

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 11th day of August, 2009. The following business was transacted.

Opening

8/11/09

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Clark.

Special Recognition

8/11/09

Certificates of Achievement

Nolan Hidalgo and Brandon Hidalgo, Jacksonville High School students, received Certificates of Achievement in recognition of placing ninth in the United States in the Ford AAA Troubleshooting Competition. Mr. Vasquez commended their teachers, Shawn Poindexter and Wayne Griffin; Mr. Kenneth Clark, principal, for this achievement.

Minutes

8/11/09

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Chaplin, to approve the minutes of the July 14 regular board meeting, and the July 23 and July 29 special board meetings. The motion carried.

Public Comments

8/11/09

Donna Humphries voiced her concerns regarding the hiring system of administrators in the district. She asked the Board to investigate immediately the interviewing system and to develop a rubric for hiring administrators and asked that notes be saved from the interview; that all administrators not qualified are forced to step down and reapply when their credentials are met; and to take action on those that have allowed this to continue year after year. She questioned if the Board had seen any of the numerous settlement offers from her attorney.

Patrick Russell, a Mills University Studies High School coach, presented a handout which allowed issues that need to be addressed for safety reasons at the Mills football field house and football stadium; and items that should be addressed to

Ms. June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services, for clarification on this issue.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, expressed condolences to the family of Calvin Fairbanks, a former teacher at Robinson High School. She wished Linda Ellington, a teacher at Robinson Elementary School who is healing from a broken hip, a speedy recovery. She thanked Ms. Williams and Mr. Clark for attending the new teacher luncheon on Monday; and thanked PACT members and vendors for their participation and support. Ms. Nix thanked Mr. Beck for taking care of air conditioning problems for the teacher in their buildings. She thanked Kyron Jones for serving on the AAEA task force representing administration. She stated that she and Brenda Robinson were serving on a state wide task force for future evaluations. She stated this task force came up with and it was recommended unanimous to adopt the Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson. Ms. Nix stated that PACT negotiations were progressing very nicely and that many tentative agreements have been reached. She thanked Mr. Clark for his participation in meeting with PACT and Mrs. Farver for providing information and data regarding money. She encouraged the teachers to do their best and wished them a safe and happy year.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, wished everyone a good school year. He stated that negotiations are going good and asked the Board to vote no on Old Business Item #1. Mr. Clevenger, Chief Negotiator for PASS, commented on the negotiations and stated they were going good, and that seven tentative agreements have been signed and dated by the negotiators of each side. He said that one agreement signed off on was a tentative agreement verifying the membership numbers, and that PASS has more than the majority of the members to represent the bargaining unit. He said at this time PASS was in a sidebar with Ms. Coley and Mrs. Farver and that she has a package for the Board to see. Mr. Chesterfield informed the Board and Mr. McGill that there would be an inservice for the professional bus drivers and professional aides at North Pulaski High School on Wednesday from 8:00-10:00 am.

ODM, Joshua
and Knight
Intervenors,
PCSSD Equity/

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

and Mr. Beck had walked the building inside and out, and there were serious problems there and at Bates Elementary School. She said that whatever chemical was being used to stop the leaking problem was not working and suggested that another solution should be checked into. Mrs. Tatum said the constituents in her zone had requested to use some of the stimulus money for repairs; that the only stimulus money being used in her zone was for the bathrooms at Fuller Middle School. She was concerned that one of the bathrooms is not handicap accessible. She voiced concerns that a covered walkway to classrooms and the cafeteria was needed at Fuller Middle School; the portables at Mills were not handicap accessible and the gravel to the buildings did not keep the students from getting muddy; and that rails were needed to step up into the portables for safety. Mrs. Tatum stated her concern for the Wrightsville community. She asked that their facilities at the J.C. Cook building and the park not be taken away. She said that on Labor Day the Wrightsville Day would be held. She thanked Debbie Coley and Shawn Burgess on the success of the New Teachers' Workshop. She also thanked Mr. McGill for attending and Dale Scott for the lunch.

Mr. Wood stated that the Board received emails and letters requesting them to have facilities repaired, transportation issues resolved, etc., but the Board was not suppose to get involved with day to day issues. He stated that at the recent Board Development Workshop presented by the Arkansas School Board Association, the Board was told that they should hire a superintendent to deal with these issues, to set Board policy, and to make decisions. He said that after a while if the Board did not think these decisions were right, to fire him and hire another one. He stated that none of the Board adhered to this completely, particularly if it involved their zone. Mr. Wood reiterated what the Arkansas School Board had advised them about making decisions that were suppose to come from the superintendent and that was sometimes why the Board hesitated to be involved. He said that each Board member lobbied for their zone and that a priority list needed to be provided to the Superintendent to resolve.

Mr. Vasquez addressed Ms. Nix and said he was sorry he missed the new teacher orientation, that he was at the STAR Academy open house. He explained that the STAR Academy is for the students that failed the 9th grade and the academy is set up to teach them all their 9th and 10th grade courses in one year so they could be on track to be juniors and graduate with their peers and not to drop out of school. He stated that it

the entire district and all are in dire need of updates. He said that the district needs a comprehensive facilities and upgrade program. He stated that the district had developed a Ten Year Master Facilities Plan and a Stimulus Plan only after the state required them to do so; therefore, the district was running on a crisis management plan. He said he felt confident that the Board will be aggressively seeking proactive leadership for the future and will be helping our students achieve their fullest potential.

Ms. Williams welcomed new teachers to the district. She said that she was looking forward to the next school year. She thanked Ms. Nix and Mrs. Roy for inviting her to the teachers' luncheon which was one of the best she had attended in a long time.

Mrs. Chaplin thanked everyone for their work in preparing for the new school year. She gave a special thanks to all the parents, PTA and PTO Associations for their assistance in collecting uniforms, supplies, relocating furniture, cleaning, and all the extra things that help the schools have great kickoffs for the new school year. She thanked the Business Partners that have stayed with the District year after year and for assisting with supplies for the schools. She expressed how valuable they are to our District and how important their investment is to public education. She reiterated that before she left the Board that she would like to challenge the Board and the administration to balance discussions regarding facility needs with developing board agendas that reflect an emphasis on student learning and student achievement. She stated once again there was nothing on the agenda that directly impacts student learning; no discussions about the overall guiding principles that will challenge our staff and our students. Mrs. Chaplin commented that she was proud of the District's scores which outperformed some of the neighboring districts, however, they were not really at a level to be proud of nationwide. She said that our students deserved a better education than they were receiving. She stated that she hoped the Board would continue to keep our goals way out there, and not be content with where we are. She requested the Board to continue to address the needs of those students who struggle with learning disabilities or other emotional handicaps. She asked for additional training and support for the teachers who teach these students and not to forget those that are often left behind.

Children Of Our School District?" He challenged the Board, administrative staff at central office, administrative staff at the building level, teachers, educators, support staff, bus drivers, and anyone involved with decisions regarding our students, to review this statement and we would see a more rapid development in the education of our children. Mr. Gililand said that so often the Board will be involved with adult problems that the students are forgotten. He said that he wanted to focus on the students first and if everyone would remember the question stated above, that everyone would have the same goal, and most of the problems would solve themselves. He wished Mrs. Harnish an early happy birthday.

Mr. Clark stated that there was a huge focus on student development at this time, and that he was also concerned about student enrollment. He said that he had asked Ms. Elliott to meet with principals and to provide a report to the Board from certain individual schools on how these principals would like to increase student enrollment for the following year. He stated there were only two ways to make money in the district; to pass a millage or increase student enrollment. Mr. Clark said that he had met with Ms. Nix and Mr. Miller and asked Mr. Miller not to provide any updates on individual or specific issues; that when the high level issues were ready to be addressed that he would meet with the entire Board. He said that they started out with eighty-six proposals and are down to twenty-five remaining and hopefully this could be presented to the Board by the end of the month or the first of next month. Mr. Clark reiterated that focus should be on the students, not only bringing the low student up to average, but that the gifted and talented remain above the average stature. He said he was excited about the new year and looked forward to it. He encouraged patrons to continue to contact the Board regarding issues of concern.

Reports

8/11/09

eBoard Webinar

A webinar demonstration was presented by eBoard regarding paperless board books.

2008-2009
Preliminary AYP
Status Report

June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services, explained to the Board that this was a preliminary report; that principals were reviewing the report to make changes. Mr. Gililand commented that the report was very informative and easy to understand, especially with regard to the feeder patterns. Ms. Elliott applauded Darlene Serfaty for her work

PCSSD Unused Land Information Gary Beck, Acting Executive Director for Support Services, presented a handout regarding unused land that was owned by PCSSD. Mrs. Chaplin stated that the report was incomplete.

Construction Project Update Gary Beck, Acting Executive Director for Support Services, presented an update of construction projects that had been completed. Several Board members questioned him about the projects and asked him to check on additional projects that needed to be addressed.

Probationary Status Report Debbie Coley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented the Accreditation Report update.

Old Business
8/11/09

Johanson Salary Study Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to approve the implementation of the Johanson Group's 2008-2009 Support Staff Salary Schedule. After a lengthy discussion, Mrs. Tatum called for the question. A roll vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Tatum

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

The motion failed.

Amendment Support Staff Allocations – Director of Public Information and Policy Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to suspend the rules to add an amendment of support staff allocations for the 2009-2010 school year. The motion carried

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to approve that the 2009-2010 support staff allocations be amended to hire a Director of Public Information and Policy. The motion carried.

New Business
8/11/09

Dental Health Service Agreement Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of Junior Smiles as the dental service provider for the 2009-2010 year. The motion carried.

Amendment Certified Supplemental Coaching Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval to amend the 2009-2010 certified supplemental coaching allocations to provide District supported coaches for the High School Soccer Program. The motion carried

she felt that it is the best interest of all involved to repeal this resolution. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum

No: Vasquez, Williams, Wood, Clark

The motion failed.

Proposed
Jacksonville
School District

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, approval of a motion to direct the Superintendent to establish a district internal working group to follow the statutory process set out in Arkansas Code Annotated 6-13-1501 for the future creation of a new Jacksonville School District by agreement as indicated in the PCSSD resolution passed in September 29, 2008 and using the boundaries as approved on July 29, 2009. After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Williams called for the question. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Vasquez, Wood, Clark

No: Chaplin, Gililand, Tatum, Williams

The motion failed.

Mrs. Chaplin excused herself from the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Lawn Care Bids

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to suspend the rules regarding award of RFP for lawn care services. The motion carried. Mrs. Tatum voted no.

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, approval of lawn care service bid to White Lawn Care, Express Lawn Care and McClure Lawn Care. Ms. Williams called for the question. The motion carried. Ms. Williams voted no.

Sam Jones

Sam Jones asked to speak before the meeting ended regarding the proposed Jacksonville School District so there would be no confusion. He said he will need to inform the court of where the district is before the hearing on September 30. He stated that none of the votes tonight changed anything, and he would need to advise the court that a decision had been made by the Board regarding the boundaries and apprise the court of what happened last September.

there would be construction updates on Maumelle High School, Sylvan Hills Middle School, Jacksonville Middle School and Arnold Drive/Tolleson Elementary Schools. He welcomed the teachers back and wished everyone a good year.

Mr. Clark excused himself from the meeting.

Consent Agenda

8/11/09

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to suspend the rules regarding an addendum to personnel in the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the consent agenda. Mr. McGill asked to remove the 1st person on page 136 of the agenda book. Ms. Williams questioned the interview process of an individual and made a motion to amend the motion in order to remove the name until she was given an answer. Mr. Gililand accepted the amendment. The motion carried as amended.

Those items included:

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

Mr. Wood excused himself from the meeting.

Hearing

8/11/09

A group of parents requested a hearing regarding changing the grades of their children due to the rule that "The Board, by majority vote, may change a grade if circumstances warrant such a drastic action". Each parent waived their right to privacy and agreed to meet as a group, and allowed Ms. Coley, Ms. Elliott, Mrs. Roy and the teacher to attend the hearing. After a lengthy meeting, the decision of the Board was that Acting Superintendent McGill and Deputy Superintendent Elliott meet with the teacher to check to see if clerical errors were made in recording the grades. They were to inform the parents of the outcome of the findings.

Adjournment

8/11/09

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.