



Board of Education Meeting Minutes

[Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6:00p.m.]

In Attendance: Dr. Laurel Tait, Heather Smith, Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Eli Keller, Wendy Potter and Bailey Mason, student presentative (Maumelle High School)

Call to Order

Stephen Delaney

Mr. Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Heather Smith

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Marti Hockaday, parent of a student at Sylvan Hills Junior High and wife of a School Resource Officer (SRO), shared that her son was in the 8th grade with an IEP and she was concerned about his safety on that campus. Mrs. Hockaday stated that her son had been jumped on occasion, choked and slammed to the ground among other things. She also stated that students are smoking in the bathrooms, there are traffic issues, and violence with other parents. Mrs. Hockaday stated that her student was homebound because the violence had taken a mental toll on him. She then stated that a teacher had also been attacked on the campus and she does not believe the safety of the campus is being taken seriously. As she ended her comments, she stated that there was no SRO on the campus and she has the stats on the crimes that are happening at Sylvan Hills Junior High School. Mrs. Hockaday is requesting that the Board investigate and observe what is happening on this campus.

Colin Grahagler, a community member, thanked the Board for their time. He stated that in reading the LEARN Act it states what it takes to become a School Resource Officer (SRO) and the training that is required. Mr. Grahagler shared that he did not understand why SRO's were being pulled out of schools and taking the option from the Chief of Police away to make those appointments; the person making the decisions for placements knows who is the best fit for students because of the training they receive. He stated that this should not be political by those in downtown Little Rock getting involved. Mr. Grahagler shared that these schools have no SRO and no crossing guard and there is no safety. He added that there was not enough attention given by school faculty. Mr. Grahagler explained that when students break rules an officer can get involved to make the decision on when to file charges or not file charges. He closed by stating that an SRO needs to be back on the campus.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Vote to approve minutes from meeting on December 12, 2023

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Tina Ward, Shelby Thomas, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed



Certified P.P.C. Presentation

There was no Certified PPC Presentation.

Classified P.P.C. Presentation

There was no Classified PPC Presentation.

Reports

Board Appreciation Month - Jessica Duff

Jessica Duff, Executive Director of Communications, acknowledged the Board for the month of January as Board Member Appreciation month and presented them a 2024 placard for their Appreciation plaque that is displayed in the lobby.

School Data Stories & Recognition - Dr. Sonya Whitfield

Dr. Whitfield presented the three (3) remaining schools unable to attend the last Board meeting that has been recognized by US News and World Report with a certificate and acknowledgement of their success. The schools recognized were Cato Elementary, Baker Elementary and Robinson Middle schools. The school principals, Stacy Bottoms, Dr. Valencia Essel and Zondria Campbell along with a few school staff, shared with the Board what they are doing to ensure students are achieving in their buildings. Sophia Strickland, a Baker Elementary school student, shared with the Board the origination and results of the can food drive. Luke Molsbee, a Robinson Middle School student, also shared some of his academic experiences in achievement at Robinson Middle. Dr. Whitfield concluded her presentation by thanking the Board for the opportunity to see fruits of labor, the real work that is being done in the District.

Financial Updates

Jacqueline Rowlett, District Treasurer

Construction Updates

Curtis Johnson, Executive Director of Operations

Action Items - Old Business

PPC Policy Proposal for PCSSD Reimplementation of Site-Based Shared Decision Making

Vote to refer PPC Policy Proposal for PCSSD Reimplementation of Site-Based Shared Decision Making back to PPC Committee

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

Tina Ward, Eli Keller

Motion Passed (5-2)

The Board took a brief recess at 7:51 p.m. and reconvened at 8:00 p.m.



Action Items - New Business

Principal Team Proposal for Implementation of the Leadership Team Decision Making in PCSSD - Building Principal Team

Vote to table Principal Team Proposal for Implementation of Leadership Team Decision Making in PCSSD

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Wendy Potter

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

Tina Ward, Eli Keller

Motion Passed (5-2)

2024-2025 School Calendar - Brenda Robinson, Dr. Yolaundra Williams

Vote to approve 2024-2025 School Calendar

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas, Tina Ward, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Memo to Board: Donaldson Scholars - Devin Bates

Vote to approve Memo to Board: Donaldson Scholars

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas, Tina Ward, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Proposed DRIVEN Virtual Academy Closure - Rachel Blackwell

Vote to approve Proposed DRIVEN Virtual Academy Closure by rescinding charter and waiver to Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas, Tina Ward

Opposed

Eli Keller

Motion Passed (6-1)



Transportation Services for Homeless Students – Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Transportation Services for Homeless Students

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas, Tina Ward, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Comments from the Board

Mr. Thomas commented that he wants administration to look into the allegations presented regarding the SRO on the Sylvan Hills Junior High campus and get to the bottom of it.

Ms. Ward stated that she was proud of the students that were in attendance tonight and of the achievements shared with the Board that is happening in the District. She expressed her appreciation for principals coming together to present. Ms. Ward also stated that she wants to see the meeting begin with good stuff and togetherness and also end on that same note instead of all the 'bang' at the top. She closed by reminding the Board that next month was Black History month and to wear their African-American attire.

Mr. Delaney reminded the board and the superintendent that their Statement of Financial Interest forms are due on January 31, 2024.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McNulty gave shout-outs to each board member for the professional development training hours they had completed for the year 2023. He stated that our unpaid public servants have to have a lot of training and learning to have some of the best schools in Arkansas. Dr. McNulty shared that everyone here has a different perspective but we are inspired by the students and professional staff. He reminded the public and the board of the January 23 public meeting on the Facilities Plan that happens every two years and ended his comments by sharing that it was going to get cold and that snow was coming soon.

Consent Agenda

Vote to approve Consent Agenda

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Tina Ward, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

The Board took a brief recess before beginning the grievance hearing at 9:28 p.m. and reconvened at 9:40 p.m.



Level III Grievance Hearing

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Level III Grievance motion at 10:30 p.m. and reconvened at 10:50 p.m.

Vote to approve motion that the School Board for the Pulaski County Special School District deny the grievance of Terence Clark

-Motion by Wendy Potter

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas, Eli Keller

Opposed

Tina Ward

Motion Passed (6-1)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

-Motion by Wendy Potter

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Wendy Potter, Heather Smith, Shelby Thomas, Dr. Laurel Tait, Tina Ward, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed