



Board of Education Meeting Minutes

[Tuesday, May 10, 2022 6:00p.m.]

In Attendance: Dr. Laurel Tait, Heather Smith, Lindsey Gustafson, Shelby Thomas, Stephen Delaney

Absent: Tina Ward, Eli Keller

Call to Order

Lindsey Gustafson

Mrs. Gustafson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Stephen Delaney

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Kristina Gulley, a community member, spoke to the Board regarding the voting precinct at Harris Elementary School. Ms. Gulley stated that she had a previous conversation with the Superintendent and the Election Committee for Harris Elementary to be a polling site. She stated that Dr. McNulty had agreed to write a letter of support to the Election Committee and there had been no follow through. Ms. Gulley stated that there had been issues with the location of the precinct in the McAlmont area; however she wanted to work together with the community to get the Harris Elementary location back and she feels that the letter of support will assist with that.

Erma Daughtry, a McAlmont Crime Watch committee member and resident, spoke to the board and expressed her desire for the Superintendent to please write the letter of support to the Election Committee.

Felicia Woods, spoke to the Board in support of Mya Filmore, a former student at Maumelle High School, being able to participate in graduation ceremonies with the class of 2022. Ms. Woods stated that she was an employee of the District and that Mya was her niece. She added that Mya had completed all the assignments and did everything she was supposed to do as a student in the Driven Program. Ms. Woods expressed that due to miscommunication, the pandemic and records being lost that Mya has to suffer the hurt of not walking during graduation exercises. She added that no parent/guardian signed off for Mya to graduate early; no form was completed. She asked the board to please consider her request for Mya to be able to participate in the 2022 graduation ceremonies.

Board member, Heather Smith, asked if there was a policy in place for these types of situations. Dr. Yolaundra Williams responded that there is a policy now in place.



Connie Fillmore, parent of Mya Fillmore, spoke to the Board regarding her daughter being able to participate in the 2022 graduation ceremony, since she did not participate in the 2021 graduation ceremony. Ms. Fillmore stated that Mya was not trying to graduate early. She added that during the beginning of the Fall semester of 2021 they visited a college and was informed at that time that Mya had completed all of the credits needed to graduate. She stated that her daughter did not know she had completed all the requirements. Ms. Fillmore said that she then asked about prom, senior pictures, graduation, etc. She stated she was told in August 2021 that Mya was given a schedule for four classes of only electives listed for the fall; she had received an unofficial transcript in June 2021 with 22 ½ credit completed. Ms. Fillmore spoke with Dr. Williams and other employees, who are no longer employed at the school, regarding Mya's situation and did not understand the options given that if she did not take the schedule offered and/or if Mya enrolled in college, she would forfeit her participation in the graduation ceremony as she would have no longer been a student. Ms. Fillmore requested that her daughter be able to participate in the 2022 graduation ceremony.

Mya Fillmore, a former student at Maumelle High School, expressed to the Board that because of a misunderstanding she is suffering at the hands of someone by not being able to walk in graduation ceremonies. Mya stated that she did not realize she had graduated in August of 2021. She stated that there was no communication; she only spoke to a counselor.

Dr. Williams stated that Ms. Horton explained to the family what their options were in 2021. She also stated that Mya did have a class schedule, however Mya and her family were told during that time that once she got her diploma, participation in graduation ceremonies would no longer be an option. Dr. Williams added that in November Mya came to the office to request her final transcript and diploma.

Dr. Tait, Board member, asked if the student was specifically given the choice to take the classes or get her diploma/transcript. Ms. Smith asked when Mya enrolled in Pulaski Technical College. Mr. Thomas, Board member, asked if Mya was an online student and if there was a policy in place now. Dr. Williams answered that Mya was given a choice and that an Early Graduation Plan has always been in place and that the time for notification has been extended.

Wendy Potter, parent of a 7th and 11th graders in the Maumelle schools, shared with the board about the extreme shortage of teachers in the district. Ms. Potter stated that her students had experienced classes with long-term substitute teachers and/or classes being combined and not receiving instruction due to the shortage. She asked why the District was not retaining teachers. Ms. Potter stated that if 60% of students scored at or above grade level, as reported last month, then that means that 40% of students are failing. She is requesting that the Board and administration look into and get to the bottom of why teachers are leaving and address the issues.

