

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 November 2009. The following business was transacted.

Opening

11/10/09

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

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

Absent: Mr. Bill Vasquez

Deion Lemell, representing Sylvan Hills High School, served as the student board member.

The Sylvan Hills High School Ensemble Choir performed the National Anthem.

Special Recognition

11/10/09

Recognition of
New Partners
In Education

Eighty-three new Partners in Education were presented framed certificates of declaration of partnership with the District's schools.

PCSSD Calendar
Art Contest
Winners

Mr. Wood presented Tatum Parks, a student from Sylvan Hills Elementary, and Annika Johnson, a student from Sherwood Elementary, each a check for \$100 and a Certificate of Achievement recognizing them as the PCSSD Calendar Art Contest winners.

WorldFest
Winners

Mrs. Sawyer presented Certificates of Achievement to the winners of WorldFest. ESL students from Robinson Middle School won first place as Peru, South America on September 25, 2009. The winners were: Nancy Trejo (6th grade), Truc Le (7th grade), Estaban Gonzalez (7th grade), Alejandro Ramirez (8th grade), and Angel Pineda (8th grade). Dena Yancey, ESL Specialist/Teacher was also recognized.

Mrs. Tatum presented Certificates of Achievement to the WorldFest winners. Students from the Learning Academy won third place as Gambia, Africa. The winners were: Britteny Holmes, Kahlil McCraw, Alana Caffey, Ebonie Johnson, and Tyreal Campbell. Also recognized were teachers; Vivian Harris, Cindy Lopez and Yolanda Goodman.

Retired Air Force
Colonel Jim Gray

Mr. Wood presented retired Air Force Colonel Jim Gray a Certificate of Recognition for volunteering his time and knowledge at Sherwood Elementary during their study of space; and instrumental in the study culminating in a Rocket Launch on October 21, 2009.

Good Apple
Awards

October's Good Apple Award for support staff was presented to Sherry Geisler, Talented and Gifted/Professional Development secretary at Central Office. Pat "Mimi" Warner, lunch duty supervisor at Sherwood Elementary, was presented the November's Good Apple Award for support staff.

Proclamation

A Proclamation was declared for American Education Week.

Henry Osterloh

Henry Osterloh, PCSSD Board of Education Hearing Officer,

was presented a plaque in recognition and appreciation for his thirty years of service to the District. Mr. Osterloh announced his retirement earlier in the month after serving as Hearing Officer since 1979.

Minutes

11/10/09

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval of the minutes of the October 13, 2009 regular board meeting; October 19, 2009 and November 2, 2009 special board meetings; and the November 2, 2009 emergency board meeting. The motion carried.

Reports

11/10/09

Fall Enrollment
Gifted/Talented
Programs

Laura Shirley, Director for Talented and Gifted Program(s), presented the report on fall enrollment for the Talented and Gifted programs. Ms. Williams requested that Mrs. Shirley give an updated report in the next two months regarding what is being done to recruit black students for the program.

Ramping Up
The Rigor

Laura Shirley, Director for Talented and Gifted Program(s), introduced the "Ramping Up the Rigor" initiative to the Board with a PowerPoint presentation.

Act 1307 of 2009

June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services, informed the Board that Act 1307 of 2009 amended requirements for public school end-of-course assessments, and presented a letter that would go out to parents.

Internal Audit
Group

Mr. McGill gave an update regarding an internal audit group that was requested by Mr. Wood at the previous board meeting. He stated that after consulting with Mr. Bequette and Mr. Billingsley that he had not found anything that would prevent the Board from hiring an internal audit group. He said that his first recommendation would be that the Board find a superintendent that can be trusted and that they have confidence that he/she will do what is right for students and the district. He said that currently the district has a financial audit each year and that at this time it is going through a legislative audit. He stated that the Arkansas Department of Education and the federal government also monitor activities of the district. Mr. McGill stated that currently the Board has the means to conduct investigations concerning the superintendent; there are two law firms the district uses who work directly for the Board. He stated that engaging the lawyers in investigation on the occasions they may occur would be less expensive than hiring full time staff to be on call for such investigations. He said that the approximate cost of hiring two personnel would probably be between \$150,000 and \$200,000. Mr. McGill stated that if the Board wants to go forward with hiring an internal audit team, he recommended that a board representative meet with him to work on a job description.

Public Comments

11/10/09

Sandi Waymire, a parent from Sylvan Hills Middle School, represented the Site-Based Committee and voiced her support

to hire a full time secretary and an additional assistant principal for Sylvan Hills Middle School.

Ivory Tillman, President of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP, stated the he had submitted a Freedom of Information request that listed concerns regarding the hiring of minorities and was not satisfied with the information he had received from the District. He requested that the information that he had requested be provided.

Coach Karoma Smith, President of the Heat Foundation, Inc., gave an update regarding his organization and the service it provided for the community. He requested that the Board waive the fees of \$290 per week for the use of the gymnasium at Harris Elementary.

Ms. Williams asked that Mr. McGill, Dr. Bowles, Ms. Elliott, Mrs. Farver, and Ms. Lou Jackson, principal at Harris Elementary, meet with Coach Smith and work out an arrangement.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, congratulated Mr. Osterloh on his retirement. She thanked everyone on behalf of Sandra Roy for their support during her mother's illness. She asked that everyone remember those in the military, especially those involved with the Fort Hood tragedy. She gave an update on the statewide task force on teacher evaluations. Ms. Nix commented on the ADE American Education Week which will be November 15 – 21st and said the slogan this year is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility". She said this emphasizes the shared responsibility to provide students with quality public schools. She stated that PACT is resolved to settle the contract; that negotiations are down to money items, primarily salary and insurance. Ms. Nix stated she hoped that certain district administration are not circumventing the negotiation process and if that is happening, it is totally unacceptable. She said there were several sidebar negotiations which have been discussed, and stated that several sidebar discussions had been taken to an insurance advisory committee, which was an inappropriate place to put anything that was negotiable. Ms. Nix voiced her concern regarding the teachers being told there was no money for a salary increase and gave a list of expenditures for the district. She stated that at no point in time did PACT ever agree to any amount of money, much less \$11.5 million, would be transferred from the operating fund to a restricted fund. She stated that tomorrow is Veterans Day and thanked Mr. Vasquez, Mr. McGill, Coach Treadway, Curt Williams, Dr. Walker, Brad Montgomery and all the men and women for serving our country.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, congratulated Mr. Osterloh on his past thirty years with the district. He said there were two unions and that no one seemed concerned about having a contract with these unions. He stated that it was not in the best interest of the district to get out of desegregation. He said he felt that PASS was getting the run around; that when the budget was built neither PACT nor PASS were involved. Don Clevenger, chief negotiator for

PASS, gave an update on the contract. He stated the negotiations were not going well. He said that negotiations have been going on since May and after since months, there should be a contract. He said the holdup was the money and the insurance. He stated that PACT/PASS should have been included in the budget; that he would like to know what is going on.

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
11/10/09

Mr. Gililand commented on the Veterans Day program at Northwood Middle School that he attended earlier in the day. He stated that it was shown to the whole student body and how moved everyone was. He thanked the veterans for their service to the country. He thanked the business partners for their community support to our schools. Mr. Gililand thanked Mr. Osterloh for his years of service to the district. He stated that he would support the Heat Foundation to help our kids; that it was a very worthwhile program. He wished everyone a safe Thanksgiving.

Ms. Williams thanked Mr. Osterloh for his years of service to the district. She wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving. She stated that she was disappointed that there was no movement on the contracts and asked for an update and would like to see the contract settled. She stated that when the \$11.5 million was transferred, she asked what impact would it have on the negotiations and was told there would be no negative impact. Ms. Williams stated that now there was a negative impact on negotiations and the budget. She said it was the end of the year and a settlement needed to be resolved.

Mr. Wood wished Mr. Osterloh a happy, second retirement and he reiterated what Mr. Clark said; that he was one of the nicest guys he'd ever met. He commented regarding PACT and PASS that there would have to be choices on how we operate. He stated that it was decided by the board that schools were a critical need and necessary to build the schools. He said that the district's teacher salaries are close to the best in the state, however, we do not have the best school facilities in the state. He stated that he would like to give teachers a raise, but sometimes choices have to be made. He said that it could not be a zone issue; that if Zone 1 received something, then the remainder of the zones could not expect to receive something. Mr. Wood said that the zones had to take turns; that it's not always their turn. He

stated that his next priority would be to build schools in Jacksonville and to have a millage increase which would possibly keep Jacksonville from leaving the district and the amount of revenue that would bring. He informed Ms. Nix that the contract issue was not a surprise to him; that he had not changed his stance and would probably support money for some of the teachers if it was merit increases. He said it was a philosophy that the best people need to be paid more and that did not mean everybody. He said this would not please everyone, but to give him credit for being consistent.

Mrs. Tatum said it had been a pleasure serving with Mr. Osterloh for twenty-seven of the thirty years he had been with the Board. She thanked all the business partners for their service and for being a part of the district and giving to the students, schools, and parents what they need. She said that so many students do not have computers and we need to make sure our libraries are open to these students and families in order that they can go online. Mrs. Tatum thanked the student board member and commended him on his 4.0+ GPA and welcomed him someday to come back and possibly be a board member.

Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Osterloh for the time he has given to the district. He commented on the event that took place with Mr. Squires on Sunday, saying this was the first honorary diploma presented for the district. He stated it was an honor to present this to Mr. Squires and acknowledged all the trials and tribulations he had gone through as a veteran of World War II. Mr. Clark said that it gave him a whole new perspective on life and what is important. He thanked all the men and women in the military for their service for our country and stated that everyone needed to support them for all they do. He asked that the military families at Fort Hood be kept in everyone's prayers. He reiterated what Mrs. Tatum said about our parents being a critical part of the district; and said that in his zone he had the best parents, teachers and administrators in the country. He said that tonight had proven the support received in the schools and thanked those involved. Mr. Clark stated that he had the best teachers and administrators, and that he too wanted the contract to be initiated quickly. He stated that he disagreed with Mr. Chesterfield, that he thought that it was past time to end desegregation in the school district. He said that it was time to gain unitary status and to go forward as a district and do what we are suppose to do – educate our children. He wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Tatum requested that everyone remember her granddaughter that is serving in the military.

Mr. Wood suggested that as a Veterans Day remembrance, to visit the Korean War Memorial at MacArthur Park which is an impressive tribute to the Korean War veterans who are often called "the forgotten veterans".

Ms. Williams asked her fellow board members to always remember that we can build or renovate the schools, but if we

don't have students or teachers to put in the schools, it will not do any good. She stated that if a business did not give raises, they would not have employees, and to remember it is the teachers and the support staff that are working to educate our students in the district.

Deion Lemell, student board member, spoke regarding the secretary position at Sylvan Hills Middle School. He stated that at his school the disciplinary problems have decreased, which has caused less distraction from education. He referred to the letter from the Sylvan Hills Middle School Site-Based Committee; that the proposal for a full time secretary would only add two hours to that position per day. He said he thought this was necessary in order for the secretary to assist the administration which would allow them to have less focus on disciplinary issues. He said he felt it was very important to rid the schools of disciplinary problems.

Old Business

11/10/09

Revision of
Board Policy BDA
Second Reading

Revision of board policy BDA, Board Organizational Meeting, to add Parliamentarian to list of Board officers. Second Reading. No action taken.

New Business

11/10/09

Approval for Full
Time Secretary/
Additional Assistant
Principal at Sylvan
Hills Middle School

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval for a full time secretary and an additional assistant principal at Sylvan Hills Middle School. After a lengthy discussion, Mrs. Tatum called for the question. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Tatum, Williams, Wood

No: Gililand, Sawyer

The motion carried.

PCSSD Facebook
Site

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to table this until more information was available. The motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments

11/10/09

Mr. McGill commended Mr. Gililand for obtaining Arkansas School Board Association Boardmanship for his hours of continuing education and congratulated him for being a recipient of this award at the upcoming ASBA Conference in December. He informed the board that on the previous Sunday, he presented, along with Mr. Clark, Col. Allen Hargis, and State Senator Shane Broadway, an honorary diploma to Mr. Elmer Squires, a veteran of World War II. He said that not only was this a surprise during Mr. Squires birthday party, that he was also surprised to find out that his son-in-law had written a book about him. Mr. McGill stated that he had

attended the Northwood Middle School's Veterans Day event that was presented by the LRAFB personnel. He said that on Wednesday he would give a talk to Mr. Griffin's 8th grade Social Studies class at Fuller Middle School regarding Veterans Day. He asked everyone to remember all veterans, especially those that are currently serving our nation and to keep in prayer the soldiers and families of Fort Hood, Texas. Mr. McGill congratulated Sylvan Hills and Mills High School for making the playoffs.

Consent Agenda

11/10/09

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Those items included:

- Personnel
- The bills for payment
- Financial report

Executive Session

11/10/09

Mr. Clark moved to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of personnel. The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m. No action was taken during executive session.

Hearing

11/10/09

Student – Closed

A recommendation was presented for the expulsion of an 11th grade male student at Robinson High School. The student was charged with violation of Rule #39 of the Student Handbook, Assault /Battery on Staff. The Hearing Officer recommended expulsion of the student for the remainder of the current school year. Henry Osterloh served as the hearing officer at the board meeting.

At the request of the student, the Board conducted the hearing in closed session.

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, for the student to attend the PCSSD Learning Academy for the remainder of the year. The motion carried.

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

Adjournment

11/10/09

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary