

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009. The following business was transacted.

### Opening

9/08/09

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

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

Absent: Mrs. Shana Chaplin and Mr. Charlie Wood

Zach Priest, representing Jacksonville High School, served as the student board member.

Kayla Parker, a student at Jacksonville High School, performed the National Anthem on the flute.

### Special Recognition

9/08/09

Certificate of Appreciation

Ms. Williams presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Tony Benedetti, manager, and the employees of Walmart SuperCenter #7 for their donation of school supplies to the Pulaski County Special School District.

### Minutes

9/08/09

Mr. Gililland moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the minutes of the August 11 regular board meeting and the August 27 emergency board meeting. The motion carried.

### Reports

9/08/09

Construction Updates

Mr. Eldon Bock with Witsell Evans Rasco (WER) Architects/Planner presented construction updates on Pine Forest Elementary, the new North Pulaski Elementary School, and the new Jacksonville Middle School.

At a previous workshop held on Thursday, September 3, Jack See, Brad Chilcote, and Scott Copas with Wittenberg Delony and Davidson Architects presented updates on the new Oak Grove/Maumelle High School and the new Sylvan Hills Middle School.

Home School Counseling

LaJuana Green, Director of Counseling Services, presented the Home School Counseling Report.

Conversion Charter Schools

Dr. Deborah McAfee, Director of Grants Administration, presented a report on the conversion of Harris Elementary and STAR Academy to charter schools. She explained Harris Elementary would be immersed with science/health curriculum which would be unique to the state and to education; and that STAR Academy had its own unique curriculum. She stated that the financial incentive to go forth with the conversion charter schools was \$450,000. She stated these applications would be submitted this month and the hearing for the applications of those two schools would take place in January or February and that after approval, she would apply for the implementation grant money.

Annual Recruitment Sherman Whitfield, Coordinator for Equity and Pupil Services, presented the 2008-2009 Annual Recruitment Report on behalf of Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Pupil Services.

Student Assignment Sherman Whitfield, Coordinator for Equity and Pupil Services, presented the 2008-2009 Student Assignment Report on behalf of Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Pupil Services.

### **Public Comments**

9/08/09

Carole Bulloch, a parent from Robinson High School, requested approval from the Board to allow a practice ball field at Robinson. The cost of the practice field would be donated by the parents and patrons from the area but would be short \$6,000 - \$10,000. This amount was requested from the Board for the backstop.

Mark Hearon, a parent from Robinson High School, presented a drawing of the practice field and asked for the Board's support to allow the field and to help with funding.

Mr. Gililand recommended that Mr. Beck and Mr. McGill meet with Ms. Bulloch and Mr. Hearon in order to obtain the estimated costs of the project and present a report to the Board at the October meeting.

Shannon Smith, a parent from Sylvan Hills Middle School, voiced her concerns regarding the lack of communication in the District. She stated that she was misinformed about when the results of the ACTAAP tests came in. Ms. Williams asked Ms. Elliott to meet with Mrs. Smith to resolve this issue.

Shelby Thomas, a parent from Sylvan Hills Middle School, voiced his complaint about the District's cell phone policy.

Donna Houston and Cloria Dozier presented a handout from concerned representatives of College Station Elementary School. The handout listed concerns regarding the facilities and areas around the school. The handout stated that these matters be resolved and questions answered by the next board meeting, Tuesday, October 13.

Ivory Tillman, representing the Jacksonville area, voiced concerns regarding charter schools. He asked for an explanation regarding what recognizing the charter schools will cause for the future of public schools.

Rizzelle Aaron, a member of the NAACP from Jacksonville, stated there were major concerns of how teachers and the administration were being disciplined in the District; the statistics of the results of the different types of offenses; and the racial makeup of how these teachers and administrators were being disciplined. He requested some type of research

to compare the disciplinary actions to race and gender of the teachers and the administrators to see if there is an imbalance in how they are being disciplined.

Mrs. McDonald expressed her concern that not all of the schools in the District allowed President Obama's televised educational speech to be viewed.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, said that she was responding to the individuals regarding the cell phones. She stated that teachers will follow the consistent policies. She requested that those speaking should know the whole truth before repeating falsehoods. She welcomed Zach Priest and complimented Kayla Parker for her rendition of the National Anthem. She congratulated Mr. Clark on the new addition to his family. Ms. Nix stated that the school year was off to a good start and thanked all the teachers for all their extra work and time, especially with the care of the buildings. She thanked Mr. McGill for visiting every single school in the District which was very reassuring to the faculties; and for thanking the staff at these schools. She said that negotiations were going good and thanked Mrs. Farver for being open with the financial information and for working with PACT. Ms. Nix welcomed Ms. Elliott to the District. She called attention to page #79 of the agenda – that this position was not replacing Marty Nix and asked for a correction to be made as a temporary position.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, reported that transportation was going very good this school year. He thanked Mr. Clark for coming by the Sweet Home pound and said how much it meant to the staff. He thanked Mrs. Farver for always supplying him with reliable and timely information. He asked that on page #51 that the word structure be added so the sentence would read – present salary schedule structure. He asked everyone to keep Sandy Roy and her mother, who is ill, in their prayers. Don Clevenger, chief negotiator for PASS, gave an update on the negotiations. He commented on how the current salary schedule was placed and how the Johanson salary schedule was not going to work with the new state software. He stated that he had met with Anita Farver, Sharon Berry, and Debbie Coley and they had come up with a very workable salary schedule.

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**

9/08/09

Mr. Vasquez said that he was not happy with the District's cell phone policy, and that it might be time to establish a working group to look at changes to the policy. He commented on making the cell phone technology work with the students'

education. He addressed the issue of upgrade and repair of the facilities in the county, and the commitment and money it would take for the District to make these repairs. Mr. Vasquez stated that open enrollment charter schools were in competition for our students and that it is a real challenge for the public schools. He thanked Mrs. Chaplin for her time on the Board and stated that she would be missed.

Ms. Williams stated that she had visited Scott and Harris Elementary Schools and thanked Mr. Beck, Ms. Rankin and all the staff for their work in transforming the schools. She said that she would continue to volunteer at Harris and looked forward to working with the new school board member. Ms. Williams again thanked Mr. Benedetti, manager at Walmart SuperCenter #7, for the donations to the schools in their area.

Mr. Gililand stated his concerns regarding the charter schools. He said the competition for charter schools and public schools did not compete with the same rules. He also said that he would miss Mrs. Chaplin; that she was a great inspiration. He wished Ms. Coley a happy birthday. Mr. Gililand said that he was pleased with the start up of school and thanked everyone for a good job and that he appreciated their effort.

Mr. Clark thanked everyone for the cards, calls and gifts for his new daughter. He commended the current administration for placing a nurse in every school. He thanked Mrs. Chaplin for her two years of service on the board. He commended the District on their decision to allow the administrators at each school to determine whether they had the resources to view President Obama's education speech. Mr. Clark asked the District to focus on the Gifted and Talented Program; to hone in on the talents of our proficient students.

**Old Business**

9/08/09

Johanson Salary Study

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that all support staff employees remain on the present salary schedule structure for the 2009-2010 school year, and that the Johanson salary study is revised for possible implementation for all support staff employees for the 2010-2011 school year. The motion carried.

Full-time Registrars

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the 2009-2010 support staff allocations be amended to hire a full time registrar at each school. The motion carried.

Ten Additional Registered Nurses

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the 2009-2010 support staff allocations be amended to hire an additional ten (10) Registered Nurses. This funding source would be from NSLA instead of the Operating Fund. The motion carried.

Upgrade/Title Free and Reduced Technician Position

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the 2009-2010 support staff allocations be amended to upgrade and change the title

of the Free and Reduced Technician position to Student Nutrition Technician. The motion carried.

Upgrade Registered Nurses and Facilitator of Health Services positions  
Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the 2009-2010 support staff allocations be amended to upgrade Registered Nurses and the Facilitator of Health Services positions. The motion carried.

**New Business**  
9/08/09

2009-2010 Budget  
Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval to adopt the 2009-2010 budget. The motion carried.

Superintendent's Action Plan  
Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval to adopt the Superintendent's Action Plan 2009-2010. The motion carried.

Revised ARRA Plan  
Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the revised ARRA Plan. The motion carried.

General Contractor Construction Manager  
Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to approve the three General Contractor Construction Management companies (Baldwin & Shell Construction Company, EAST-HARDING, INC., and HARCO Constructors) for professional services. Mr. Clark abstained from voting. The motion carried.

Oppose Charter School Application Little Rock Urban Public Charter (UCPC) School For Young Men  
Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval to oppose the application for approval of the Little Rock Urban Public Charter (UCPC) School for Young Men, and that appropriate written opposition be submitted to the State Board of Education prior to the deadline of September 30, 2009. The motion carried.

Oppose Charter School Application For Friends Academy of Health & Environmental Sciences  
Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval to oppose the application for approval of the Friends Academy of Health and Environmental Sciences and that appropriate written opposition be submitted to the State Board of Education prior to the deadline of September 30, 2009. The motion carried.

Fund Transfer  
Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to approve the request to transfer funds in the amount of \$11,500,000.00 from the Operating Fund to the Building Fund. Ms. Williams abstained from voting. The motion carried.

**Consent Agenda**  
9/08/09

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to suspend the rules to add an addendum to personnel and award of bids in the consent agenda. The motion carried to suspend the rules.

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval of the addendum to the consent agenda regarding personnel and award of bids. The motion carried.

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to approve the consent agenda with the additions. Ms. Williams voted no. The motion carried.

Those items included:

- personnel
- the bills for payment
- award of bids

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to approve the financial report. The motion carried.

**Superintendent's  
Comments**

9/08/09

Mr. McGill thanked Mrs. Chaplin for her years of service on the board. He congratulated Cheryl Williams on becoming a Nationally Certified School Nurse, and stated that Cheryl is now the 19th Nationally Certified School Nurse (NCSN) in the state of Arkansas and the 2nd NCSN in Pulaski County Special School District. He introduced Deb Roush, the new Director of Public Information and Policy and Rebecca Rains, the new Director of Purchasing. Mr. McGill addressed the need for more custodians in the District. He stated that he enjoyed visiting with each school and the faculty at the beginning of the school year. He commented that he was aware of issues in most of the schools which would be dealt with. He stated that he had emphasized to all the teachers, custodians, support staff, and bus drivers, that there was one purpose we all exist for and that is "student achievement". Mr. McGill expressed that most of the time there are no comments in our school and our district if things are going good, but if one thing went wrong, there was a negative report, either verbally or in the news. He stated that it would be up to Mrs. Roush, the employees, and the parents to put out positive publicity for the District. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**Adjournment**

9/08/09

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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Board President

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Board Secretary