Karen Maynard, representing Moms for Liberty, gave the Board something to consider. Ms. Maynard submitted an FOIA request regarding Act 1100, the teaching of divisive concepts, and concerns with the transparency of the District. She asked who makes the decisions about Professional Development. Ms. Maynard stated that the curriculum portion of the District website was not very detailed; however, she wants the District to implement a process that sets the bar for other districts. Ms. Maynard closed by asking if there had been an update of after school care.

Deann Scott, a McAlmont community member, greeted the board and thanked Dr. McNulty for his support in Harris Elementary being a voting site for the McAlmont community. She stated that the other location is a narrow street and there



was easier access to Harris Elementary for the elderly voters in that community. Ms. Scott requested that Dr. McNulty please send the letter to the Election Commission.

Glenda Gary, a McAlmont community member, spoke to the Board on behalf of District 10 and Harris Elementary. Ms. Gary stated that multiple generations of families in the McAlmont community have cast their votes at Harris Elementary School. She asked that the District support the move of the voting precinct back to Harris Elementary.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Vote to approve minutes from meeting on May 10, 2022

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

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

Teacher of the Year Presentation

Jessica Duff, Executive Director of Communications, presented the PCSSD Teacher of the Year nominees for each District school.

Inspiration in Education Award

Jessica Duff presented the 4th quarter Inspiration in Education Award to Angela Thomas, Security Officer, at Sylvan Hills Middle School.

DESE Literacy Support Presentation

Delayed to June meeting

Financial Updates

Ms. Rowlett



Construction Updates

Mr. Johnson

Action Items - Old Business

There were no old business action items.

Action Items - New Business

Superintendent's Contract - Agenda modified to discuss this item during Executive Session.

Firewall Replacement - Jimmy Hogg

Vote to approve Firewall Replacement

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Resolution for Military Families - Beth Hendrix

Vote to approve Resolution for Military Families

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Comments from the Board

Ms. Smith requested that the Board and administration review the cell phone policy for the upcoming school year. She believes that we have gotten lackadaisical on the excessive use of cell phones by students and that we can create a policy under a structured system.

Dr. Tait shared that some good points were made during the meeting and that she would be in agreement for a survey to be conducted on why teachers and families leave the District to get a pulse of the people. She also shared that there should be a letter sent to students/parents regarding graduation policies and procedures.



Mr. Thomas stated that he was invited to attend a SAC Club presentation last month. He added that he was honored to be present and that those students are going to change the community and our world. Mr. Thomas expressed that he would like to see all schools pick up the mantle and have a club like that on every campus. He closed by stating the District needs to fix the current discrepancies as it relates to graduation; somewhere the ball was dropped and a miscommunication happened.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McNulty thanked the Harris community for their presence and comments during the meeting. He stated that he and Miss Johnson have advocated for Harris to be a polling site and the Election Commission selects the voting sites, not the school district. Dr. McNulty then invited Jay Bequette, the District's attorney, to address the concerns related to ACT 1100.

Mr. Bequette shared his findings regarding ACT 1100. He stated that the District is acting in accordance with the law; however ACT 1100 excludes school districts.

Dr. McNulty shared that the District is here for every child no matter their race, creed, economic status, etc. and that he is sincere and reflective in his efforts to always be transparent. He closed by sharing that the Handbook Committee would be reconvening to address the revisions that include the cell phone policy and that the committee reviews the model policies and the law to make sure the District is compliant.

Consent Agenda

Vote to approve Consent Agenda

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Vote to move into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Contract at 7:05 p.m.

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:00pm.



Vote to postpone the consideration of the Superintendent's Contract to June meeting

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Employee Hearings/Level III Grievances

Vote to approve Waiver of Disqualification for Allen Hill

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Hearing on Grievance of Yvette Dillingham

Vote to uphold written reprimand and suspension in employee's personnel file

-Motion by Stephen Delaney

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Adjournment

Vote to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Lindsey Gustafson

In Favor

Stephen Delaney, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Shelby Thomas

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed