a report on Leadership Development: A Systems Approach to School Support. Arkansas Department of Education requires districts with schools in School Improvement Year 6 to provide leadership development. This program has been approved for providing the required leadership development. PCSSD has two schools in year 6; Oak Grove High School and Sylvan Hills Middle School. Landmark Elementary is the only elementary school in year 5. It is the recommendation to include Landmark in Year 5 with the Year 6 schools. Members of the Board stated that more time was needed to review this program. Mr. McGill explained that this was state mandated and could be cost out per school.

New Business #8

Ms. Williams moved to approve ALA's Leadership Development School Support for Landmark Elementary, Sylvan Hills Middle School, and Oak Grove High School. The motion died for lack of second. Mr. Clark asked Mr. McGill to provide the Board more information regarding leadership development programs and stated that a possible special board meeting could be called at a later time during the month.

Public Comments
5/12/09

Mr. Clark requested that comments be respectful and limited to three minutes per individual.

Rebecca South-Best, a parent from Jacksonville Middle School Boys, voiced concerns regarding a bullying incident at the school in which her son was injured. She stated that it was her right to talk to any Board member or administrator in order to have these issues resolved. She stated that other students had been assaulted and that these incidents were being swept under the rug. Mr. Clark requested Mr. McGill to follow-up with Ms. South-Best regarding this issue. Mr. Vasquez stated for the record that when any Board member receives a complaint (verbal or written), the law requires them to directly forward the information to the superintendent; that the Board does not get involved with actions directly in the school, and the superintendent reports back to the Board through proper channels. Mr. Wood encouraged any parent to not ever give up their freedom of speech and to be persistent.

Tommye Watts, a parent from Jacksonville Middle School Boys, reiterated that the same situation had happened regarding her son and was told by the school administration that she needed to make a police report because they did not do that at the school. She stated that she had been black-balled from the school and in order to go to a classroom to observe her child, she would have to have a doctor's note stating that she needed to observe her child. She stated that when she requested to go to the classroom to see her child or the teacher she was not allowed and that they were called to the office. Ms. Watts said that whenever a parent tried to speak up there was always retaliation for it. Ms. Williams referred back to Board policy KI regarding a parent's right.

Hobby Howard, a parent from the Robinson schools, gave his concerns for the drop of enrollment in those schools. He stated that the reason for this was the condition of the academic and athletic facilities and asked the District not to neglect the schools in the Robinson area.

Sharon Hawk, Linda Derden, and Lovina Roberson presented their concerns regarding the Jacksonville Middle Schools and requested the Board to reverse their decision to combine the schools.

Renae Hudson, a parent from Sherwood Elementary, requested financial support for the trip to the World Competition for the Odyssey of the Mind students. Mr. Wood asked if this had not already been addressed at a previous meeting. At a previous meeting the Board had made a request to find out if funds were available in the Activity Fund at Sherwood Elementary. There were no funds available to help support the trip.

Suspension of
the Rules

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval to suspend the rules. The motion carried.

Odyssey of the
Mind Funding

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval to give the Odyssey of the Mind program financial support to the World Competition in the amount of \$5,000. The motion carried.

Carol Bulloch, a parent from Robinson High School, congratulated the District on the approval for the second lien bonds. She stated she was happy for Oak Grove and Sherwood, but requested the Board to take care of the Robinson schools and other schools in the District. She requested an explanation of the Operating Fund and the Building Fund, where they come from and how it is used.

Diana Jones requested a waiver from the Board for Family and Work Connections.

Suspension of
The Rules

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval to suspend the rules. The motion carried.

Waiver Regarding
The Family Work
Connections

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval for a waiver regarding Family Work Connections. This is an eighth grade course that is not required by the Arkansas Department of Education, but is required by PCSSD (see attached letter). The motion carried.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, thanked College Station Elementary Choir and Ms. Victoria Woodard. She congratulated Dr. Donna Humphries and the Odyssey of the Mind students from Sherwood Elementary, and Frank Smith for receiving the Good Apple Award. She stated that her heart and thoughts were with Ms. Williams' sister, Mr. Clark's mother, and Carol Provin and wished them all a speedy recovery. Ms. Nix congratulated Mr. Allen Fulmer from Cato Elementary and said he had received the PACT Friend of

Education Award for his many hours of service at Cato Elementary. She presented President Tim Clark the PACT Friend of Education Award and thanked him for his outstanding leadership and for all the services he has provided in the District for the students. She thanked the Board for the sincerity in stepping in to approach negotiations and hoped PACT would reach a settlement by the end of May. She commented on the "Pigging and Tripping" handout and thanked Mrs. Farver for her immediate response for supplying the information requested by PACT. Ms. Nix commented on the trips and stated that the Board needed to be good stewards of money. She said that for accountability and transparency purposes, PACT would request that anyone who spends District money to go to conferences, that they share the information with individuals in the classroom; whether in the form of a report, etc., that it is a good idea to come back and share the information that was obtained. Ms. Nix requested the Board to review the guidelines of State Law Ark. Code §5-16-101 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); as well as the videotaping at Mills University Studies, Northwood Middle School, and many other schools which have videotaping tools in the classrooms. She stated this was a teacher's personal space and when it was found out that taping had occurred that she requested information from the District but never received it. She asked the Board for a clear statement for appropriate use and reason for the cameras; the roles and responsibilities of individuals who have access to the cameras; who has access to the footage; how long it will be kept; and whether consent from the parent and student had been obtained. She asked for cameras to be taken out of the classrooms until all parents had given consent for videotaping. She commented on a letter from the Northwood PACT faculty regarding the lack of support they are given. Ms. Nix requested a written update on the investigation into the assault of Ms. Provin as well and the status of the request from the Northwood teachers. Ms. Nix stated that the IMS Committee had an excellent, productive meeting and thanked Dr. Ruthven and Brenda Robinson. She requested the Board to take a look at the cost of the Arkansas Leadership Academy per school which was not reflected on the action sheet. Ms. Nix requested a copy of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Plan, and asked the Board to review the plan before deciding to approve it. She said there was no rationale for old business item #1 and it was the opinion of PACT that the revision could further damage the channels of communication in the District, and that PACT opposes this revision. She requested rationale of old business #2 and requested a list of the parents and administrators involved. She asked the Board to review the support staff allocations as well as the certified staff allocations with respect to the budget preparations.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, stated that Ms. Williams and Mr. Clark had PASS's prayers for their family. He thanked Mr. Wood and Mrs. Tatum for making the motion to allow the students to receive funds; that PCSSD should be about the kids and on the same team. He said that negotia-

tions would begin on Thursday and hopefully that the agreement would be reached by the end of the month. He expressed gratitude to Mrs. Farver for the immediate response when he requested information.

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.

Board Member
Comments

5/12/09

Mrs. Tatum stated that she was very disturbed to hear that parents were unable to go into the schools/classrooms and asked Michael Nellums, principal at the Jacksonville Middle School Boys, to respond to parents' concerns voiced earlier in the meeting. Mr. Nellums stated there was no policy that ever excluded parents from coming into the school for any reason. He stated that he had never denied any parent an opportunity to visit the campus or to observe in the classrooms. He said there was a parent in the audience that could verify this and that he had a very open, open-door policy. Mr. Nellums responded to an email forwarded from Mr. Vasquez which had been passed on to the Superintendent, expressing a concern from a parent regarding her son. He stated this incident was not given to the school until after a police report had been filed. His concern to the parent was why they did not call the school and notify the principal first. He stated he could supply the Board more information regarding this situation if needed.

Mrs. Tatum said that her prayers went to Brad Montgomery and his family while he is in Iraq. She gave congratulations to Daisy Bates Elementary for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Gifted and Talented Alpha Challenge and commended Ms. Carolyn Williams, facilitator. She thanked the students and Ms. Victoria Woodard for their presentation of the National Anthem. She said she was hopeful that some of the stimulus money would be used to repair the drainage problem and sidewalk at College Station. She thanked the Mills University Studies ROTC and stated that this program needed financial assistance and commented on the trophies won by the ROTC.

Mr. Wood reminded everyone of the graduation ceremonies being held soon and thanked the District for everything they have done this year.

Mr. Vasquez commended the Mills ROTC, and said that North Pulaski and Jacksonville High Schools also have strong ROTC programs, and it was refreshing to see young Americans stand up for their country. He stated there were twenty graduating Jacksonville students that would be going into the military. He wished Brad Montgomery a safe time in Iraq and thanked him for his service. He complimented the Odyssey of the Mind students for their performance and showed that our schools were doing great things. He stated that our schools

needed to be marketed to let the public know what great students and teachers we have in the District and hoped the newspapers would report the accomplishments of these students that were presented at this Board meeting. He commented on the Good Apple Award and said it speaks to the excellence of the fine teachers in the District that go beyond their duties to educate these students. Mr. Vasquez stated that the graduation ceremonies were coming up and that this production line had a fourteen year lead cycle for each student, which is the reason we are here. He encouraged all administrators to attend as many of the graduation ceremonies as possible, and to understand that is why they have a job. Mr. Vasquez reiterated a statement made by a parent that we are neglecting our parents and children, and stated that he agreed. He said that everyone gets caught up in their lives and their zones, but the reason we exist is for the children and teachers. He said that the Board needs to ask if it is not in the classroom with a child, why the dollar is being spent. He stated that there is a war in this District on literacy; that if the student is not taught to read, they cannot do anything else. Mr. Vasquez stated that the District has 40.7 mills assessed for taxes every year; 14.8 of those mills are for bond indebtedness which delivers to the District \$30.8 million and \$5.5 million of that money is used to pay on current bonds; so there is approximately \$25 million available for bond indebtedness. He stated that he had reviewed Amendment 59 and suggested the District to possibly look into this bond issue to obligate the bond indebtedness money so that it could not be reclaimed by Amendment 59 and to present this next month to the State Board so that the District would not have to give it back. He said this is worth about \$200 million in additional building funds for the District. Mr. Vasquez congratulated Christopher Elliott Neal who received the A. Philip Randolph Award at the Awards Banquet in Jacksonville. He invited everyone to the graduation ceremonies.

Ms. Williams said that her prayers would be with Brad Montgomery while he is in Iraq and told him to be safe and come back. She thanked Cynthia Howell with the Arkansas Democrat for the coverage, and for D.R.E.A.M. and City Year for all their hard work. She congratulated all the schools that were recognized as Gains Schools and given the rating of 4 or 5. She congratulated all the graduates.

Mr. Vasquez and Ms. Williams commented on and congratulated Kris Allen (a former student at PCSSD and graduate of Mills University Studies High School) for his accomplishments in being an American Idol finalist.

Mr. Gililand said that the reason he had to leave part of the meeting was that North Pulaski's Band was having its last concert, and his son who is a senior and president of the band had several solos and he did not want to miss the performance. He wished Mr. Montgomery the best and thanked him and all service people for their service. He wished Bill Barnes a happy birthday. He congratulated the eleven Gains Schools

and stated that five of the schools recognized were in his zone. He said that he was very proud of the schools and all the work that was put into them; that it was pleasing to see all the progress that was being made. He congratulated the Girls and Boys Soccer teams that made it to state. He invited everyone to the North Pulaski Academic Awards Ceremonies on Monday, May 18th. Mr. Gililand said that North Pulaski High School had lost an excellent principal, Tracy Allen, to another district. He said this was a sad day for our District because Mr. Allen was a new principal and doing a fantastic job. He stated he hoped this would not be the beginning of a trend. He stated we had to get a grip on education and start doing things we need to do for our District and start getting some organization, direction, and some definite goals. He said that he felt the reason Mr. Allen was leaving was the uncertainty of District cuts and being the newest principal on the totem pole, he could be bumped. Mr. Gililand stated that if we do not get hold of this District and get ourselves where we need to be, that he prays this will not be the first in a chain of events. He said the focus has to be on the education of the children and taking care of things that need to be taken care of. He wished Mr. Allen the best.

Mrs. Tatum stated that Mills University Studies High School was losing Henry Anderson, assistant principal, to Crossett.

Tim Clark congratulated Oak Grove and Crystal Hill. He wished Brad Montgomery the best and said we appreciate him for his service to the country. He stated he would like to piggy-back on remarks by Mr. Vasquez regarding that academics are very important, but what is most important at this time is getting control of discipline. He said it was disappointing to hear the discipline issues in the District and sad that a teacher is in the hospital for being injured by a student. He said that he hoped this student was no longer in the classroom. He stated that we need to take a hard stance on discipline from a District perspective; and from a Board perspective we need to support our principals and teachers for decisions they choose within reason. He said the discipline issue was out of control. He commented on a visit he had made to a middle school about a discipline issue, and encouraged anyone that saw a discipline issue to report it. He stated he looked forward to being at his first graduation this year. He thanked those in the District and Maumelle for their support for the second lien bonds. He stated that he had received a phone call from a member of the State Department of Education Board and congratulations on the way the District was allowed to present to the Board and for the District being approved. He said he looked forward to having a school that will one day accommodate 1,500 students and be the flagship school for the District. Mr. Clark said that he was aware that there were many things that had to be fixed in the District. He stated that he always sent email requests to the correct department and that he always did a follow-up to see if these issues were being taken care of.

