

## 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 August 10, 2010.**

**Opening**  
8/10/10

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 6.05 pm.

Present: Mr. Tim Clark, Mr. Danny Gililland, Mrs. Sandra Sawyer, Mrs. Mildred Tatum, Mr. Bill Vasquez, Ms. Gwen Williams, Mr. Charlie Wood and Superintendent Charles Hopson

**National Anthem**  
8/10/10

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Clark.

**Special Recognition**  
8/10/10

Certificates of Achievement/  
2010-2011  
Calendar/Hand-  
Book Art Winners

Certificates of Achievement were presented to the winners of the annual Calendar/Handbook Art Contest. Along with the Secondary Winner and the Elementary Winner, their sponsoring art teachers and twelve honorable mentions were honored. JoAnn Koehler, Coordinator of Fine Arts, was given a special thank you for her participation regarding this project. The winners were:

Secondary School Winner

Crushawn Hayes – Jacksonville High School  
Art Teacher, Marvin Lindley

Elementary School Winner

Olivia Woods Jernigan – Pine Forest Elementary  
Art Teacher, Steve Warnock

Honorable Mention

Alex Leonard – Jacksonville High School  
Glenn Fiscus – Jacksonville High School  
Madyson Dokes – Pinewood Elementary

Daniel Anderson – Crystal Hill Elementary  
Trey Jackson – Crystal Hill Elementary

Kelsey Seats – Northwood Middle School  
Elizabeth St. John – Bayou Meto School  
Claudia Amaden – Bayou Meto School

Micheal Redus – Sylvan Hills High School

Megan Riley Ross – Robinson Middle School  
Jack Underwood – Chenal Elementary

Brittney Smith – College Station Elementary

Good Apple  
Award

Trina Ross, a secretary at Mills High School, was presented the Good Apple Award.

**Minutes**  
8/10/10

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum approval of the minutes for the June 8 regular board meeting; the June 11, June 30 emergency board meetings; and the July 8, July 28 special board meetings. The motion carried with noted changes.

**Old Business**  
8/10/10

Discussion  
PNA/Bell  
Schedules

Mr. Wood nominated Mr. Gililand, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to represent the board for any continuing dialogue or mediation regarding the negotiations with PACT. Ms. Williams nominated Mr. Vasquez. Mrs. Tatum moved that the nominations be closed. After a lengthy discussion, Mrs. Tatum called for the question. A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Clark for Gililand  
Gililand for Gililand  
Sawyer for Vasquez  
Tatum for Gililand  
Vasquez for Vasquez  
Williams for Vasquez  
Wood for Gililand

The motion carried for Mr. Gililand to be the negotiator.

**Reports/  
Presentations**

8/10/10

2009-2010  
Health Services  
Report

Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Pupil Services, presented the 2009-2010 Health Services Report prepared by Cynthia Hines, RN, NCSD, Facilitator of Health Services. Mrs. Sawyer requested that an update be presented to the board at the September board meeting regarding what was being done to address the uprise in diabetes, asthma and other medical issues in our schools.

2009-2010  
Monitoring  
Compliance  
Report

Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Pupil Services, presented the 2009-2010 Monitoring and Compliance Report.

2009-2010  
Annual Discipline  
Report

Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Pupil Services, presented the 2009-2010 Annual Discipline Report.

**Old Business**

8/10/10

Scholastic for  
Read180 and  
System 44

After a presentation of the Scholastic for Read 180 and System 44, Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval of the consulting agreement contract with Scholastic for Read and System 44 for Jacksonville Elementary, Fuller Middle, Robinson Middle, Star Academy, Oak Grove High, and Robinson High schools. The motion carried. Ms. Williams voted no.

**Public Comments**

8/10/10

Scott Hickam, Hearing Officer for the Board, read a preface regarding the protocol of public comments.

Karen Benson, a former employee with the Pulaski County Special School District, requested the board to consider reducing the amount of money that she owed the District from her sabbatical leave agreement. She requested the board to consider making a motion to: completely forgive the total

balance of this debt (\$22,624); reduce the amount of this debt (to an amount less than \$22,624; and/or allow a longer amount of time for repayment on a repayment plan (\$350.00 montly).

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to suspend the rules to consider this request. The motion failed 3/3 to suspend the rules.

Molly Clower addressed her concerns regarding the change in the new bell schedules.

Ivory Tillman related his concern regarding the condition of the facility at Jacksonville Middle School and asked the board for their support for the teachers.

Mr. Hickman stated that when someone signed in for public comments the discussion topic should be specific.

#### PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, congratulated the art students that received certifications of achievement. She congratulated Ms. Mildred Baker, a fourth grade teacher at Baker Elementary School, regarding 100% of her students scoring at proficient or advanced level. She stated this was evidence of the hard working teachers in the district and emphasized that teachers were already at work. Ms. Nix stated that on December 8<sup>th</sup> the school board voted to withdraw recognition of PACT and PASS; on April 8<sup>th</sup> Judge Fox ruled the vote was null and void and the contract remain in effect. She stated that on April 20 four board members voted to withdraw recognition of PACT again; and on July 12 the court ruled that the vote was null and void and the PNA remain in effect. Ms. Nix said that on May 17 there was a non-renewal hearing at the suggestion of the acting superintendent, and four board members voted to non-renew every single teacher's contract; on July 12 Judge Fox ordered that PCSSD's vote on May 17, 2010 to terminate the plaintiffs' contracts was without just and reasonable cause and such vote was declared null and void and the plaintiffs' contracts that incorporate the terms and conditions of the PNA remain in full force and effect. She stated that since that time they have gone through the mediation process that was court ordered. She said there had been a set of personnel policies and a Personnel Policy Committee that was supposedly developed and voted on, but many teachers never received a ballot. She stated that a group of teachers, as individuals, and as a class action had filed an injunction against the district specifically on the bell schedule. Ms. Nix voiced her complaint against the bell schedule which violates the contract by changing the planning time of the teachers. She requested the board address the bell schedule tonight so the parents would know their child's schedules and teachers would know when to report for work. Another issue she addressed concerned the canceling of professional growth classes. Ms. Nix commented that she personally had not received a copy of her leave form submitted on June 8. She said that every ruling by the court stated the PNA was still in effect. Ms. Nix asked the board and the new superintendent to demonstrate the leadership needed for the district to heal.

PASS Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, requested the board to give recognition back to PACT and PASS. He stated that the board needs to attempt to work with the taxpayers, teachers and support staff in the district and the only way he sees this to start will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>. He said the school board is the laughing stock of the country and if everyone did not try to work together, don't blame anyone else.

Joshua and Knight Intervenor,  
PCSSD Equity/  
Pupil Services No representative from ODM, Joshua and Knight Intervenor, or PCSSD Equity and Pupil Services expressed a desire to address the board.

**New Business**  
8/10/10

First Arkansas Bank and Trust Signature Cards Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval for Dr. Charles Hopson, Superintendent, to have his signature added to district bank accounts at First Arkansas and Trust. The motion carried.

**Superintendent's Comments**  
8/10/10

Dr. Hopson expressed condolences to the family of Destiny Nowlin, age 14, of North Little Rock, who was killed in an auto accident. Destiny was a student last year at Maumelle Middle School and would have been a freshman at Oak Grove High School. Also, he expressed condolences to the family of Jessica Rogers, age 7, of Sherwood who passed away on July 28. Jessica was a student at Oakbrooke Elementary.

**Board Member Comments**  
8/10/10

Ms. Williams stated she was looking forward to the new school year. She said that over the past year and a half the board has struggled with several issues and she wanted to go on record that she is still in awe of how the board or the district will not follow the judge's order. She commented that she had let her grandchildren read the order and they understood it. Ms. Williams said the district has to come together or there will not be a district – that the board and the superintendent need to sit down, talk, and work these issues out. She said the judge's order was clear; the PNA and contract are still in effect. She commented on how her grandchild loved school, learning, and especially his teacher – what a great asset she had been in his life. She stated the district has to look at the students who are being hurt by these issues. She encouraged the board and the district to come together to educate those that are the most important – the students.

Mr. Gililand welcomed Dr. Hopson as the new superintendent and stated he looked forward to working with him. He said he was also looking forward to the promise of a new school year and the challenges of the next month. He said all he could do was give it his best and let the will of the people speak.

Mrs. Tatum said that she had been presented a book that had been published by a Mills University Studies student and how teachers were very valuable in helping our students become successful. She commented on the Mills student that had received over a million dollars in scholarships during the 2009-2010 school year and how this student had benefited in all she had been able to see and accomplish. Mrs. Tatum said attended the new teacher's orientation and was very excited to meet and visit with the new teachers. She said she looked forward to working with them this year and felt this year would bring new challenges to our students. She said that she voted to bring the Reading 180 program into our schools because if the superintendent felt strongly about an issue, it was in the best interest to follow the superintendent's direction – to follow his vision to move the district forward in the right direction.

Mr. Vasquez congratulated Ms. Mildred Baker regarding 100% of her students scoring at proficient or advanced level. He said he thought it was enough to ask people to be respectful, be professional and keep on target of what is on the agenda. He stated that Judge Fox's order was straight forward – that the district had lost twice and we were at a crossroads again. He said the court order stated the PNA was still in effect for the 2010-2011 school year; that the two parties could mediate where it left off on December 8. He said at that time there was a tentative agreement, agreed to by the negotiator, ratified by PACT, and all that was needed board was a vote by the board. He encouraged the board to read the contract. He said the decisions that are made influences more than just the board.

Mrs. Sawyer welcomed all the new members of the cabinet. She announced there would be a Community Forum meeting on September 7 at Robinson Middle School at 6:00 pm. She invited everyone to attend and meet Dr. Hopson. She also encouraged those having issues and concerns and would like these addressed at the forum to email her.

Mr. Clark said that his prayers and thoughts went out to the families and friends of Destiny and Jessica. He said he was looking forward to the new school year.

### **Consent Agenda**

8/10/10

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Those items included:

- Expulsions
- Personnel--certified and support staff
- The bills for payment

### **Adjournment**

08/10/10

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

---

Board President

---

Board Secretary