

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2010. The following business was transacted.**

### Opening

3/11/10

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 Robert McGill

Absent: None

Mr. Clark stated that the purpose of the meeting was to find out how an unredacted copy of the investigation report for Mr. McGill was obtained by Rizelle Aaron.

### Old Business

3/11/10

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, approval for an investigation into improper dissemination of personnel matter at board level. Mrs. Tatum said that she did not understand and asked what it meant by board level. Mr. Clark said that at the board meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> there were conflicting opinions between board members; that he had asked for Mr. Aaron's information to be completely omitted from the subject of the motion because he felt that it was placing the board in a very dangerous position. He voiced his concerns regarding media coverage and stated that we have got to come together as a board and make the right decisions to direct the district in the right direction. He said that the publicity the board had received during the past few weeks was giving the board a terrible reputation. Mr. Clark said they needed to make the right decision to clean the board up or out and it had to start with the board. He stated that if the board was not on the right path, the district would never be on the right path. He encouraged the board to think about it and come together to move the board into the right direction so the district can follow suit. Mr. Vasquez asked what this had to do with this motion. Mr. Clark responded that if information was improperly given from the board to an outside source, then that was a reflection on the board as a whole.

Mr. Vasquez asked the guilty party to stand up. He stated that everyone else could plead the fifth and if this went to court it would go nowhere, and asked what's the point. Mr. Clark responded that he did not want his constituents or the public to think he did not want this done or not acted on. Mr. Wood asked Mr. Vasquez if he thought this was a bad thing to try to find out. Mr. Vasquez stated that he thought it served no purpose. Mr. Wood asked if they found out who did it, would it serve the purpose. Mr. Vasquez said whose purpose and for what. Mr. Clark said this is the attitude that will keep us moving in the wrong direction. It was asked if someone will have to be hired to conduct the investigation. Mr. Wood recommended having Mr. Bequette's office conduct the investigation. Mr. Vasquez stated that he had consulted with Mr. Bequette and was told this was a civil matter, not a criminal matter; that even if the board found out who did it, the only action that could be taken was to say shame on you. He said an investigation could be done and even if the guilty party

was found there would be no grounds to remove them from a board position, because it was not a felony. Mr. Clark stated it was an ethical problem; Mr. Vasquez responded that ethics were not the board's strong point. Mr. Wood stated if we found out who did it, then the employees that may have legitimate damages would know who to sue. Mr. Vasquez stated that since we have not been harmed in this, and the employees whose names were released may have been harmed, then it is their case to take up, not ours. He said if they do an investigation and hire an attorney to find out who sent this information, they are free to seek restitution. He stated it is not the board's place to seek restitution for that. Mr. Clark asked if anyone in the room had been affected by this peril. Mr. Aaron stated that he had been affected. Mr. Clark asked had any employees been affected. Mr. Gililand stated that he had also spoken with Mr. Bequette and that it was a civil issue only, not criminal activity, and it is our responsibility to protect our employees. He stated that someone on this board appears to have released this information, and if it comes out that they didn't or we can't prove it, we will move on. He said that it appears that someone on the board let this out inappropriately and it has affected a great number of our employees. Mr. Gililand said that he agreed that it would not be the responsibility of the board to pursue anything further such as criminal activity or criminal charges. He stated that he wanted to show and make an effort for this to be known so that if we find who did it, then the employees could act on their behalf. He agreed that it would not be the board's responsibility to file a civil suit against them on their behalf, but it is the board's responsibility to find out if it was one of us that let this information out inappropriately, which was a violation of those employees. Ms. Williams said that she would like to know if the investigation reveals that no board member released this information, will the board members that have been accused be given a public apology. She said that to do this investigation at board level, that she has been harmed as well as the employees. She said that when she read the investigative report that Mrs. Tatum had given her (she had not seen it until that night) she would like to know if Mr. Wood would issue a public apology. Mr. Wood said there was no apology to be issued since he had not accused any one individual. Mr. Gililand stated that if it is the truth that none of us did it, then they would move on.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Gililand, Sawyer, Wood  
No: Tatum, Vasquez, Williams

The motion carried.

Adjournment  
3/11/10

Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

---

Board President

---

Board Secretary