

## 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 the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2011. The following business was transacted.**

**Opening**  
6/14/2011

President Bill Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

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

Mr. Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Special Recognition**  
6/14/2011

Bobby Lester  
Crystal Apple  
Award

Mary Elaine Koone, Paraprofessional at Chenal Elementary, received this award for the month of May.

2010-2011  
Retirees

Plaques were presented to 116 employees in honor of their retirement and in recognition of outstanding service.

**Minutes**  
6/14/2011

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the minutes for the May 10<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting, May 25<sup>th</sup> special board meeting with a correction on page 3 of the May 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. The motion carried with the correction noted.

**Reports/  
Presentations**  
6/14/2011

2010-2011  
Extra Curricular  
Activities Report-  
Annual Minority  
Participation in  
Athletics Report

Kevin Downing, Athletic Director, presented this report. The report was accepted as read.

Progress of  
Pacific Ed  
Group (PEG)  
"Courageous  
Conversations"

Ms. John McCraney, Coordinator of Multicultural Ed/Pathwise, made a presentation involving seminars conducted on diversity training. Ms. McCraney, members of the equity team, and beacon schools spoke on the importance and continuance of diversity training provided by Pacific Educational Group (PEG).

Naming  
Committee Mtg-  
Maumelle High

Mrs. Gloria Lawrence provided documents to address concerns regarding the procedures used in naming the new Maumelle High School. Ms. Williams stated that her concerns were from the Oak Grove community regarding their lack of involvement in the process. Mrs. Lawrence chaired the naming committee as Board member representative and stated that she was satisfied with the proceedings of the committee as well as the community involvement.

Naming  
Committee Mtg-  
Maumelle High  
(Cont'd)

Mr. Derek Scott, Chief Operating Officer, reported that all appropriate parties were in attendance and the processes utilized were in accordance with guidelines set forth in board policy. There was no further discussion.

**Public Comments**

6/14/2011

**Bobby King** spoke on behalf of his grandsons regarding issues of transferring them to other school districts. He stated his efforts in getting his younger grandson transferred to the same school have failed and he is considering moving to Taiwan to have them continue their education there.

**Kelly Swope** addressed the Board on the district's corrective action regarding issues in the district.

PACT

Ms. Brenda Robinson wished all of the retirees happy retirements and wished Tom Stuthard happy birthday. She stated this year reminded her of a roller coaster ride, but through all of the challenges the objectives were met. She said the uncertainty of the district had constituted a lot of phone calls to PACT from many teachers regarding continued training, but she hopes the Board will take charge. She asked the district to consider cost savings options to allow for more K-2 teacher participation in common core curriculum. Ms. Robinson stated she felt that focus on the strategic plan expectations should be conveyed by internal staff versus paying outside trainers to provide it. She quoted the Board's shared vision statement adopted of July 9, 2008 that states, "Pulaski County Special District is committed to creating a nationally recognized school district which assures that all students achieve at their maximum potential through the collaborative, supportive and continued efforts of their stakeholders - teachers, support staff, communities and businesses," and asked the Board to believe in what they have adopted in their shared vision statement in order to move the district forward in a positive manner. She thanked the Board for their time and attention.

PASS

Mr. Don Clevenger, Vice President-Elect and chief negotiator of PASS, spoke on behalf of Mr. Emery Chesterfield, PASS President, in his absence. He recognized the retirees and said he has seen 2,904 years of dedication and experience in the retirees and it has been an honor to work with them. In closing he wished Mr. Chesterfield a speedy recovery from his recent knee surgery and congratulated all of the 2010-2011 retirees.

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.

**Old Business**

Approval of  
Board Policy  
DD-R - Impact  
Aid Funds,  
Second reading

Ms. Williams motioned, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of Board Policy DD-R – Impact Aid Funds, second reading. The motion carried.

Amendment of  
Certified Staff  
Allocations for  
2011-2012

This item was pulled from the agenda. ADE did not approve.

Amendment of  
Support Staff  
Allocations for  
2011-2012

Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of amendment of Support Staff Allocations for 2011-2012 to address concerns regarding Lead Custodian vacancies in each school. Mr. Derek Scott, Chief Operations Officer, expressed to the Board the processes in place to accommodate the custodial and maintenance employees using skill sets. The motion carried.

Revision of  
Child Nutrition  
Charge Policy,  
Fourth reading

Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval of Revision of Child Nutrition Charge Policy – fourth reading. Mrs. Tatum re-addressed the issue of students not being fed if their applications have not been received. Mr. Dale Scott, Director of Nutrition Services, stated that processes to address these issues are included in the submitted revisions.

Ms. Williams stated there are instances of grandparents raising their grandchildren who do not understand how to complete the forms. She said there needs to be a process in place to make sure applications are reaching the Nutritional Services office to allow for review during the registration process.

Mrs. Sawyer suggested having a parent training seminar to educate parents on completing the child nutrition applications in an effort to get them involved in the process as well as assure accuracy.

Mrs. Tatum suggested having a representative come to a designated location to provide the training and assistance.

Mr. Scott stated he would get addresses from Equity & Pupil Services and go ahead with a mailout of the applications to parents. He stated all students with previous applications would have a 30-day grace period to return updated applications and receive meals. The motion carried.

**New Business**

Arkansas  
Schoolyard  
Habitat Grant  
for Scott Elem  
School

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the Arkansas Schoolyard Habitat Grant for Scott Elementary. The motion carried.

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| Discipline Mgmt Plan (DMP) Joint Committee Recs                         | Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the Discipline Management Plan (DMP) Joint Committee Recommendations. The motion carried.  |
| Mental Health Services Agreements                                       | Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to approve Mental Health Services Agreements for Baptist Health Behavioral Services – Outpatient, Families, Inc., DaySpring Behavioral Health, Rivendell, Life Strategies, Therapeutic Family Services, Pathfinder, Inc., Rivendell Behavioral Health, UAMS Strive Program, and Youth Home. The motion carried.  |
| Amend/Adjust FY11 District Budget                                       | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval to Amend/Adjust the FY11 District Budget to include Budget FY10 Carryover, Transfer Desegregation health & retirement matching, United Way funding, grants, etc. The motion carried.  |
| Activity Fund Carryover Requests  | Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of activity funds carryover for Chenal Elementary and Pine Forest Elementary. Mrs. Tatum expressed her concerns regarding repetitive carryover of excessive amounts each year. She stated there needs to be a better system in place to address this issue. Mrs. Sawyer agreed there needed to be further discussion but at a later date. With no further discussion, the motion carried.  |
| USDA Notice of Equity in School Lunch Pricing Implementation            | Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, approval of the USDA Notice of Equity in School Lunch Pricing Implementation. This notice will constitute a meal increase of \$.05 to \$.10 annually across the board.<br><br>Mr. Vasquez recommended tabling the motion for a special board meeting to be held on next Tuesday to allow further discussion with the Board, CFO and Nutritional Services. Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to table her initial motion for further discussion at a special board meeting on next week. The motion carried. |
| Updates on FY11 Federal Grant   | No action required. Mrs. Anita Farver, CFO, provided updates on the FY11 federal grant funds cuts, as well as competitive grants cuts.   |
| Adjusting Budget for Sp Ed Costs to Meet Req'd Maint of Effort for FY11 | Mr. Stuthard moved, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, approval to adjust the budget for special education costs to meet the required maintenance of effort for FY11. To allow transfer of general fund monies to special education budget to offset a \$1.1M deficit associated with the initial budget allocated. The motion carried.  |
| Proposed Budget of Expenditures for School Year 2012-2013               | Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of proposed budget of expenditures for school year 2012-2013. The motion carried.   |

Approval of  
Award of Bids

Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, approval of the following Award of Bids for *Fruhauf*:

**11-020 Band Uniforms – Maumelle High School**

*Fruhauf* was awarded bid in the amount of \$44,597.35.

1 competitive bid in the amount of \$49,224.75 from *Stanbury*.

**11-021 Band Uniforms – Mills High School**

*Fruhauf* was awarded bid in the amount of \$39,365.

1 competitive bid in the amount of \$43,845 from *Stanbury*.

Band Instruments

Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of Award of Bids for *Houck Music Company* to add appropriate school instruments to the band instrument inventory. The motion carried.

**Band Instruments – Maumelle High School**

*Houck Music Company* was awarded bid in the amount of \$17,237. One competitive bid in the amount of \$18,363 from *Saied Music Company* and one competitive bid in the amount of \$17,342 from *Woodwind & Brasswind*.

Disassociation of  
PCSSD from  
Pacific Ed Group  
(PEG) and  
Performance  
Facts, Inc., after  
June 30, 2011

Mrs. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, to use the state of Arkansas, ADE approved facilitators for all professional development training for the district.

Mrs. Tatum stated she feels the best training has been provided by PEG and Performance, Inc., in reaching the teachers and administrators in the district. She said her attendance at previous training provided by other facilitators was good for school board members, but not adequate for meeting the needs of the teachers and administrators within the district. She stated she wanted our children to experience the best possible teaching that could only come from teachers who had received the best staff development training.

Mrs. Lawrence expressed that her main focus is the welfare of the children. She said that common core is currently not being addressed and Read 180 has also been put on the back burner. She stated the district is in fiscal distress and our spending is under scrutiny. She said she has researched and found no data indicating that PEG could provide all of the services that the district needs at a reasonable cost.

Dr. Hopson stated PEG and Performance Facts, Inc., were facilitators he recommended because he has experienced success in their training in eliminating racial disparities. He stated the district has an absence of working with diverse professional development trainers, and this is an effort toward establishing equity in the district. He said that costs would continue to drop due to targeting schools and providing direct supports and coaching.

Dr. Hopson stated the funds used to support the training will come from professional development funds set aside for that specific purpose. He said too much has been accomplished in year one to step away and not sustain the efforts already in place.

Mrs. Sawyer stated that the Board does not allow enough time to see results of initiatives that are put in place for services in order to establish some type of stability within the district. She stated the Board needs to look at a strategy before making a decision to cut the current facilitators services. She said she would not vote on any more services without a plan of action.

Mr. Vasquez reminded Board members of the statements made by the Arkansas Department of Education and Legislative Audit regarding not only the district's spending practices, but its compliance with guidelines set out in the ruling in the desegregation case. He mentioned the district's neglect in filing required reports as laid out in the same ruling and by Legislative Audit.

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Vasquez recommended tabling the motion until the Tuesday night special board meeting to allow further review and discussion before making a decision.

Mrs. Sawyer motioned, seconded by Mr. Vasquez, to table the motion to disassociate PCSSD from Pacific Educational Group (PEG) and Performance Facts, Inc., to allow further review and discussion. The motion carried.

Fixed Asset  
Policy for Business  
Procedure Manual

Mrs. Sawyer moved, seconded by Ms. Williams, approval of the fixed asset policy for Business Procedure Manual. The motion carried.

Approval of New  
Board Policy  
IHSBA (Also ESA),  
First reading

First reading. No action required.

Mrs. Judy Wilber, General Counsel, addressed the Board to state there currently is no policy in place to address the use of service animals for special needs students. She stated the policy is the same policy recommended by the Arkansas School Board Association, and will meet the necessary requirements for two new special education students for the 2011-2012 school year.

### **Miscellaneous**

Approval of  
Fiscal Distress  
Financial Rpts

Ms. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of the Fiscal Distress Financial Reports.

Mrs. Farver stated that the names of all fiscal distress reports being submitted for approval by the Board will be named and included in the monthly Board agenda book until the district is dismissed from fiscal distress.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Consent Agenda**

6/14/2011

Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, to approve consent agenda Item 1-3 (with all noted corrections - addendum to page 11 to include additional hire approval by Arkansas Department of Education). Those items included:

- Approval of Consent Agenda
- Expulsions
- Personnel – Certified and Support Staff

The motion carried.

Bills for Payment Mrs. Tatum moved, seconded by Mrs. Sawyer, approval of consent agenda Item 4 – Bills for Payment.

Mr. Stuthard questioned AT&T phone charges. Mrs. Tasha Thompson, Director of Finance, addressed the Board and stated that the charges in question are associated with long distance usage in the district. She stated there is currently no system in place to address long distance usage since codes can be used by individuals other than ones they are assigned to.

Mr. Derrick Brown, Chief Technology Officer, addressed the Board and stated that the district has consolidated to one vendor (Windstream) that will address the issue of long distance phone usage. He stated the district is eligible for eRate, and effective July 1, 2011 eRate will be responsible for a significant amount of the district's long distance and wireless services.

Mr. Vasquez asked Mr. Brown to clarify Mrs. Sawyer's position (as an employee of Windstream versus PCSSD Board member). He stated the district's RFP includes a clause in the contract excluding her involvement in the establishment of Windstream as the vendor. Windstream is on the state vendor contract.

Mr. Brown added that an RFP was also written by Little Rock and North Little Rock school districts and Windstream was awarded the bid for those districts as well.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Financial Report Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mr. Stuthard, approval of consent agenda Item 5 - Financial Report. The motion carried.

**Upcoming Events**

Special Board meeting on June 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

**Superintendent's Comments**

6/14/2011

Dr. Hopson wished Tom Stuthard happy birthday and thanked the Board for their hard work and support. He stated he respected their actions and appreciated them for their efforts.

**Board Member  
Comments**  
6/14/2011

- Tom Stuthard Mr. Stuthard spoke on the media's comments in reference to his opinions being influenced by the union. He stated his decisions have never been about the union. He said his stand has always been about the students and meeting their needs. He said he will continue to speak for the students and his constituents. He stated we have a lot of good students and teachers.
- Sandra Sawyer Mrs. Sawyer asked everyone to keep all of the students on their prayer lists during proms and graduations this month. She wished Mr. Vasquez happy birthday. She said she is looking forward to seeing the drawings for Robinson Middle School.
- Gloria Lawrence Mrs. Lawrence agreed with Mr. Stuthard's comments and stated her commitments are with the children. She stated she is outraged with all of the money being spent. She said we are struggling with all of the issues with the district and until we hold our feet to the fire and convict people to do what is right that is where we will always be. She congratulated Sherwood Elementary who placed Fourth Place at World competition.
- Bill Vasquez Mr. Vasquez warned students to be careful during the summer. He mentioned reallocating resources due to retirements and cuts in funds. He stated when we waste resources it is tantamount to child abuse. He said are here for the students. He stated there is not a lot to do in the district if everyone just does their job. He said we should be ashamed of the judge's ruling in the desegregation case and that we are still in turf battles instead of taking care of the students.
- Gwen Williams Ms. Williams congratulated all of the graduates. She thanked her fellow Board members, the administration, and the graduates. She also congratulated her 8-year old twins on winning their fast pitch and softball championships.
- Mildred Tatum Mrs. Tatum congratulated the 443 adult education graduates who graduated from Jacksonville High School.

**Adjournment**  
6/14/2011

Mr. Vasquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Tatum, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary