

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 March 8, 2011.

Opening 3/08/11

President Bill Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

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

Absent: Mrs. Sandra Sawyer

DeAnna Watson, representing Oak Grove High School, served as the student board member.

Mr. Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition 3/08/11

Bobby Lester
Crystal Apple
Award

Ms. Dessa Henry, Custodian at Robinson High School, received the Bobby Lester Crystal Apple Award.

Fall 2010 Stock
Market Game
Winners

Pine Forest Elementary School received first place awards.

Sylvan Hills Middle School received second place awards.

Minutes 3/08/11

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the minutes for the February 8th regular board meeting and February 24th emergency board meeting. The motion carried.

Reports 3/08/11

First Semester
Discipline
Summary
2010-2011

Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent of Equity & Pupil Services presented this report.

Second Semester
Student Assign
Report 2010-
2011

Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent of Equity & Pupil Services, presented this report.

Site Based
Committee

Ms. Carolyn Lipsmeyer along with staff and students from Sylvan Hills High School presented this report.

PCSSD Financial
Audit Report
2009-2010

Representatives from Hudson Cisne & Co., LLP presented this annual report, which covered the period ending June 30, 2010. Findings related to segregated duties within the accounting staff, policies within the Purchasing Department, personnel documentation in employee files, and one federal program. All findings were reflected in the Legislative Audit and have been addressed. Findings in a February 7, 2011 letter included in the report resulted in no instances of non-compliance as well.

- Common Core State Standards Dr. June Elliott, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Accountability presented this report.
- Follow up Re: DREAM Services Mr. Keith Billingsley, Bequette & Billingsley provided results of an investigation of the DREAM program. Mr. Billingsley stated that after a review of the program, DREAM did receive payment from the Department of Human Services for meals provided and does owe the district for those meal services.
- Follow up Re: Transportation Services for DREAM DREAM is paying the district to transport overflow students on a daily basis. There is a contract between DREAM and the Transportation Department to transport those students and is adhering to the guidelines of the agreement. Mr. Vasquez questioned the fact that DREAM provided transportation services for students within the district but was still being charged to provide those same services. Mrs. Tatum stated that the program may have provided transportation services for overflow students from Clinton and Oak Brook, but was not required under the desegregation order to do so.
- Follow up Re: Before & After School Services Mr. Dale Scott, Director of Nutritional Services stated that the DREAM program had incurred charges dated back for almost three (3) years.
- Mr. Vasquez stated that regardless of the fact that DREAM provided those transportation services, she did so and was charged to provide them. He stated there needs to be further investigation to find out if our district owes the DREAM program for those services. He also stated that if DREAM was providing those services and possibly not being able to support her own program, there needs to be some understanding about the circumstances. Dr. Hopson stated there seemed to be two separate issues involved (food services vs. transportation services), he stated he would ask Mr. Brad Montgomery to work with Mr. Derek Scott to find out when the deficiency began regarding the transportation piece and provide a report by the April board meeting.

Old Business

3/08/11

- Revision of Board Policy GCBB - Addition of Board Policy GCBB-R 1 Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of Revision of Board Policy GCBB, Administrative Staff Contracts and Compensation/Salary Schedules, Addition of Board Policy GCBB-R 1 – Cabinet Level Non-Licensed Staff Contracts/Salary Schedules—Second Reading. The motion carried.
- Approval of Board Policies, Section G - Personnel Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of Board Policies, Section G – Personnel—Second Reading. The motion carried.

Suspension of
the Rules

Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Clark to suspend the rules to entertain a motion to provide those administrators affected by the red-lined pay cap to receive a 2% (one-time) bonus based on their current salary as of July 1, 2010. The motion carried.

Mrs. Lawrence motion, seconded by Mr. Clark to provide those administrators affected by the red-lined pay cap to receive a 2% (one-time) bonus based on their current salary as of July 1, 2010. The motion carried.

Mr. Clark suggested reconsidering the entire salary schedule and adjusting it at a later date.

Approval of 2011-
2012 Calendar
(revised)

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the 2011-2012 Calendar (revised). The motion carried.

New Business

3/08/11

Approval of Learn
& Serve Grant
Awarded to Fuller
Middle, Sylvan
Hills High, and
Learning Academy

Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the Learn & Serve Grant awarded to Fuller Middle, Sylvan Hills High, and the Learning Academy and authorize the CFO to amend the current budget and add the grant funds to the budget. The motion carried.

Approval of
Student Reg
Hub Centers

Mrs. Tatum moved to table this item for further input. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Lawrence motioned, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of Student Registration Hub Centers. Mrs. Tatum declined the vote. The motion carried.

ACSIP Plans for
Schools, ACSIP
Plan and ACSIP
Statement of
Assurance

This item was pulled from the agenda – previously approved.

