

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 17th day of February 2010. This was a rescheduled meeting due to inclement weather on February 9th 2010. The following business was transacted.

Opening 2/17/10

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Blake Shahlaie, representing Oak Grove High School, served as the student board member.

Mills University Studies High School JROTC Drill Team performed the Presentation of Colors.

The Oak Grove High School Choir performed the National Anthem.

Special Recognition 2/17/10

Proclamation

A proclamation was presented declaring February 1-5, 2010, as National School Counseling Week.

Minutes 2/17/10

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the minutes of the January 6th emergency board meeting; the January 12th regular board meeting; and the January 20th and January 21st special board meetings. The motion carried.

Reports 2/17/10

Elementary
Racial/Gender
Composition
Report

June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services, presented the Elementary Racial/Gender Composition Report.

Secondary
Racial/Gender
Composition
Report

June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent for Learning Services, presented the Secondary Racial/Gender Composition Report. There was a change on the report – under Robinson High School in the American History Class the Racial Isolation chart should have been marked instead of the one-race class.

2009-2010
Annual Personnel
Hiring and
Deployment Report

Deborah Coley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented the 2009-2010 Annual Personnel Hiring and Deployment Report.

Public Comments 2/17/10

Judy Stockrahm, a STAR teacher at Oak Grove Elementary, voiced her concerns regarding K-5 students in the self-contained special education classroom which she teaches. She stated that the TLI steps that she has to administer takes away from instructional time. She requested the administrators to rethink administering TLI for special education.

Ken Tuttle, a parent from the Robinson schools, stated that he was in favor of education and the teachers, but supported the decision of the board to withdraw recognition of PACT/PASS.

Dale Charles, representative of the Arkansas NAACP, stated that he had sent a letter to the board concerning Acting Superintendent McGill and asked them to consider another candidate in their selection for the permanent position of superintendent. He relayed that he had received complaints regarding alleged comments that had been made by Mr. McGill.

Rizelle Aaron, a representative of the Jacksonville Branch NAACP, stated he wanted to clarify that he had heard that this complaint was politically motivated due to the timing. He stated that he had other complaints that he would forward to Mr. Charles after the selection was made for the superintendent position.

Rodney Dardenne, a parent from Robinson, voiced his support for Acting Superintendent McGill and his accomplishments for the district while he has held this position. He requested that before a decision for the selection of candidates is made, that Mr. McGill be cleared of what has been alleged against him.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, said that March 2nd was the 13th Annual NEA Read Across America and challenged everyone to read with a child. She said that February 5th -7th the NEA Southwest Regional Leadership Conference was held in Little Rock. Ms. Nix gave her concerns regarding the Personnel Policy Committee being approved by the board at this meeting, and stated that if this was approved it would cause another PACT violation. She requested the board to vote no regarding this policy. She stated that the district only wants to collaborate when it is convenient for the district and that PACT was agreeable regarding the make-up snow day. She stated that collaboration was a two way street and requested the district to follow the agreement that is in place at all times, not just when it is convenient. Her concerns regarding violations to the agreement were; teachers did not have basic supplies (copy paper and ink cartridges); TLI testing; employees not receiving copies of leave forms to see if they were approved; appropriate evaluations; academic interventionists; top level administration making up their own rules regarding reassignments; reassignment/transfer language; building administrator's written reprimands over trivial things; changing of teachers schedules, bell schedules and increasing the student day; association leave (which the administrators need to know); and attendance incentive. Ms.

Nix stated that PACT had always participated in the search for a superintendent, but was not invited for the current search. She said that more than the majority of the teachers in the district are members of PACT, but they were left out of the process. Ms. Nix voiced her concerns over a letter she received from an attorney urging her to cease alleged defamatory statements she had made about an individual. She stated that she had not made any personal statements, that her statements were on behalf of the association. She stated the attorney did not tell her what statements she had made or which statements were defamatory. She said that approximately a year ago she had met with this same attorney and a board member who alleged that two PCSSD principals had made defamatory statements against him. Ms. Nix said that she would continue to speak what she knows to be the truth. She said that the best defense against a defamation charge is to tell the truth and have proof, whether it is witnesses, email, cancelled checks, reports, or text messages that provide truth of what has been said. She referred to the late emergency board meeting held on December 8th without advice or input from the patrons of the district. She stated that she was glad she was able to speak of these issues and asked the board to vote no on forming a Personnel Policy Committee. She requested the board to ask the administration to pay the attendance incentive to teachers who were supposed to receive it on February 15th. She said a grievance had been filed, but like most grievances, it would probably be denied and would have to go through arbitration.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, said that he and Ms. Nix had worked with Mr. McGill to agree that February 15th would be a make-up day for the district. He stated that he was a team player. He stated that in the past any time a committee was formed in the district it would come through the PASS/PACT presidents. He said that at no time were they contacted to be on this committee. He stated that he was not speaking as an individual but as PASS President and requested that the board let PASS/PACT be on the same team and have their recognition and contract back. He stated that the bus drivers and support staff were professionals and would like to be treated as professionals.

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
2/17/10

Mrs. Tatum thanked Dr. McAfee and staff at College Station Elementary on receiving the \$10,000 grant which will be used for the parent center and beautification of the lawn. She said Dr. McAfee was in the process of working on another grant for

College Station, and that she was very fortunate to have Dr. McAfee and the principal working on the same team.

Mr. Wood said that he appreciated Mr. Chesterfield and the support staff for coming in on December 10th when teachers did not come to work. He commended and thanked the bus drivers for their professionalism. He stated that the district was starting a new calendar year, that a lot of things would be coming up on the agenda and urged everyone to work hard and do their best.

Mrs. Sawyer said that monthly meetings were being held to discuss a community forum scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 2nd from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Robinson High School cafeteria. She stated that the forum would be open to the community and the purpose is to talk about ways to strengthen our schools in that zone and in the county. She stated the announcement was on the PCSSD Facebook page and there would be a survey to respond to. Mrs. Sawyer recognized Esther Park, an eighth grade student at Robinson Middle School, on excelling at the spelling bee. Miss Park won the Pulaski County Spelling Bee, and will go to the state competition on March 6th. Mrs. Sawyer said she was excited about the community meeting and about great things happening in Zone 2 and invited everyone to participate.

Ms. Williams thanked the Leader for their article reporting the before and after school program. She stated that this program had been very beneficial for her schools, especially Harris Elementary.

Mr. Gililand stated that North Pulaski High School was the only high school in the district to send students to the All State Concert Band and that one made concert band and jazz band. He stated that Mills High School had the most at state level of any school in the state to make the All State Orchestra. Mr. Gililand said there were some great programs in the district regarding our music and band, especially at these two schools. He said that both schools worked hard in developing these programs, starting at the elementary level all the way through high school. Mr. Gililand said that the North Pulaski All State Band was practicing in Hot Springs tonight in preparation of their performance for Saturday, February 20th.

Student board member, Blake Shahlaie, commented on the interruption TLIs create in the classroom, especially in his AP English class while in preparation for exams. He suggested doing fewer TLIs. He also commented on the teachers not having basic supplies and said that last year at EAST Lab he did not have the correct computer space to run his software.

Mr. Clark said he wanted to comment on something Ms. Nix had brought up regarding Mr. Dardenne. He said he did know Mr. Dardenne and had been contacted by him about three months ago requiring about running for school board. He said

Mr. Dardenne asked if he could set up a meeting with Ms. Nix. Mr. Clark stated that he and Mr. Dardenne met with Ms. Nix and Mr. Dardenne decided not to run for the school board. He thanked Mr. Dardenne for attending the meeting. Mr. Clark related some incidents that had occurred since the decision was made to decertify PACT/PASS, and stated he hoped these incidents did not have anything to do with that decision. He stated he was not the only person that had suffered, however, some of his concerns were: his new car being hit while parked in his driveway; an ethics complaint regarding a check from the union which he had several times admitted they had donated to his campaign; and death threats to him and his family. He said that whoever was involved or who they represented, it was not going to stop him from making decisions that were for the betterment of the students.

Old Business

2/17/10

Revision of Board
Policy GB(C)
Second Reading

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, to table this until the March meeting. The motion carried.

Revision of Board
Policy GB(D)
Second Reading

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, to table this until the March meeting. The motion carried.

Tuition Reimburse-
ment for Teachers

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the recommendation to establish a tuition reimbursement policy for teachers working toward a master's degree. The motion carried.

New Business

2/17/10

Election of
Parliamentarian

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, to nominate Mr. Vasquez as Parliamentarian. Mr. Vasquez declined. Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to nominate Mrs. Sawyer. Mrs. Sawyer declined. Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams to table this until the March meeting. The motion carried.

Funding trip
Mills JROTC
Drill Team

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval to assist in funding the Wilbur D. Mills High School JROTC Drill Team \$6,000 to attend the All Service National Drill Team Competition at Daytona, Florida. Mills is the only JROTC program in Arkansas selected to attend this competition. The motion carried.

Sylvan Hills
Elementary
School Before
and After School
Building Grant

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve Sylvan Hills Elementary School to build a before and after school building through grant funding. The motion carried.

Corporate Resolution with First Bankcard	Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval of the Corporate Resolution with First Bankcard and Bank of the Ozarks, with creating the process for Mrs. Farver, Chief Financial Officer, to have final approval of expenses. Mrs. Tatum suggested only two cards to be issued, one for Mrs. Farver, CFO, and one for the superintendent's office. The motion carried.
Revision of Board Policy GBEC(D), GBEC(D)-R, GBEC(D)-E First Reading	Approval of revision of board policy GBEC(D), GBEC(D)-R, and GBEC(D)-E, Staff Health and Safety Drug and Alcohol Testing. First reading – no action required.
Funding – Jacksonville Elementary 5 th Grade 4-H Field Trip	Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval to assist in funding the Jacksonville Elementary 5 th Grade 4-H Overnight Field Trip. The amount approved would not exceed \$6,275. The motion carried.
Approval of Colors and Mascot – Oak Grove High School	Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, to approve the request of the New High School Committee that the colors of the replacement high school for Oak Grove High School to be red and black and the mascot to be Hornets. The motion carried.
Elementary School Field Day	Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve holding a spring track meet/jamboree for the district elementary students. The motion carried.
Funding – Space Camp at Pine Forest Elementary	Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval to assist in funding \$2,500 for the Pine Forest Space Camp. The motion carried.
	Mr. Clark excused himself from the meeting at 8:20 p.m.
Resolution November 2002 Issue	Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the final bond refunding resolution for November 2002 Bond Issue. After discussion, Mrs. Tatum called for the question. The motion carried.
Selection of Mechanical Engineer	Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the committee's recommendation of Pettit & Pettit Consulting for Engineers for the following projects: Landmark Elementary HVAC Project - \$383,000; Oakbrooke Elementary HVAC Project - \$312,000; Sylvan Hills High HVAC Project Auditorium) - \$112,000; and Harris Elementary Security Lights Project - \$51,000. The motion carried.
Revised ARRA Plan	Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval of the revised AARA Plan. The motion carried.
Summit Technologies	Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Wood, approval to enter into a contractual privacy agreement with Summit Technologies to allow them access to our data base for initial beta test-

ing on their evaluation model. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval to table this until the next board meeting so the board could be presented more information. The motion to table this failed. Ms. Williams left the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion made by Mr. Gililand, and seconded by Mr. Wood, to approve the agreement carried, 3 yes, 2 nos. Mrs. Sawyer stated that she was not against it, but voted no because she wanted to have more information to know what she was voting on.

**Superintendent's
Comments**

2/17/10

Mr. McGill wished Mr. Clark a belated birthday. He expressed condolences to Mrs. Janis Gladden and Mrs. Judy Coleman regarding the death of their husbands. Mr. McGill informed the board that the court date had changed to Thursday, February 25th.

Consent Agenda

2/17/10

Mr. McGill noted a change under personnel. Rose Sanders should be removed from retirement. Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval of the consent agenda with noted changes. The motion carried.

Those items included:

- Expulsions
- Personnel
- The bills for payment
- Financial report

Adjournment

2/17/10

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary