

## RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS

**An emergency meeting of the Board of Education of the Pulaski County Special School District was held at 925 East Dixon Road on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2011. The following business was transacted.**

**Opening**  
03/31/11

President Bill Vasquez called the meeting to order at 4:55 pm.

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

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the finalization of DREAM Contract and address outstanding issues in the December Legislative Audit Findings.

**New Business**  
03/31/11

Legislative Audit Findings

Mr. Vasquez stated the meeting was called in an effort to respond to items resulting from Legislative Audit findings stated in a letter from the Department of Education that placed Pulaski County Special School District in fiscal distress. He stated that he wanted to assure the public that the district does have all the required state minimum financial balances in all of the accounts and anticipate adding additional monies to those accounts by the end of the year. He stated the fiscal distress notification did not mean that the district is fiscally solvent but was the result of outstanding Legislative Audit findings. He stated that the district is in the process of awaiting recommendations, investigations, or due process items that remain outstanding. He said the action was unexpected because the district was acting in an upright and forthcoming manner to address the items mentioned in the Legislative Audit findings.

Mr. Vasquez stated the meeting was called in an effort to respond to the Department of Education and let them know that the items mentioned in the Legislative Audit findings are being dealt with in an expeditious manner and the district is exercising their fiduciary responsibilities for the taxpayers. The meeting will also let the public know that due to the fiscal distress order, restrictions will be placed on the functions of the district in meeting the needs of the students in the schools, in upgrading facilities in the district, as well as affect other items in the district.

Dr. Hopson stated that several recommendations will be brought forth for immediate action. He said that as Superintendent he did not want items totaling roughly \$33,000 be an anchor for the district moving forward in an aggressive manner to improve conditions for all students.

Superintendent Expenses

Dr. Hopson asked Ms. Judy Wilber, General Counsel to come forward to speak to the items related to the Superintendent's contract regarding the following issues:

Superintendent  
Expenses (cont'd)

- Health & Dental premiums
- Items reportable to the IRS as income (2010 W2's)
- Items requiring receipts

Ms. Wilber stated the contract was restructured to address the items mentioned and everything was in compliance with state laws.

Mrs. Anita Farver reviewed amounts involved with previously mentioned items by Ms. Wilber that had not been finalized from the December 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Audit report. Mrs. Farver referred to Page 12 of the report regarding amounts due/potentially due the district. She stated that actions are in place with Ms. Wilber and a consultant to meet the state guidelines in resolving the issues. Dr. Hopson recommended that negotiations continue with Mr. Cochren, consultant, and Ms. Wilber, General Counsel and he will make necessary appropriations. He stated that a response has been sent to Ms. Wilber and forwarded to Legislative Audit outlining actions being taken. He stated that all items in conflict with annotated code have been addressed within the document submitted.

Amount Owed  
By CTO

Mrs. Farver reported that an unallowable item paid to the CTO in the amount of \$311 has been paid in full to the district.

DREAM  
Contract

Mrs. Farver referred Board members to Page 19 regarding monies a vendor, DREAM, owes the district \$21,791. Dr. Hopson's recommendation to the Board was that the payments are unsuspending and the Board move forward with the consent judgment initially set forth with the vendor, DREAM.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, to move forward to pursue the consent judgment initially set forth with the vendor, DREAM in collecting the outstanding balance. The motion carried.

Board Members  
Amounts Due  
District

Ms. Williams stated that she has been making payments on a regular basis and remaining balance will be paid within the next two weeks.

Mrs. Tatum stated her charges have been paid in full.

Mr. Vasquez stated that a report will be expected by the next Board meeting outlining the payments made by Ms. Williams and Mrs. Tatum.

China Delegation  
Reimbursement

Mrs. Farver stated that the district received a reimbursement check from China Travel in the amount of \$3,423.70 on March 30<sup>th</sup> in support of the China trip. Mrs. Farver stated the district is awaiting an additional reimbursement in the amount of \$978 for an airline ticket that was previously purchased on behalf of Mr. Tim Clark before it was known that Mr. Clark would finance his own travel expenses.

Employee-Grant  
Writer Internal  
Review

Dr. Hopson stated that the district is seeking full reimbursement regarding expenses incurred by a district grant writer, and he has made a recommendation to Mr. Paul Brewer, Executive Director of Human Resources, regarding any further actions to be brought back to the Board, pursuant to all appropriate policies and laws.

In closing, Mr. Vasquez stated that as a Board they would hate to see an economic downturn as the result of such a minimal issue that has nothing to do with the district's fiscal solvency. He stated the district is taking care of its fiscal house and being as transparent as possible under the law. He stated he anticipates no slow down in meeting the needs of the students and parents of PCSSD.

**Adjournment**  
03/31/11

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

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Board President

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Board Secretary