Expansion of
Read 180

Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, approval of the Expansion of Read 180 in the amount of \$500,000 and to add Bates, Landmark, Harris, Jacksonville Middle and Sylvan Hills Middle Schools. The motion carried.

Mr. Clark asked that the Read 180 students be recognized at the next Board meeting.

Board Policy
IG-R Arkansas
Smart Core and
Core Curriculum-
First Reading

Approval of Board Policy IG-R Arkansas Smart Core and Core Curriculum. First Reading. No action required.

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| RFP (11-014)
Lawn Care Svcs | Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the Request for Proposals (11-014) Lawn Care Services. The motion carried. |
| RFP (11-015)
Managed Document Activity Funds | Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the Request for Proposals (11-015) Managed Document Activity Funds. The motion carried. |
| EFT Transfer Policy for Vendor Payments | Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of EFT Transfer Policy for Vendor Payments. The motion carried. |
| Indirect Cost Policy | Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the Indirect Cost Policy. The motion carried. |
| Postage Meter Equipment | Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, approval of Postage Meter Equipment rental request. The motion carried. |
| RFP – School Bus & Auto Parts Management | Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of the Request for Proposal – School Bus & Auto Parts Management. The motion carried. |
| RFQ – Energy Svcs Co (ESCO) to develop an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) | Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the Request for Qualifications-Energy Services Company (ESCO) to develop an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) The motion carried.

Mr. Clark left the meeting at 9:30 p.m. |
| Architect & Constr Mgmt Contracts for Construction Related to Vision 2020 | Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of Architect and Construction Management Contracts for construction related to Vision 2020. The motion carried. |
| Sanitary Sewer Svcs for PCSSD Schools/Facilities in Sweet Home/Dixon Road Area | Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of Sanitary Sewer Services for PCSSD Schools/Facilities in the Sweet Home/Dixon Road Area. The motion failed. |
| Certified Staffing Allocations for 2011-2012 | Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2011-2012 certified staffing allocations with all necessary changes. The motion carried. |
| Support Staff Allocations for 2011-2012 | Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of Superintendent's recommendation for the Support Staff Allocations for 2011-2012 with no changes. The motion carried. |

ADDENDUMS

Karen Williams v. Pathfinder, Inc., PCSSD, and Ben Harper Mr. Stuthard moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the settlement of the Karen Williams v. Pathfinder, Inc. PCSSD and Ben Harper lawsuit. The motion carried.

SHMS Site Council Waiver Request Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of Sylvan Hills Middle School's (SHMS) Site Council's request to schedule parent teacher conferences 30 minutes after the student day on March 15, 2011, and March 17, 2011, to allow the PTA to feed the teachers. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

3/08/11

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the consent agenda items 1-5. The motion carried.

Those items included:

- Expulsions
- Personnel—support staff
- Bills for payment
- Financial Report

Public Comments

3/08/11

Mr. Steve Jordan, a parent of a Sylvan Hills student, expressed his concern regarding the new interim principal's appointment at Sylvan Hills High School, as a result of the expedited retirement of Mr. Ebbs. He stated he was concerned that the move was made without the participation of any faculty or parents. He stated his main concern was for the education and safety of the students at Sylvan Hills High School and hoped that the process would be conducted by appropriate due process.

Alex Tessman, a junior at Sylvan Hills High School, stated her concerns involved continued disciplinary structure for the high school. She stated she only wanted a principal who exemplified the same qualities found in Mr. Ebbs.

Ms. Teresa Tessman, a parent of Alex Tessman from the Sherwood community, thanked the Board and Dr. Hopson for allowing her to share her concerns regarding the hiring of a principal in the retirement of Mr. Ebbs. She stated she also wanted the success that Mr. Ebbs had begun for the Sherwood community to continue in the schools, and wants the district to consider their concerns in the selection of the next principal for Sylvan Hills High School.

Ms. Glenda Moore spoke against the instrument used by the district to evaluate teachers. She stated it is not effective and lowers the morale of the teachers and job satisfaction, as well as lowers the quality of education in PCSSD.

Public Comments (cont'd)

3/08/11

Ms. Moore spoke in support of retaining the special education coordinators because they are necessary for the legally prescribed conferences, they do protect PCSSD from loss and provide a necessary service. She also spoke regarding the need for assistant principals in handling student discipline and their role in standing between teachers and parents.

Ms. Carolyn Hunter, a graduate of Sylvan Hills High School, spoke regarding the hiring of a new principal for the high school. She stated her concerns involved the process of selection and said she hoped the site-based committee will be allowed to have a say in the process of selecting a principal, as well as the teachers and the students.

PACT

Marty Nix President of PACT, congratulated the Sylvan Hills site based committee. She stated she hoped the Board would support Sylvan Hills' site-based committee. She stated she hoped the Board would approve the waiver in New Business Addendum Item 20 – SHMS Site Council Waiver Request. Ms. Nix asked that everyone please keep Florence Smith and her family in their prayers in the loss of her mother. She asked that PACT and PASS be involved in any memorandums of understanding regarding budget cuts. She also asked that Item 2 – Board Policies, Section G – Personnel under "Old Business" and the revised calendar be approved. She said she hoped the Board would support all of the site councils and thanked everyone for their time and attention.