Old Business

5/12/09

Adoption of Board
Policy BHC-R /
GBD-R
Second Reading

Ms. Williams moved not to approve the adoption of board policy BHC-R/GBD-R, Board Communication with Staff. She stated there was already a policy in place, and the paragraph regarding Board visits to schools, that there is a state law which will supersede this revision. She said that state law says every Board member is to visit their schools twice a year at least, which they are mandated to do. She questioned the sentence regarding official visits by Board members will be conducted only under Board authorization and said for this reason she could not support this revision. The motion died for lack of second.

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililland, approval of the revision of board policy BJC-R/ GBD-R, with the amendment that the last sentence "Official visits by Board members will be conducted only under Board authorization" be removed from the revision. Mr. Wood stated that he could not support the revision as it was worded and would like this to be tabled until later. He said that he had agreed to work with Mrs. Chaplin until a revision could be provided that was not objectionable to anyone. Mrs. Tatum and Mr. Gililland withdrew the motion. Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililland, approval to table until next month's meeting. The motion carried.

Adoption of Board
Policy KB
Second Reading

Mr. Gililland moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval to adopt board policy KB, Parent Involvement. Ms. Williams requested a list of parents involved in developing the policy. Mr. Vasquez called for the question. The motion carried.

New Business

5/12/09

CBI Healthcare
Paraprofessional
Position

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval to adopt a new job description for CBI Healthcare Paraprofessional position and to identify a minimum of two (2) positions per school from existing/new CBI paraprofessional positions. The motion carried.

Activity Funds

Mr. Gililland moved, seconded by Mr. Wood , approval to allow Northwood Middle School and Sylvan Hills Middle School to carry forward activity funds. The motion carried.

Mr. Clark excused himself from the meeting at 9:45 pm. Vice-President Vasquez presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Revision of Parent/
Student Handbook
2009-2010

Mr. Wood moved to table this item. The motion died for lack of second. Mr. Gililland moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the committee's recommendation for the revision of the Parent/Student Handbook for Conduct and Discipline. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Gililland, Tatum, Vasquez, Williams
No: Wood

The motion carried.

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| Revision of Board Policy JLF/JLF-R First Reading | Revision to correct board policy JLF, JLF-R, Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection. First Reading. No action taken. |
| Superintendent Search | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililland, approval to hire McPherson and Jacobson, L.L.C., to conduct a search for a Superintendent. Tom Jacobson presented a packet to the Board and answered questions regarding the search. The motion carried. |
| Company to Conduct Comprehensive Assessment of Central Office Administrative Staff | Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval to hire a company to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Central Office administrative staff. The motion carried. |
| Mills Choir Robes | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililland, approval to reimburse Mills University Studies High School Activity account in the amount of \$5,121.02 from the Operating Budget for the purchase of choir robes. The motion carried. |
| Reconfiguration Of Elementary Schools in Zone 6 to K-6 | Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval to reconfigure the Elementary Schools in Zone 6 to a K-6 configuration beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Williams requested a friendly amendment to include Harris Elementary in this proposal; Mr. Vasquez accepted. A roll call vote was requested for the friendly amendment. |

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Vasquez, Williams
No: Gililland, Tatum, Wood

The motion failed.

A lengthy discussion followed with concerns regarding the reconfiguration being done one school at a time; the impact this would have on unitary status; the timeline (trying to have this implemented by the 2009-2010 school year; more information regarding statistical data; and not being able to compete at a middle school level with other middle schools. Sam Jones answered questions regarding unitary status and ODM. Mr. McGill stated that timing was an issue and he did not recommend this for the 2009-2010 school year.

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| Suspension of the Rules | Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to suspend the rules to instruct the administration within the next two weeks to try to see if the court will give approval; and to meet with other interested parties to see if this can be done and bring a |
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recommendation back within two weeks. Mrs. Tatum voted no. There were five Board members present. The motion failed due to not having 2/3 of vote.

Certified Staffing
Allocations
2009-2010

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to approve the 2009-2010 certified staffing allocations. The motion carried.

Support Staff
Allocations
2009-2010

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve the 2009-2010 support staff allocations. The motion carried.

Board Team Build-
ing Workshop

Mr. Vasquez requested Mr. McGill to have Linda Paladino contact Horace Smith, Director of Board Development for the Arkansas School Board Association, to schedule a date for the meeting.

Separate Board
Meetings

A request was made by Mr. Vasquez for Horace Smith to discuss during the workshop the possibility of having a separate Board meeting each month in addition to the regular meeting to hold hearings. He also requested Mr. Smith to have a session during the workshop on board policies.

ARRA Plan
American Recovery
Reinvestment Act

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to approve the proposed Pulaski County Special School District American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Plan of 2009. The motion carried.

Suspension of the
Rules

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval to suspend the rules to purchase, move and set-up six portable buildings. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried.

Purchase of
Portable Buildings

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval to purchase, move and set-up six portable buildings from the Batesville School District. Total estimated cost: \$110,000.00 (Projected cost of \$20,000.00 x 4 (per portable) = \$80,000) (Projected cost \$20,000.00 x 2 (per portable) = \$0.00) (Projected cost \$5,000.00 x 6 = \$30,000.00 for moving and setting up.) Discussion from the Board followed with questions answered by Sam Jones, attorney, regarding legal issues with portables. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried.

Mr. Wood requested to make a comment regarding the reconfiguration of the Elementary Schools in Zone 6 to a K-6. He stated that in general he had supported this, but after a comment made by Ms. Forrest regarding the nine feeder schools he wanted to use caution. He said that is why he had asked to suspend the rules because he wanted to direct the superintendent to see if all parties could agree on this. He commented that when a Board member made a request to suspend the rules that it should be honored, and not used as a tactic to avoid voting. He said that if four Board members wanted an issue bad enough, that a special board meeting could be held.

**Superintendents
Report**
5/12/09

Mr. McGill congratulated the 5th Graders at Baker Elementary for participating in the Stock Market Game and for winning 1st place; Paula Armstrong, a teacher at Sylvan Hills Elementary, on being accepted to the June 13-19, 2009, Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program. She was selected as 1 of 400 in the world. He wished Mr. Montgomery a safe trip while in Iraq and said his prayers would be with him and his family. He thanked the Church of the Latter Day Saints for volunteering their services at Pine Forest and Bates Elementary; City Year for volunteering at Harris Elementary; and Methodist in Action for their volunteering at Jacksonville Middle Boys and Jacksonville Elementary Schools. Mr. McGill thanked and commended Mrs. Farver for all the hard work she put into getting the bonds passed.

Consent Agenda
5/12/09

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

Those items included:

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

Adjournment
5/12/09

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm.

Board President

Board Secretary

To: Pulaski County Special School District Administration and Board of Education
Re: Student Requests for Waiver from Family Work Connections
From: Ms. Jo Ann Koehler, Band Director Northwood Middle School
Mrs. Sarah Abbott, Band Director Northwood Middle School
Mrs. Amber Holden, Choir Director Northwood Middle School

To Whom It May Concern,

The following letters are parent requests for a waiver from the PCSSD School Board regarding Family Work Connections. This is an eighth grade course that is not required by the Arkansas Department of Education, but is required by PCSSD. This causes students who have been in band and choir for two years to have to drop one of those electives for a semester. This is a conflict specific to students in Band and Choir. Athletic elective selections are not a problem because Athletics counts as the semester of physical activity, which opens a slot for Family Work Connections. Other electives are not a conflict because they can be easily added in high school. It is only a conflict for students wishing to continue their pursuit of Band and Choir. Due to the performance based development of Band and Choir, it is not possible to allow students to come in and out of these classes. That causes a disruption in the progress of the class and the individual. There are only nine students with this conflict. They are requesting permission to leave Family and Work Connections out of their schedule so they may pursue full year Band and Choir.

These letters will be presented to the School Board at the May meeting by one of the concerned parents. These letters are copied to you to inform you of this conflict and how it might be resolved. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Koehler, *Jo Ann Koehler*
Sarah Abbott, *Sarah Abbott*
Amber Holden, *Amber Holden*

cc to Mr. Rob McGill, Acting Superintendent PCSSD
Dr. Beverly Ruthven, Asst. Superintendent of Learning Services
Mr. Bill Barnes, Director of Secondary Education
PCSSD School Board Members: Mr. Tim Clark, Mr. William Vasquez, Ms. Gwen Williams, Ms. Shana Chaplin, Ms. Mildred Tatum, Mr. Danny Gililand,
Mr. Charlie Wood