

## 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 November 9, 2010.**

#### **Opening** 11/09/10

President Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Present: Mrs. Gloria Lawrence, Mrs. Sandra Sawyer, Mr. Tom Stuthard, Mrs. Mildred Tatum, Mr. Bill Vasquez, Ms. Gwen Williams, and Superintendent Charles Hopson

Absent: Mr. Tim Clark

Kaylee Belcher, representing North Pulaski High School, served as the student board member.

#### **National Anthem** 11/09/10

President Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Special Recognition** 11/09/10

Good Apple Award

Jared Humphries, a paraeducator at Sherwood Elementary, received the Good Apple Award.

Proclamation

A Proclamation was declared for American Education Week.

Recognition Letter

Superintendent Hopson congratulated Dr. Adranette Anderson and presented her a letter of recognition for being awarded the Arkansas Education Association Human and Civil Rights Educator Award for 2010.

#### **Minutes** 11/09/10

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the minutes with noted corrections for the October 12, 2010 regular board meeting. The motion carried.

#### **Reports/ Presentations** 11/09/10

Simply Delicious

Teresa Nunez presented a brief video regarding the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Simply Delicious Restaurant at North Pulaski High School which is the only student managed restaurant in the state.

2010 Counseling Report

LaJuana Green, Director of Counseling, presented the 2010 Counseling Report.

Special Education Monitoring Report

Jenny Dunn, Director of Special Education, presented the Special Education Monitoring Report.

Early Fiscal Distress Action Plan

Anita Farver, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Early Fiscal Distress Action Plan for PCSSD.

Elementary Racial/Gender Report

June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent for Academic Accountability, presented the Elementary Racial/Gender Composition Report.

Secondary Racial/Gender Report

June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent for Academic Accountability, presented the Secondary Racial/Gender Composition Report.

#### **Public Comments** 11/09/10

Pam Fitzgiven, a parent and teacher in the Pulaski County Special School District, thanked board member Gloria Lawrence for visiting Oakbrook Elementary. Ms. Fitzgiven voiced her concerns regarding the lack of textbooks in the classrooms.

Judy Lambertus, a parent and teacher in the Pulaski County Special School District, voiced her concerns regarding the shortage of textbooks in the district and addressed replacing outdated twenty year old English textbooks.

PACT

Marty Nix, President of PACT, asked everyone to remember Sandy Roy's husband, Clarence, who is recovering from pneumonia. She congratulated Dr. Anderson on her award. She commented on the recent elections and urged citizens in Sherwood to vote in the run-off for mayor; and for the candidate who will do the most for education. Ms. Nix said the recent AEA Special Development Conference for teachers presented several outstanding inservices. She stated that on the previous Saturday the current NEA president spoke to the Representative Assembly. She said one of the topics addressed during these meetings was the reauthorization of ESEA No Child Left Behind. She encouraged the board and the administration to work with these programs, one being the NEA Keys to Excellence, in the schools. Ms. Nix commented on the productive meetings between the PACT Executive Board, Dr. Hopson and the Cabinet. She gave an invitation to attend the Arkansas Opportunity to Learn Summit that will be held over the upcoming weekend. She stated that negotiations with the contract were winding down and thanked Paul Brewer for the excellent job he was doing regarding the negotiations and she hoped it would be finalized soon. Ms. Nix said she kept hearing the district was in fiscal distress, but it was not because the district didn't have money; that we were on the Arkansas Department of Education fiscal distress watch list. She voiced her concern of the lack of supplies in the classrooms which included paper, computers, ink and textbooks. She stated there was a trust issue in the district that could not be fixed overnight. She asked that the voice and the frustration of the teachers regarding the text-books be heard. She said she was optimistic because the recent election added two conscientious members to the board. She encouraged the district and board to focus on the whole child and invited them to work with PACT to provide a good education for each child.

PASS

Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, thanked the board for giving recognition back to PASS and thanked Ms. Williams for making the motion to continue negotiations. He stated that negotiations to finalize the contract were being addressed with Paul Brewer.

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.

**Old Business**

11/09/10

President Vasquez excused himself from the meeting before this action was addressed due to conflict of interest. Vice-President Gloria Lawrence presided over this part of the agenda.

Resolution

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, to accept the

resolution under ACA 6-24-101 et seq and Act. 1381 of 2005. This motion was to accept the resolution concerning the employment of Rhonda Shellito and the immediate delivery of the resolution to the Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education. Paul Brewer, Special Consultant to the Superintendent – Human Resources, stated that a letter to the Department of Education would be prepared and signed by Superintendent Charles Hopson. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

11/09/10

Board Policy  
BDA-R  
First Reading

Approval to delete Board Policy Regulation, BDA-R, Policy to Recall Election. First Reading – no action required.

Board Policy  
BEDB-R  
First Reading

Approval to delete Board Policy Regulation, BEDB-R, Agenda for Board Meetings. First Reading – no action required.

E-Rate/ Project  
Manager  
Consultant

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the E-Rate/Project Manager Consultant. The rationale for this is to understand technology needs of the district and identify opportunities to save money on telecommunications/ VoIP (phone system), internet (increase bandwidth), and other projects such as consolidating Email. The motion carried.

Performance  
*fact*, Inc.

Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve the contract with Performance *fact*, Inc. to develop and execute a system-wide Strategic Alignment Plan for the district. The motion carried.

Addendum –  
Executive  
Director of  
Operations

Mrs. Tatum moved to suspend the rules to add New Business #5 – Approval of Supplemental Contract for the Executive Director of Operations for the 2010-2011 school, seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion carried.

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the supplemental contract for the Executive Director of Operations for the 2010-2011 school year in the amount of \$130.77 per day for his credential as an engineer and past experience with construction and facilities management. The motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

11/09/10

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the consent agenda with noted deletion of the resignation of Pam Vasquez on page 85 of personnel. The motion carried

Those items included:

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

### **Superintendent's Report**

11/09/10

Dr. Hopson stated that he was pleased to announce and congratulate several schools that have been recognized for their performance. These schools were; Robinson High School, Oak Grove High School, and Sylvan Hills High School for improvement in Algebra;

Landmark Elementary, Jacksonville Elementary and Dupree for improvement; and Arnold Drive for being ranked number three in the top twenty performing schools in Arkansas. He expressed sympathy to Jackye Parker, principal at Clinton Elementary, for the recent death of her mother. He gave condolences to the Hutcher-son family, whose children attend Clinton Elementary, regarding the tragic accident of their mother. Dr. Hopson said that he would keep Sandy Roy's husband in his prayers during his illness. He said there are people in our district experiencing difficulties and we need to be in support of each other during these times.

**Board Member**  
**Comments**

11/09/10

Mrs. Lawrence stated that it had been a fast and furious month for her and although she had taught at the middle school level, it had been an eye-opener to visit the elementary and high schools in her zone. She said she was so proud of her teachers educating the children and for all their hard work; that we could not praise them enough. She said this had become a big part of her and her husband's life and they really enjoyed the teachers and administrators pushing the kids to the limit to where they need to be.

Mrs. Sawyer thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight. She encouraged everyone to reflect on the upcoming holiday and all we have to be thankful for. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Stuthard commented on the Veteran's Day Ceremony that he attended at Northwood Middle School. He said it was an excellent assembly and they were honored to have Col. Zick attend. He asked everyone to remember the veterans on Veteran's Day. Mr. Stuthard encouraged everyone to visit Simply Delicious at North Pulaski and support their program. He said he went to Rogers over the past weekend to watch the cross-county state championships and said that he thought the only teams from the district was the boys and girls teams from North Pulaski. He said it was the first time to have a girl's team at North Pulaski and they finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams. He congratulated Trevor Leer, an all-state performer, who finished 4<sup>th</sup> on the boys team.

Ms. Williams thanked everyone for the cards and calls during her recent illness. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said that Thanksgiving Family Day Lunch was scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at the different schools in the district. She thanked Mr. Booth for the refreshing change at Harris Elementary and told him how much the students and parents love him.

Mrs. Tatum said that Mills High School is now on the map again – that it has been 1983-84 since they have won 7 straight games. She said they would be playing the championship game on Friday night at home and invited everyone out to Mills Stadium to give support to the team. Mrs. Tatum thanked the administration for fixing the press box. She stated that on Thursday College Station Elementary would be celebrating Veteran's Day and invited everyone to attend. She invited all board members to visit Zone 1 and see what the schools are like. She said she was pleased with the teachers and the wonderful job they are doing in educating all

children. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said this year she hoped for a year of peace and harmony.

Student board member, Kaylee Belcher, thanked the board for allowing her to attend the meeting and said she enjoyed the experience.

Mr. Vasquez wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He encouraged everyone to remember Veteran's Day and to honor those that have served and are serving our country – that freedom is not free. He addressed the issue of recent traffic accidents regarding students and cautioned everyone to pay attention and watch out for our children. Mr. Vasquez commented on cell phone usage in our schools and suggested that redirection/adjustment to our policy regarding possible use of cell phones as a teaching tool. He said that he hoped the union contracts could be voted on at the December meeting. He said that in prioritizing issues in the district, teachers and classrooms should be first. He invited everyone to come out Friday night to the play-off in Jacksonville with Sheridan and said let sportsmanship be the victor during this game.

Dr. Hopson recognized Mary Fedrick Hayes as the board manager. He stated this was not a new position, there was a secretarial vacancy in the Office of Accountability and the position was restructured in order for her to be secretary for Accountability and serve as manager and contact person for the board. He stated that Linda Paladino would continue to work as his assistant.

**Hearings**  
11/09/10

Student – Closed

Attorney Paul Blume, Hearing Officer for the Board of Education, called the hearing to begin. The parents of a sixteen year old, eleventh grade male student requested a hearing to appeal the Mills University Studies High School's recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year due to disorderly conduct, assault, and leaving campus/designated area. The meeting was held in closed session. Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Pupil Services, represented the District. The student was represented by Attorney Peggy Egan, Duane Clayton, Mills University Studies High School Dean of Students, provided testimony regarding the incident. After all testimony, the board moved into executive session. When the meeting reconvened, Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to modify the recommendation that the student be expelled from school for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. The decision would be for the student to be assigned to the Alternative Learning Academy for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school. The board recommended that the student continue counseling and requested that the parents provide documentation of such counseling on a monthly basis to the Office of Equity and Pupil Services. The student may be reevaluated by the Superintendent on a quarterly basis for a determination of whether he may be placed in a less restrictive environment at some later date. Due to the nature of the recommendation and the assignment of discipline, the student may not go onto property of the PCSSD for any purpose other than attending and going to and from his classes. He may not attend any extracurricular functions,

including athletic events and social functions, for the duration of the 2010-2011 school year. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in additional discipline, including suspension and expulsion. The motion carried.

**Student – Closed** Attorney Paul Blume, Hearing Officer for the Board of Education called the hearing to begin. The parents of a thirteen year old, eighth grade male student requested a hearing to appeal Northwood Middle School's recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year due to assault/battery on staff. The meeting was held in closed session. Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Pupil Services, represented the District. Mr. Paul Blume, represented the board. The student was represented by Attorney Dale Duke. After all testimony, the board moved into executive session. After the meeting reconvened, Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, to reject the recommendation that the student be expelled from school for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. The reason for the rejection of the recommendation was that the student is a disabled student under §504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and that a manifestation determination hearing was not conducted prior to the recommendation of expulsion was made. The decision of the board did not exonerate the student of the basis for the recommendation. The administration still considers his actions to have been a sufficient basis for expulsion. Any further, equally unacceptable behavior on the student's part will be dealt with in a strict fashion, and the procedural prerequisites for any future expulsion recommendation will be adhered to and the recommendation made and decided by the board without procedural deficiencies. The motion carried.

**Personnel – Closed** Attorney Paul Blume, Hearing Officer for the Board of Education, called the hearing to begin. Derak Dixon, a bus driver, requested a hearing to appeal the Superintendent's recommendation of termination. The reason for this action was conduct unbecoming an employee. Mr. Dixon requested the hearing to be held in closed session. Ms. Deborah Coley, Executive Director of Human Resources, represented Pulaski County Special School District. Attorney Jay Bequette, represented the district. Attorney Nicole Hartz represented Mr. Dixon. After all testimony, Mrs. Tatum moved to go into executive session at 11:20 pm. The meeting reconvened at 11:30 pm. Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate Mr. Dixon's contract of employment. The motion carried.

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

**Adjournment**  
11/09/10

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.

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Board President

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Board Secretary