PASS

Mr. Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS thanked everyone for the opportunity to stand before the Board. He also stated that he would like to be notified of any meetings regarding PASS. He thanked Mr. Paul Brewer for his service and his time.

Joshua & Knight
Intervenors, and
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.

**Superintendent's
Comments**

3/08/11

Dr. Hopson introduced Ms. Judy Wilber, General Counsel for the district. He congratulated Ms. Tasha Thompson on her recent promotion. He extended best wishes to Mrs. Mildred Tatum for her birthday on March 26th. Dr. Hopson thanked Sylvan Hills High School retiring principal, Mr. Danny Ebbs for his contributions to the district. He said he would be attending the games for the Bears and the Jacksonville Red Devils. He congratulated North Pulaski High School's Simply Delicious scholarship recipients on their awards of \$7,000.

**Superintendent's
Comments (cont'd)**

3/08/11

He announced that on March 16th Jacksonville, Oak Grove, Robinson and Sylvan Hills will be participating in the Trivia Challenge at the Clinton Presidential Center. He said he enjoyed his time with the Sylvan Hills Middle Gentlemen's Club.

Student Board
Member
Comments

Deanna Watson, student Board member said she had not heard any comments about Oak Grove High School activities and stated that Oak Grove Choir performed at the Robinson Center Atrium. She also stated that the band competed in their concert season and received one's and two's. She thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the meeting.

**Board Member
Comments**

3/08/11

Mr. Tom Stuthard gave kudos to North Pulaski High School on their Competitive Speech team winners for the NPHS national event and Robinson Middle School. He also congratulated Simply Delicious on their \$7,000 scholarships. Fourteen scholarship recipients will attend culinary institutes. Ms. Teresa Perkins was named Pro-start Teacher of the Year and the PTA honored Ms. Bettie Sammos with an award for Outstanding Devotion to her students. Warren Dupree celebrated Read Across America Week honoring Dr. Seuss.

Ms. Williams congratulated Jacksonville High School and Sylvan Hills in their success in proceeding to the finals. all the students and parents. She stated Harris enjoyed a spaghetti dinner on last Friday. She stated she will be undergoing surgery on her broken elbow on next Friday.

Mrs. Tatum stated she is also proud of the North Pulaski High School students. She stated College Station participated in the Read Across America program. She said Mills will be attending the National Black Caucus. She thanked the teacher who presented her corsage.

Mrs. Lawrence stated there are good things happening in the district and a lot of great things going on in the schools. She stated Sherwood Elementary is headed for state finals. Sylvan Hills High School received a superior ranking and because of accomplishments of the elementary STAR program the principal will be filmed as a national school. She stated she attended Common Core and learned a lot. Sylvan Hills Choir received first place and is headed for state finals. She stated lots of things that we can be proud of are happening all over the county.

Mr. Vasquez congratulated Jacksonville High School on being state champs for three years. He reflected on the fact that site based is an opportunity to get local school management. He said it is as close as you can get to a neighborhood school without being a neighborhood school.

**Board Member
Comments (cont'd)**

3/08/11

Mr. Vasquez stated the Board wholeheartedly supports site based council and applauds their efforts. He mentioned Common Core and said that Arkansas is on the cutting edge of academic improvement nationwide. He said our academic benchmark scores as a state are in the top five in the nation. He stated what is going to be happening in PCSSD in the next five years will be unbelievable. He expressed that our students, stakeholders and everyone in the district need to hear about the great expectations required of them. He stated that if the only thing standing in the way of helping our students is money, we should not have a problem. He reiterated that we have to change the way we do our business. He said we are sentencing our children to premature death when we do not take care of our business. He expressed admiration of the fact that Department of Education is taking up the military training model in its new core curriculum. In closing, he stated we need a "full court press" to let everyone in Arkansas know what is going on in our schools.

Hearings

3/08/11

Student - Closed

Attorney Paul Blume, Hearing Officer for the Board of Education, called the hearing to begin. The parent of a fourteen year old, ninth grade female student requested a hearing to appeal the Sylvan Hills High School's recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year due to disorderly conduct and terroristic threatening. Dr. Brenda Bowles, Assistant Superintendent of Equity & Pupil Services, represented the student. Mr. Gary McCasland, Principal, represented the district. After all testimony, Mr. Blume recommended the Board 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, Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Ms. Williams to accept the superintendent's recommendation for expulsion throughout the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. The motion carried.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Ms. Williams to accept the superintendent's recommendation that the student be expelled for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. The motion carried.

All actions taken during the closed hearing(s) were declared in open session.

Adjournment
3/08/11

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary