

## RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS

An emergency meeting of the Board of Education of the Pulaski County Special School District was held at 925 East Dixon Road on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010. The following business was transacted.

### Opening

1/06/10

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Ms. Gwen Williams

### New Business

1/06/10

Race To The  
Top Grant

Dr. Deborah McAfee presented the Race To The Top (RTTT) Grant to the board. Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve the board president and the superintendent signing the Memorandum of Understanding indicating the PCSSD board's approval to support and implement the proposed grant; and also invite the principals' administration group to endorse. A roll call vote was requested.

#### Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Gililand, Sawyer, Tatum, Wood

No: Vasquez

The motion carried.

### Adjournment

1/06/10

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Race to the Top Participating Local Education Agency

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between Arkansas Department of Education (“ADE”) and Pulaski County Special School District (“Participating LEA”). The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of State collaboration. By entering into this agreement, the Participating LEA will indicate their commitment to implementing the principles and elements provided in the Preliminary Scope of Work attached. This MOU also articulates the roles and responsibilities of the ADE and the LEA in the implementation of an approved Race to the Top grant project.

In order to participate, the LEA must agree to implement all applicable portions of the State plan and return the executed MOU on or before January 8 (post-marked date).

#### 1. SCOPE OF WORK

Exhibit I, the Preliminary Scope of Work, indicates which portions of the ADE’s proposed reform plans (“State Plan”) the Participating LEA is agreeing to implement. (In order to participate, the LEA must agree to implement all elements of the State Plan that require LEA action. Note, that only those LEAs listed as high priority (attached) will be required to implement the elements under the Low Performing section of the MOU.)

#### 2. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

##### A. PARTICIPATING LEA RESPONSIBILITIES

To assist the ADE in implementing the tasks and activities described in the State’s Race to the Top application, the Participating LEA subgrantee will:

- I. Implement the LEA plan as identified in Exhibits I of this agreement;
- II. Participate in the development of a final detailed MOU that will be required (within 90 days of grant approval) if the Race to the Top grant is received;
- III. Actively participate in all relevant convenings, communities of practice, or other practice-sharing events that are organized or sponsored by the ADE or by the U.S. Department of Education (“ED”);
- IV. Post to any website specified by the ADE or ED, in a timely manner, all non-proprietary products and lessons learned developed using funds associated with the Race to the Top grant;
- V. Participate, as requested, in any evaluations of this grant conducted by the ADE or ED;
- VI. Be responsive to ADE or ED requests for information including the status of the project, project implementation, outcomes, and any problems anticipated or encountered;
- VII. Participate in meetings and telephone conferences with the ADE to discuss (a) progress of the project, (b) potential dissemination of resulting non-proprietary products and lessons learned, (c) plans for subsequent years of the Race to the Top grant period, and (d) other matters related to the Race to the Top grant and associated plans.

##### B. ADE RESPONSIBILITIES

To assist Participating LEAs in implementing their tasks and activities described in the ADE’s Race to the Top application, the ADE will:

- I. Work collaboratively with, and support the Participating LEA in carrying out the LEA plan as identified in Exhibits I of this agreement;
- II. Timely distribute the LEA's portion of Race to the Top grant funds during the course of the project period and in accordance with the LEA Plan;
- III. Provide feedback on the LEA's status updates, annual reports, any interim reports, and project plans and products; and
- IV. Identify sources of technical assistance for the project.

#### **C. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- I. The ADE and the Participating LEA will each appoint a key contact person for the Race to the Top grant.
- II. These key contacts from the ADE and the Participating LEA will maintain frequent communication to facilitate cooperation under this MOU.
- III. ADE and Participating LEA grant personnel will work together to determine appropriate timelines for project updates and status reports throughout the whole grant period.
- IV. ADE and Participating LEA grant personnel will negotiate in good faith to continue to achieve the overall goals of the ADE's Race to the Top grant, even when the State Plan requires modifications that affect the Participating LEA, or when the LEA Plan requires modifications.

#### **D. ADE RECOURSE FOR LEA NON-PERFORMANCE**

If the ADE determines that the LEA is not meeting its goals, timelines, budget, or annual targets or is not fulfilling other applicable requirements, the ADE will take appropriate enforcement action, which could include a collaborative process between the ADE and the LEA, or any of the enforcement measures that are detailed in 34 CFR section 80.43 including temporarily withholding funds or disallowing costs.

### **3. ASSURANCES**

The Participating LEA hereby certifies and represents that it:

- I. Has all requisite power and authority to execute this MOU.
- II. Is familiar with the framework of ADE's Race to the Top grant application and is supportive of the goals and plans for implementation and committed to working on all applicable portions of the State Plan.
- III. Agrees to be a Participating LEA and will implement those portions of the ADE Plan indicated in Exhibit I, if the State application is funded.
- IV. Will provide a Final Scope of Work in a format provided by the ADE. The final Scope of Work will describe the LEA's specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures in a manner that is consistent with the Preliminary Scope of Work (Exhibit I) and with the State Plan. The Final Scope of Work is due no later than 90 days after the Race to the Top grant is awarded to Arkansas, should the State be awarded the grant.
- V. Will continue to fulfill all obligations set forth in Arkansas law, including, but not limited to, those obligations related to the creation and operation of personnel policy committees (A.C.A §6-17-203 and §6-17-205).
- VI. Understands the signature of the local teacher's union president does not, nor should it be construed to, represent waiver by the union of its right to bargain (if applicable) regarding any element of the school district's LEA plan in Exhibit I, if that element is a mandatory subject of collective bargaining or is contrary to any provision of the collective bargaining agreement between the local union and the school district.
- VII. Will comply with all of the terms of the Grant, the ADE's subgrant, and all applicable Federal and ADE laws and regulations, including laws and regulations applicable to the Program, and the applicable provisions of EDGAR (34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99).

**IV. MODIFICATIONS**

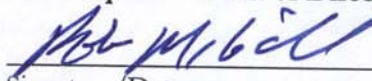
This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended only by written agreement signed by each of the parties involved, and in consultation with ED.

**V. DURATION/TERMINATION**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective, beginning with the date the grant is received and ending upon the expiration of the grant project period, or upon mutual agreement of the parties, whichever occurs first.

**VI. SIGNATURES**

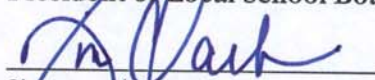
**LEA Superintendent or Director - required:**

 1/6/10  
Signature/Date

Rob McGill/Acting  
Superintendent

Print Name/Title

**President of Local School Board (or equivalent):**

 1/6/10  
Signature/Date

Tim Clark/PCSSD School Board  
President

Print Name/Title

**Local Teachers' Union Leader (if applicable):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name/Title

**Authorized State Official - required:**

By its signature below, the State hereby accepts the LEA as a Participating LEA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name/Title



## **PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

925 East Dixon Road/P.O. Box 8601  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72216  
www.pcssd.org  
(501) 490-2000

January 8, 2010

The Pulaski County Special School District's principals and building level school administrators whole-heartedly endorse the State of Arkansas' application for funding under the Race to The Top competitive grant.

Building level principals recognize the need for creativity and innovation in program development geared toward increasing student learning options, opportunity, and growth. As we work to achieve academic excellence within the walls of educational institutions, we recognize the need to close the achievement gaps and improve student opportunities for future success. We understand that to accomplish this specific goal, innovative measures must be a part of the equation and solution.

This application for funding under the Race to the Top program is a testament to the Pulaski County Special School District's willingness to commit to change and innovation.

As administrators, we are concerned about the direction of instructional quality, application, and implementation in our public schools. The desire to have a greater pool of effective, competent, instructional facilitators and leadership is a top-priority as we seek to affect the type of change this program demands. We share the United States Department of Education concern about quality instruction in our high-poverty, high-minority schools where the best teaching talent is so desperately needed.

As public school leaders, we hope that our support for the Race to The Top Grant reinforces the states commitment to innovation in defining and implementing its educational philosophy and practices. We see a brighter day in the Pulaski County Special School District where all students embrace a rigorous and challenging program of study and have a solid foundation that ensures future success. Using a formula for success that is not only academically challenging, all children should benefit from best practices, innovation and equity in public schools.

We support this district in their quest to achieve those goals.

Professionally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Nellums", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Nellums, Principal  
Mills High School