

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 14th day of July, 2009. The following business was transacted:

Opening 7/14/09

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

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

Absent: None

Mr. R. DeWayne Banks, Music Teacher at Oak Grove and Oakbrooke Elementary Schools, sang the National Anthem.

Minutes 7/14/09

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to approve the minutes of the June 9 regular board meeting, the June 11 and June 16 special board meetings, and the June 19 emergency board meeting. The motion carried.

Public Comments 7/14/09

Col. Gregory Otey, commander of the 19th Airlift Wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base, voiced concerns and asked why the replacement of Arnold Drive and Tolleson Elementary Schools, which was targeted for July 1, 2009 on the District's Ten-Year Master Plan, was not being funded by stimulus money. He stated that education was a high priority for the airmen and families at the Air Base, and asked for a status update in order to get the school project moving in the direction it needs to go.

Kelly Swope, a parent from Mills High School, asked where she could get a copy of the District's Ten-Year Master Plan.

Jerold Lee requested a copy of the District's Ten-Year Plan including what was on it twelve months ago and what is included in the stimulus plan.

PACT

Loveida Ingram, Library Media Specialist at Jacksonville High School and a member of the PACT Executive Board, represented Marty Nix, PACT President, who was presenting a workshop for the AEA Summer Leaders Work Conference. She reported that seven PACT members recently attended the NEA Representative Assembly where they joined nearly 16,000 other delegates to chart the course for the upcoming school year. She stated that by attending this event, they would be able to bring back ideas to share with the District. She wished Ms. Williams a happy birthday.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, PASS President, wished Ms. Williams a happy birthday. He stated that he would give his time for speaking to Don Clevenger, PASS Chief Negotiator. Mr. Clevenger reported on the progress of the negotiations and gave the Board and Acting Superintendent a handout with reasons why PASS was not in support of the implementation

of the Johanson Group's Support Staff Salary Schedule. On behalf of the PASS Bargaining Team, he requested the Board to vote no on Old Business Item #1 which asks for approval for implementation of the Johanson Group's 2008-2009 Support Staff Salary Schedule. Mr. Clevenger reported there would be another meeting for negotiations on July 21st.

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.

Old Business

7/14/09

Implementation of
the Johanson
Group's 2008-2009
Salary Study

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Gililland, to table this item until the August board meeting. The motion carried.

New Business

7/14/09

Activity Funds

Mr. Gililland moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval to allow funds to be carried forward for Mills University Studies High School, North Pulaski High School, Oak Grove High School, Robinson High School, Tolleson Elementary, Bates Elementary, Chenal Elementary, and Pinewood Elementary. The motion carried.

Business Procedure
Manual

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin, to approve the changes and updates of the Business Procedure Manual. The motion carried.

Lawn Care
Service, Inc. Bid

Mr. Gililland moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin, to approve the Lawn Care Service bid to B & R Lawn Service, Inc. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Chaplin, Gililland, Tatum, Vasquez, Wood

No: Clark, Williams

The motion carried.

Extension of Acting
Superintendent's
Contract

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval to go into executive session to discuss extending the contract of the Acting Superintendent. The motion carried.

Executive Session

7/14/09

The Board went into executive session at 6:50 pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 pm. Mr. Gililland moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval to extend Mr. McGill's contract as Acting Superintendent from September 12, 2009 through June

30, 2010, with a salary of \$150,000, retroactive to July 1, 2009. Mr. Clark stated that he would abstain regarding the vote. The motion carried.

American Recovery
and Reinvestment
Act (ARRA) Plan

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the revised American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA) Plan. The motion carried.

Non-Corporate
Organization
Account Resolution

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve the PCSSD Non-Corporate Organization Account Resolution. The motion carried.

**Board Member
Comments**

7/14/09

Mr. Wood stated that there has not been a lot of progress made regarding the negotiations. He said that his general impression of the whole education system is not favorable, especially with the problems PCSSD has. He stated that he thinks the system is broken and when it comes to new procedures and new contracts, that he is not in favor of a minor fix; that we need a major revolution and that it was hard to have the courage to do this. He said that the process agreed upon as a Board in these negotiations is for our representatives to poll the Board members regarding their opinion on different issues and when they meet with PACT to advance the position of the majority of the Board. He stated he thought the last contract was too generous and not in the best interest of education, and that he was probably not going to budge with this decision to support it. Mr. Wood said that in order to compromise he was giving the Board and PACT a handout proposing what he will support for the teachers. He said this was his opinion and did not represent the Board or the Superintendent, but he was in favor of merit raises; 10% for the best teachers, 5% for more of the teachers, and 2.5% for more of the teachers. He said that he did not think he could even support a 1% raise across the board.

Mrs. Tatum stated that she appreciated being allowed to attend the NSBA Southern Region Conference in Little Rock. She said that two of the highlights were the presentation by Mills Gospel Choir and the Clinton Library. She stated that ten states attended the convention and people were very excited to be able to view the Clinton Library. She commented on the workshop presented by Horace Smith, ASBA Development Director, and stated that it had made a world of difference for the Board.

Mr. Vasquez thanked Col. Otey, Col. Risse, and Patrick Wilson for attending the board meeting. He thanked Col. Otey for his comments during the meeting regarding the need to move forward on the Ten-Year Plan. He said there would always be the problem of dollars in the District, even with having the stimulus money. He stated that he hoped with the APSCN system, with receiving better budget reports, and a tighter hold on our resources, that it is his goal to be able to analyze

where the dollars are going and be able to carve out some monies. He stated that he would be in favor of looking at a bond issue to free up money for more construction and renovation projects. He said it was his goal to find four to five million dollars out of the budget for 2009-2010. Mr. Vasquez stated that in this age of computer technology, there was no excuse for someone to have to ask the Board why they cannot find out information regarding our school district. He said that the District should take the challenge to improve the technology and to have information readily available for our constituents. He stated that accountability is also a great issue; that no parent, especially military parents, should have to worry about the education of their children, their safety and the conditions of their schools. He stated that as Americans we would not tolerate poor conditions/facilities at the workplace or at church, and should not have to at the schools. He said there were commitments that needed to be made as a Board and that good things are coming to the schools in the District. He asked the constituents to have patience; that Acting Superintendent McGill had more good things to discuss with the Board.

Ms. Williams thanked the District for allowing her to attend the NSBA Southern Region Conference. She complimented one of the speakers, Wes Moore, on his presentation. She stated that he said that governors across the country take the third grade reading level numbers and that is how many prison beds they say they will need. She emphasized that we do not want any more need of prison beds coming out of our District. She said that means we have to have our students reading by the third grade and we do not want the state of Arkansas spending more money on the prisons than they do on education.

Mrs. Chaplin recognized and congratulated Becky Del Rio, a speech audiologist for the District who won state and national awards last year, and has been asked to present at the national conference. She stated that she wanted to express her appreciation to the parents for their involvement and though it may be frustrating for the length of time it takes for change and the shift the direction is going, that they are the catalyst for change in this District. She said the parents are the ones we are most accountable to because they loan us their children each day. Mrs. Chaplin expressed gratitude to the parents in Zone 2 who have continued, despite the changes in funding, to rally together to work with partners in the city of Little Rock to begin to develop ways to have funding for athletic facilities available for students in Zone 2. She said this group will hopefully come before the Board next month with a way to have a baseball and softball program with no cost to this District, but with a partnership with the city and funding from donations from businesses and parents in Zone 2. She complimented them for not backing down when told no, not being included and involved in the decision making, but going forward with the opportunities to network. She gave a special thanks Hobby Howard who has led this

effort and will present at next month's meeting, and hoped the Board will support that agreement. Mrs. Chaplin asked again that administration look at the land that the District holds, to locate the land we own, and to look at possible ways to sell off the land or address that situation since the District is in need of funds, in order to move forward to improve facilities and education. She stated that she would like to begin early to discuss what will be done with the facilities of Oak Grove High School when the new school is built. She requested that the District make this a priority and not leave an empty building when there could possibly be other uses for it, such as partnership with other government agencies or disposing of the land to provide funding to offset the building of the new school.

Mr. Gililand stated that he attended the NSBA Southern Region Conference and complimented the Mills Gospel Choir for their incredible performance at the opening of the convention. He said that the choir did PCSSD proud. He said that it was a requirement for the Board to attend these sessions for training hours and also a privilege to be able to attend, but they would probably see their names on the next "Pigging and Tripping". He thanked Col. Otey and Col. Risse for being at the meeting and said he had the privilege of spending time and speaking with them over the last week. He stated that their heart and passion for education in our county is greatly appreciated and he looked forward to spending more time with them to find out what they can do to help us and what we can do to help them. Mr. Gililand emphasized that PCSSD is privileged to have Little Rock Air Force Base in our District – that the whole economic boost the LRAFB gives the county and central Arkansas is priceless. He said the District needs to do things which will attract airmen and their families so they will want to come to LRAFB, and make it a Base of choice. He stated he wanted to be sure that Arnold Drive and Tolleson Elementaries do not get pushed back on the Facility Plan. He said that even though Jacksonville and North Pulaski areas are pulling away to make their own district, that the Board has to be careful and keep maintaining this part of the District because it is still ours. He wished Ms. Williams a happy birthday. He commented on the principal shuffle, and welcomed the new principals in his zone. He said there were only two schools in his zone that did not change administrators which is a concern. He said all the zones had huge changes, and that any time upper management is changed there is a tendency for things to slow down. He stated that he felt it was very important for the Board to support these new principals in their new positions and give them all the support and encouragement they need to be successful in their new schools.

Mr. Clark wished Ms. Williams a happy birthday. He commented on the land issue with the District and ways to maximize the dollar amount that could be sold and the revenue it could bring to the District. He requested a list of

the land that the District owns for the next meeting. Mr. Clark welcomed June Elliott, the new Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services. He stated that he had a very good meeting with Mayor Fletcher, Patrick Wilson and Mr. McGill last week and there would be another meeting scheduled later this month to decide boundaries for the Jacksonville school district.

Superintendents

Report

7/14/09

Mr. McGill wished Ms. Williams a happy birthday. He expressed condolences to the family of Victoria Dupree, a second grade student at Oakbrooke Elementary, who died on June 30th, and to the family of Judge Andree Roaf, Director of the Office of Desegregation Monitoring, who died two weeks ago. Mr. McGill introduced the new principals, assistant principals, and the new Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services.

Consent Agenda

7/14/09

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval of the consent agenda with the noted changes (removal of the second person listed on page 54) and the addendum. The motion carried.

Those items included:

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

Adjournment

7/14/09

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Board President

Board Secretary