

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 February 8, 2011.

Opening

2/08/11

Ms. Gwen Williams called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

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

Absent: Mrs. Gloria Lawrence

Dr. Hopson's
Performance
Objectives
Review

A brief meeting was held before the board meeting to review Dr. Hopson's performance objectives set forth in July 2010. Dr. Tom Jacobson, Consultant, McPherson & Jacobson, LLC, addressed the board and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to request feedback from each board member concerning Dr. Hopson's performance objectives/goals and board operating principles. Board members were asked by Dr. Jacobson to submit in writing what evidence they would accept that Dr. Hopson is making progress toward the objectives set forth for him. In the meantime, Dr. Hopson was asked to look at those goals and talk about his accomplishments in them. Dr. Hopson spoke to the board and stated that he had focused more on those goals set in December 2010 and those already achieved for May 2011. He mentioned the strategic plan, the trip to China for the Mandarin language rollout, two schools that were on probationary status when he came on board that have been cleared, and safety issues with Arkansas Department of Education that have already been settled, to name a few. Dr. Hopson provided additional information via email and distributed handouts for the board members to review in their consideration. Each board member's feedback will be compiled into one document and a half-day workshop will be held to process their input and determine whether to continue with the current goals/objectives or set new performance objectives. Dr. Jacobson provided each board member forms to complete and submit to Mary Hayes, Board Manager.

Drew Hermann, representing Jacksonville High School, served as the student board member.

National Anthem

2/08/11

The Sylvan Hills 8th Grade Cadet Ensemble performed the National Anthem.

Special Recognition

2/08/11

Bobby Lester
Crystal Apple
Award

Ms. Debra Hulsey, Registrar at Robinson Middle School, received the Bobby Lester Crystal Apple Award.

Bessie B. Moore
Award for
Excellence in
Teaching
Economics

Ms. Deborah Shearer, Ms. Nancy Archer and Ms. Amanda Butler received the 2010 Bessie B. Moore Awards for Excellence in Teaching Economics.

Instructional Mini Grants 2010-2011 Instructional mini-grants were awarded to four (4) elementary and six (6) secondary schools for the 2010-2011 school year.

Proclamation A proclamation was read by Mr. Vasquez, declaring the week of February 7-11, 2011 National School Counseling Week.

Minutes

2/08/11

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the minutes for the January 19th regular board meeting. The motion carried.

Reports

2/08/11

Summary of Legal Status of DREAM Repay Attorney Jay Bequette reported that in 2008-2009 the DREAM program at Harris Elementary executed food service contracts with the PCSSD, requiring that the program pay the district for food services provided to them. In April of 2010, DREAM was notified of a default in the agreement by former superintendent, Rob McGill, in the amount of \$26,956.44. A repayment agreement was established for DREAM to make payments in the amount of \$2,700 per month for ten months. In September 2010, DREAM made two payments (one payment in September 2010 and one payment in November 2010) to pay down the amount. Pursuant to the repayment agreement, if DREAM defaults in their payments for two months the district has the right to demand the full amount due and payable, or file suit and demand judgment immediately after filing suit. Mr. Bequette stated that at this time DREAM still owes the district a balance of approximately \$22,000.

Meals/Snacks for Before & After School Programs Mr. Dale Scott, Director of Food Services, reported to the Board on behalf of the district regarding provisions of meals and after school snacks, as part of the partnership between PCSSD, the Department of Human Services, and DREAM. He distributed handouts to the Board outlining the prices and services as required by the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Williams addressed questions to Mr. Scott regarding the services being provided by the DREAM program that were to be provided by PCSSD, as established in the agreement. Mr. Scott stated that he was not privy to the partnership contract between the district and DREAM.

Mr. Vasquez stated that obviously more information is needed regarding what services the district has agreed to provide in order to address the problem. He asked Mr. Bequette to provide a comprehensive report on the best course of action to address the district's responsibility in providing those services, including transportation, and report back to the board at the March meeting.

Elementary Racial/Gender Comp Report Mr. Rodney Matheney, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Accountability, provided the racial gender report for the elementary schools in the PCSSD. There were no questions.

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| Secondary Racial/
Gender Comp
Report | Mr. Matheney, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Accountability, provided the racial gender report for the secondary schools in the PCSSD. There were no questions from the board. |
| AR Leadership
Academy | Teams from the AR Leadership Academy were present to thank the board for the opportunity to participate in the leadership training provided by the institute. Ms. Belinda Akin, leader of the school support program, stated that the teams have completed the first phase of their training. She said the program is designed to continue building leadership skills and teacher performance. She said teachers focus on a particular area for improvement and return to incorporate those skills into their classrooms. Training is expected to be completed by summer. |
| READ 180 | Ms. Lynn Walters, coordinator for the READ 180 program, presented a PowerPoint to show how the comprehensive reading intervention program has impacted students. She stated there are currently seven sites. Ms. Walters stated she wanted the board to see the progress of the students and to thank them for the opportunity to offer the program to the students. |
| Nat'l Core
Content
Curriculum | Dr. June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Accountability, presented this report. There were no questions. |
| Textbook Adopt
Committee | Dr. Bruce Bryant, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Accountability, presented this report. There were no questions. |
| Anita Farver
Best Practices
& Guidelines | <p>Mrs. Anita Farver, Chief Financial Officer, reported that she had spoken with Mr. Bill Goff's office at the Arkansas Department of Education, and the recommendation was that PCSSD Purchasing Department add a section to the emergency purchase policy requesting a letter of authorization approved by the superintendent. She stated the authorization letter should indicate that all other avenues were exhausted prior to the submission of the emergency purchase request.</p> <p>Mr. Vasquez asked Mrs. Farver to prepare a presentation for the March board meeting to address funds (restricted/unrestricted) that can be set aside in a manner that will allow for expenditures toward the end of the budget year without restrictions. Mrs. Farver stated she would make the presentation.</p> |
| Follow Up -
Computer
Rollout | Mr. Derrick Brown, Chief Technology Officer, presented this report. He stated that the computer rollout will begin in the next six weeks and the master lease agreement will be for 4,244 computers district-wide. He said every teacher will have a computer. The plan will begin with K-5 schools and the older computers will be refreshed first and the process will continue until all schools are accommodated. |

Discussion of
Transportation
Issues

Mr. Brad Montgomery, Director of Transportation, presented this report. Mr. Vasquez expressed his concern regarding transportation of students within the 2-mile restriction areas of the new Jacksonville school area when it is complete. Mr. Montgomery stated he would address any issues at that time.

Old Business

2/08/11

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, approval of all Old Business items. The motion carried. Those items included:

1. Approval of Revision of Board Policy DB, Annual Budget—Second Reading
2. Approval of Upgrade of the Director Of School Maintenance Services Position
3. Approval of Salary Adjustment for Director of District Athletics
4. Approval of PACT/PASS Lawsuits

New Business

2/08/11

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of New Business items with the exception of New Business Item 2 – Vision 2020 Plan Phase I and Item 7 – Building Construction on Harris Elementary School Campus. The motion carried.

Those items included are:

1. Approval of 2011-2012 Calendar
3. Approval of Title I SIG 1003(a) and Title I ARRA 1003(a) Grant
4. Approval to Realign Director of Maintenance Position to Range 17 and Authorization to Apply a Maximum of \$10K Annual Stipend for leading transformational initiatives
5. Approval of Installation of Whiteboards in Core Classrooms for Baker, Chenal and Pine Forest
6. Approval of Bldg Construction to Mills High School
8. Approval of Admin and Instruct Facilitators to Attend ASCD Annual Conf in San Francisco, CA, March 25-28, 2011

Consent Agenda

2/08/11

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the consent agenda items 1-6. The motion carried.

Those items included:

- Expulsions
- Personnel—support staff
- Award of bids
- Bills for payment
- Financial Report

Approval of
Building Constr
On Harris Elem
School Campus

Ms. Williams asked if this building construction request would be used for accommodating three- and four-year-old programs. She stated she would like to be involved in any plans for use of land in her zone and would want to discuss the plans with the communities involved. Mr. Vasquez motioned, seconded by Ms. Williams to withdraw this item to allow time to find out what action needs to be taken before submission to the board.

Vision 2020 Plan
Phase I

Mr. Derek Scott, Executive Director of Operations, addressed the board regarding the steps involved in Phase I of the Vision 2020 Plan. He informed the board that the process would involve the replacement, consolidation and rehabilitation of several of the district's 39 school campuses within an approximate 41-year timeframe. He said the additions/alterations would be substantial and may result in demolition of certain parts of the campuses to reconstruct the buildings to look like new.

Mr. Vasquez stated that the proposed changes would be like "taking the gas cap off a car and sliding a new car underneath it." Mr. Scott stated that by April he should know whether we are marching down the right path. He added that he would have the architects verify his assessment of the building needs and the necessary construction. He assured the board that his attempts would be to balance each community's desires with the finances, and would work on the designs by consulting with parents, employees and community members that are served by the targeted schools.

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve Phase I of the Vision 2020 Facility input and \$1.5m out of the construction fund to initiate design not-to-exceed 35% until approval of the 2011-2012 budget and availability of additional design dollars.

Mr. Vasquez stated that he would allow public comments regarding the facilities plan before carrying out the motion to give the public a chance to express their comments/concerns.

Public Comments
2/08/11

Mr. Karoma Smith spoke on behalf of the McAlmont community in support of Harris Elementary improvement projects. He thanked the board for hosting a community meeting at Harris that allowed other citizens the opportunity to be involved in the planning stages of much needed renovations. He then read a letter from a concerned citizen asking the board to consider past diverted funds previously allocated for improvements for Harris that were utilized to cover repairs for other schools. He asked that consideration be taken of the much needed repairs at Harris Elementary.

Public Comments
Cont'd

Mr. Rodney Dardenne spoke to the board regarding the Vision 2020 Facilities Plan. He stated there were some differences in the initial plan, but at some point they have to trust the board to "spend wisely".

Mr. Rizelle Aaron, NAACP representative at Jacksonville, spoke in support of the facilities plan and stated he and Mayor Gary Fletcher were in rare agreement of the plan in the hopes of bringing some equity in the district's schools.

Ms. Williams thanked the committee members for their support and involvement in the improvement projects.

Ms. Williams also expressed her own disappointment in the media's neglect in coverage of the McAlmont, Scott and Rixie communities in their support of the community meetings held for Harris and Scott. She stated they were willing to cover the "bad things" rather than support the improvements of the community.

Mrs. Sawyer stated she is willing to vote for the plan to move forward because it allows us to see what we can get with what is being presented, but if it is not feasible we can go back to the table and decide from there.

Mrs. Tatum stated that her expectations were for a new school for College Station, but she will vote in support to move forward in order to see what the add/alters will consist of.

After public comments and a lengthy discussion, there were no further questions. The motion carried.

Ms. Renee George spoke regarding her concerns with the current math credit requirements that cause conflicts for students' schedules in meeting the timelines for graduation. Mr. Vasquez asked Dr. June Elliott and Mr. Rodney Matheney from the Academic Accountability Department to address this concern.

PACT

Marty Nix President of PACT, congratulated all recipients of awards and thanked Dr. Elliott and all of the committee members for the mini grants. She asked everyone to keep Sandy Stevens at Maumelle Middle School and Tanya Ganey at Jacksonville High School in their prayers. Ms. Nix stated all concerns were addressed without any complications regarding the 2011-2012 calendar.

She said a lot of issues have been resolved tonight, including the lawsuits. She stated she and the vice president of PACT attended a leadership conference focused on teaching to the whole child. She said it takes a whole education community to raise a child. Ms. Nix thanked Dr. June Elliott and Dr. Bruce Bryant for making the textbook adoption project a success.

- PACT (Cont'd) Ms. Nix also thanked Paul Brewer, Executive Director of Human Resources for his role in intercepting HR concerns in the initial stages and thanked the board for their hard work. She wished everyone a safe evening.
- PASS Ms. Nix addressed the board on behalf of Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS. She stated that Mr. Chesterfield left early for a prior engagement and asked everyone to be safe.
- Joshua & Knight Intervenor, and 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.

**Superintendent's
Comments**

2/08/11

Dr. Hopson asked everyone to continue their prayers for the Leslie Tegalia family in their loss, and thanked the board for their trust and support in moving forward with the facility plan.

**Board Member
Comments**

2/08/11

Mr. Tom Stuthard asked everyone to be careful in the snow.

Ms. Williams asked everyone to be safe as well and thanked her community members for their support.

Mrs. Sawyer asked her community members to hang in there and thanked them for their support.

Mr. Vasquez asked everyone to consider Mrs. Gloria Lawrence in her absence due to illness. He also acknowledged the greatness of the Constitution and read the speech of Dr. Martin Luther King. He said that in order for us to be a great nation and a great country we must let freedom ring and this must be our creed. He said he believes that the board, people of the district, parents, and community are willing to do what it takes - because all of the children are equal in his sight and in God's sight. He recognized Mr. Tim Clark's birthday on February 11th.

Hearings

2/08/11

- Student - Closed Attorney Paul Blume, Hearing Officer for the Board of Education called the hearing to begin. Since the student, Alex Wright, was not present, he stated the Board would go into executive session to review the information and make a decision. Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, to go into executive session to discuss the student expulsion. The Board moved into executive session. After the meeting reconvened, Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, to accept the superintendent's recommendation for expulsion throughout the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. The motion carried.

Personnel -
Closed

Attorney Paul Blume, Hearing Officer for the Board of Education, called the hearing to begin. Charles Deitemeyer, a bus driver, requested a hearing to appeal the Superintendent's recommendation for termination. The reason for the action was insubordination and conduct unbecoming an employee. Mr. Deitemeyer requested a closed hearing. Attorney Keith Billingsley represented the district. Attorney George Ellis represented Mr. Deitemeyer. After all testimony, Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer to go into executive session at 10:17 pm to accept, reject or modify the proposed recommendation. The meeting reconvened at 10:25 pm.

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to accept the superintendent's recommendation that the contract of Mr. Charles Deitemeyer be terminated. The motion carried.

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

Adjournment

2/08/11

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:29 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary