

## RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS

**A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Pulaski County Special School District was held at 925 East Dixon Road on August 16, 2010.**

**Opening**  
8/16/10

President Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 5:53 pm.

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

Absent: Mrs. Sandra Sawyer

**Reports/  
Presentations**  
8/16/10

Dr. Hopson said he appreciated the number of emails and concerns that he had received regarding the bell schedule. He stated the lines may have been blurred in the past regarding where the role of the board begins and ends, and the role of where the superintendent begins and ends. He said he believed the public should hear from him specific to the decision made regarding the bell schedule. He stated that as superintendent, the board hired him as an instructional leader to come to the district to improve academic achievement. He said when he arrived there was the dilemma regarding the bell schedule and issues around instructional minutes for elementary students. He acknowledged Marty Nix, President of PACT, for taking the time to meet with him regarding this issue, and noted that she did say there was a pending decision relative to the litigation around the contract. Dr. Hopson said that he wanted to state to the public that the decision to lengthen the elementary school day was solely his decision – that this was not a decision made by the board. He said for the record the decision was never in the domain of the board and since it was not a policy, did not need a board vote.

Dr. Hopson recognized and welcomed Col. Derek Scott as the new Executive Director of Operations and Rodney Matheney as the new Co-Deputy Superintendent of Academic Accountability.

Personnel Policy  
Committee  
Report

Robin Dorey, chairman of the Personnel Policies Committee, pursuant to ACA 6-17-205(c), orally presented the committee's comments, positions, or proposals on the final form of proposed policies or amendment to existing policies. Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to adopt the recommendations made by the Personnel Policies Committee. After a lengthy discussion, a roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Clark, Gililland, Tatum, Wood  
No: Vasquez, Williams

The motion carried.

**New Business**  
8/16/10

Certified  
Employees Bonus

Mr. Wood moved to approve a bonus for certified employees. The motion died for lack of second.

**Hearings**

8/16/10

Certified/Closed

Mr. Clark excused himself from the meeting. Vice-President Wood presided over the remainder of the meeting. Scott Hickam, Hearing Officer representing the District, called the hearing to order. Attorney Shawn Childs informed the board the hearing for Rafeaa Williams, a certified teacher, had been postponed. Attorney Jay Bequette, representing the district, informed the board this was the second time Ms. Williams had postponed and if it was the pleasure of the board, he recommended to modify the suspension without pay. Mr. Gililand moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, for the continuance of the suspension without pay. The motion carried.

Mr. Wood called the second hearing to order. Mr. Thomas Griffin, a teacher at Fuller Middle School, requested a hearing to appeal the Superintendent's recommendation of nonrenewal of his contract as a probationary teacher for the 2010-2011 school year. The reasons for this action were inefficiency, failure to follow reasonable written regulations and policies, insubordination and conduct unbecoming a professional teacher. At the request of Mr. Griffin, the hearing was held during closed session. Scott Hickam, Attorney at Law, served as the Hearing Officer. Mark Burnett of Mitchell, Blackstock, Barnes, Wagoner, Ivers and Sneddon, PLLC., represented Mr. Griffin. Keith Billingsley of Bequette and Billingsley, P.A., represented Pulaski County Special School District. After all testimony, Mr. Gililand moved to go into executive session at 10:10 pm. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 pm.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, that the school board find that reason No. 1 set forth in the recommended nonrenewal of the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin is not true. The motion carried.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, that the school board find that reason No. 2 set forth in the recommended nonrenewal of the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin is true. The motion carried.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, that the school board find that reason No. 3 set forth in the recommended nonrenewal of the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin is not true. The motion carried.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, that the school board find that reason No. 4 set forth in the recommended nonrenewal of the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin is not true. The motion carried.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, that the school board find that reason No. 5 set forth in the recommended nonrenewal of the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin is true. The motion carried.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, that the school board find that reason No. 6 set forth in the recommended nonrenewal of the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin is true. The motion carried

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, that the school board find that reason No. 7 set forth in the recommended nonrenewal of the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin is true. The motion carried

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Gililand, that the school board accepts the superintendent's recommendation that the employment contract of Mr. Thomas Griffin. The motion carried.

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

**Adjournment**

8/16/10

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded Mr. Wood, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

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Board President

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Board Secretary