

## 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 April 12, 2011.**

### Opening 4/12/11

President Bill Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Mr. Tom Stuthard

Ashley Calabotta, representing Sylvan Hills High School, served as the student board member.

Ms. Audrey Nichols, Landmark Elementary, performed the National Anthem.

### Special Recognition 4/12/11

#### Proclamations

Proclamations were presented by Mr. Vasquez declaring April 17-23 as Support Staff Appreciation Week and Public School Volunteer Week, May 1-7 as National Physical Education Week & Sport Week, and May 2-6 as National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mr. Vasquez recognized and thanked all of the teachers and administrators present for their contributions.

Dr. Hopson recognized Ms. Joy Plant and teachers from Oak Grove for their exceptional efforts in their ACT rankings.

Mr. Clark congratulated Oak Grove teaching staff for their phenomenal ACT composite score of 21.4. He stated their overall average score is 19.9 and literacy was 23.2. Jacksonville - 18.8; Robinson - 19.4; North Pulaski – 19.8; Sylvan Hills – 19.6; and Mills – 20.1. He thanked the staff and students for their hard work and dedication to the district.

### Minutes 4/12/11

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the minutes for the April 12th regular board meeting, April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup> special board meeting. The motion carried.

### Reports/ Presentations 4/12/11

#### Odyssey of the Mind

Sherwood Elementary Odyssey of the Mind team presented. The team won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the fifth consecutive year and will attend World competition. Ms. Renee Hudson, a parent of the Sherwood community asked the Board to provide any financial assistance available to support the team's trip.

#### North Central District-wide Accreditation

Dr. Robert Clowers, Executive Director of Educational Accountability presented this report.

**Old Business**

4/12/11

Approval of  
Board Policy  
IG-R, Second  
reading

Mr. Vasquez motioned, seconded by Ms. Williams the approval of Board Policy IG-R – Smart Core and Core Curriculum. Second reading. The motion carried.

Approval of  
Revision of Board  
Policy GCB-B-R,  
Second reading

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Clark the approval of Revision of Board Policy GCB-B-R – Administrative Staff Contracts and Compensation /Salary Schedules, Second reading. Mrs. Lawrence expressed concern regarding placing assistant principals on the same 244-day contract as counselors. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Restructured  
Organizational  
Chart

This item was pulled from the agenda.

**Old Business**  
**(Addendum)**

Approval of  
Leaseback  
Agreement,  
Lease and  
Warranty Deed

Mrs. Lawrence motioned, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the Leaseback Agreement, Lease, and Warranty Deed for Sylvan Hills Elementary School before & after school building using grant funds received from the Arkansas Department of Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$400,000+. The motion carried.

**New Business**

4/12/11

Approval of  
Proposed Geo  
Codes

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval of Proposed Geo Codes due to the proposed closing of Jacksonville Elementary and empower Equity & Pupil Services to inform the federal court for their review of the proposed Geo changes. The motion carried.

Approval of  
Resolution to  
Proceed w/  
Issuance of  
Second Lien  
Bonds

Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the Resolution to Proceed with the Issuance of Second Lien Bonds in the amount of \$104,000,000 to fund construction of new and renovated school facilities. The motion carried.

Approval of iPads  
for 213 Common  
Core Classroom  
Core Classroom  
K-2 Teachers;  
80 Principals and  
Ass't Principals

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the purchase of iPads for 213 Common Core Classroom K-2 Teachers; and 80 Principals & Assistant Principals. Mr. Derrick Brown, CFO, stated this step is in line with common core K-2 national education standards in Math and English/Language Arts, and initiates Phase I of the proposed technology changes in store for the district. The motion carried.

**New Business (Cont'd)**

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|---|--|
| Approval of Jax'ville High Stimulus Funds   | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence approval of Jacksonville High School Stimulus Funds in the amount of \$107,000 to purchase whiteboards, enhance teaching in the classroom, engage students, and improve test scores. The motion carried. |
| Approval of Revision of Board Policy IKA-R, First reading   | First reading. No action required.   |
| Approval of Revision of Board Policy IKE, First reading   | First reading. No action required.   |
| Approval of Revision of Board Policy IKF, First reading   | First reading. No action required.   |
| Approval of Giving Tree Grant to College Station Elem   | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval of the Giving Tree Grant to College Station Elementary. The motion carried.  |
| Approval of Butterfly Garden Grant to College Station Elem  | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval of the Butterfly Garden Grant to College Station elementary. The motion carried.   |
| Approval of Joint End User Agreement Grant to College Station Elem                                    | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval of the Joint end User Agreement Grant to College Station Elementary. The motion carried.   |
| Approval of Business Manual Procedures for Submitting Grants  | Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval of Business Manual Procedures for Submitting Grants. The motion carried.   |
| Board Policy JPA Use of Gift Cards Or Other Cash Equivalent Ass't Provided to Students, First reading | First reading. No action required.   |

**New Business (Cont'd)**

4/12/11

Board Policy                      First reading. No action required.  
EEBA-& EEBA-R  
School Owned  
Vehicles,  
First reading

Adoption of                      First reading. No action required.  
Charge Policy  
to Parent/  
Student Handbok,  
First reading

**New Business  
(Addendum)**

4/12/11

Revision of Board              First reading. No action required.  
Policy DID,  
First reading

**Consent Agenda**

4/12/11

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

Award of Bids

**RFP: 11-014 Lawncare Service –**

*White's Lawn Care* was awarded bid in the amount of \$2,904.50 for Zones 2, 4, & 6; 2 bids withdrew; 1 competitive bid in the amount of \$3,900; 1 competitive bid in the amount of \$3,589.07

*Express Quality Lawn Care* was awarded bid in the amount of \$1,409.82 for Zone 5; 1 competitive bid in the amount of \$2,900; 1 competitive bid in the amount of \$2,100.75; 1 competitive bid in the amount of \$2,190.33

*Re-Bids were requested for Zones 1 & 3 (price over budget)*

**Bid #:11-016 Partial Asbestos Abatement,  
Robinson High School, Phase II –**

*Controlled Environmental Solutions* was awarded bid in the amount of \$11,210; 2 bids non-responsive; 1 competitive bid in the amount of \$18,815

- Financial Report

**Public Comments**

4/12/11

**Tammi Mason** expressed her concerns regarding displacing students during the closing of Jacksonville Elementary. She asked the district to address/consider those concerns when making their final decisions. Mr. Vasquez reminded Ms. Mason that public comments could not be addressed at board meetings.

**Pamela Pope** expressed her concerns regarding fighting incidents and staff not adhering to the parent/student handbook at Clinton Elementary. She stated that several other incidents have occurred and felt there is a need to address issues regarding the principal's responsibility in handling

**Debbie Hulsey** spoke regarding the restructuring of the registrars' jobs. She stated registrars provide more services in their roles than maintaining transcripts or registering students (i.e., suspension & expulsion paperwork, dealing with teachers & students, security issues, facilitating fire drills, providing backup for the school nurse, etc.). She also stated she feels using a paperless system would not be efficient, especially during downtimes when computers are not accessible or available during registration periods. She stated some parents do not have access to computers, nor do they have the skills to use the computer.

**Jody Abernathy** provided documentation to Judy Wilber regarding issues involving the DREAM program and PCSDD.

**Tamara Tenpenny** spoke on behalf of Clinton Elementary and stated that some of the previous comments of disturbances and occurrences have been a little exaggerated and appreciates the principal and staff at the school and hopes everything settles down and things will get cleared up.

**Sheila Griffin** stated that her granddaughter attends Crystal Hill Elementary and has experienced bullying issues. She stated there is a bullying issue in Pulaski County and it should be addressed.

PACT

Marty Nix President of PACT, reiterated comments regarding exaggeration of some of the incidents at the schools. She congratulated the Odyssey of the Mind performers. She welcomed Joy Plants as well as other teachers in attendance, and stated the teachers and faculty deserve a pat on the back for their tremendous job in accomplishing the phenomenal ACT scores. She thanked the teams and the staff development committee from Article VIII involved in developing and getting additional activities in the district. She stated there is an urgent need for additional professional development. She stated there is a key emphasis on the need for everyone to receive staff development training on discipline. She asked the Board to please support the site based shared decision-making concept.

PACT (cont'd) Ms. Nix stated PACT has saved the district @ 28 million dollars over a period of five years by voluntarily restructuring their salary schedules. She stated she wants more focus on spending these monies on the buildings, schools, and the students. She thanked everyone for their time and attention.

PASS Mr. Emery Chesterfield, President of PASS, thanked all bus drivers for getting the students to school in a timely manner during this week of testing. He thanked support staff for their roles in making the jobs for all teachers easier. He stated he hopes to have the contract booklets printed by the end of the month and would like for everyone in the district to have a copy.

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**

4/12/11

Dr. Hopson congratulated Mr. Hoffheimer, in his retirement. He thanked Mr. Vasquez for his great leadership as Board president. He wished Mr. Vasquez (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Mrs. Lawrence (April 20<sup>th</sup>) happy birthday.

**Board Member  
Comments**

4/12/11

Student Board Member Comments Ashley Calabotta, student Board asked the Board to listen to requests of teachers since they know what the students' needs are. She thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Tatum stated she attended the 2011 National School Board Association conference and it was very informative. She asked everyone to join her in attending this year's graduation exercises.

Mrs. Sawyer gave kudos to Mr. Vasquez for being a great leader. She thanked Dr. Hopson and all the teachers for their tremendous efforts and stated she is happy to be on the PCSSD Board.

Mrs. Lawrence stated she is proud of the school renovations – the students are happy, she is happy! She thanked all of the teachers.

Ms. Williams thanked Superintendent Hopson and Mrs. Lawrence for their comments. She stated she was really excited about the school tour she attended as well as all the good things happening in the district.

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

4/12/11

Mr. Vasquez stated the Board wholeheartedly supports site based continues to applauds their efforts. He said the beauty of site based is their ability to get micro views from above and make things better. He stated he is humbled by everyone's comments and thanked. He stated that once everyone in the district recognizes their roles in helping the students we will be able to see even greater things happen. He stated that principals are principal teachers and we need to find ways to keep them close to their first loves, which are the students.

**Hearings**

4/12/11

Personnel - Closed Attorney Paul Blume, Hearing Officer for the Board of Education, called the hearing to begin. Mr. Hildred Flowers, a bus driver, requested a hearing to appeal the Superintendent's recommendation for termination. The reason for this action is conduct endangering the safety of the employee or safety of others, failure to follow verbal or written directive(s) and conduct unbecoming an employee. Mr. Flowers requested a closed hearing.

Personnel - Closed Attorney Judy Wilber represented the district. Attorney Greg Alagood represented Mr. Flowers. After all testimony, Mr. Vasquez recommended going into executive session at 9:40 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:49 p.m.

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer to accept the superintendent's recommendation that the contract of Mr. Hildred Flowers be terminated. The motion carried.

Student – Absent The three (3) students were absent for the scheduled hearings. Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, that the Board find that the reasons set forth for the recommended expulsions of the students is true. The motion carried.

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the three students 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**

4/12/11

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary