



Board of Education Meeting Minutes

[Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:00p.m.]

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

Absent: Eli Keller

Call to Order

Lindsey Gustafson

Mrs. Gustafson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Stephen Delaney

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Brandy Carole, a parent of students at Robinson Middle and Robinson High, spoke to the Board regarding Robinson Middle School this past school year. Ms. Carole stated that the administration should admit their mistakes when they transferred and demoted employees and hired the spouse of the Superintendent. She stated that the decisions made at Robinson Middle resulted in a mass exodus with some employees choosing to leave because working there was impossible. Ms. Carole added there has been extreme change in that building with adding 20 new teachers. She expressed that parents have asked for help and have not received it within the two years. Ms. Carole stated that they asked for help with the block schedule as it was not successful. She stated that parents were told that teachers would be teaching project based, modified block schedules, tailored to individual students; the schedule was completely new. Ms. Carole then asked why Mills Middle was exempt.

Sophie Carole, an 8th grade student at Robinson Middle, spoke to the Board and stated that she has hearing aids and when the bell rang it affected her hearing as it magnified the noise. Sophie stated that the block schedule put pressure on the students and teachers and the Lexia was used to fill up class time. She stated that the schedule included NWEA and CFA assessments, lesson times for core classes did not leave enough time for the art and band classes. Sophie stated that the last two weeks of school were the worst of the year as the stress level for project based learning skyrocketed; so much stress during the school year made her want to skip the 8th grade.

Melissa McGibboney, parent of students at Robinson Middle and Robinson High, stated she was employed as the secretary at Robinson Middle and will now be the secretary at Robinson High. Ms. McGibboney stated she witnessed first hand the distress of students and has over 100 emails from parents asking for her to please say something, as parents are concerned. Ms. McGibboney stated that there had been a drop in enrollment at Robinson Middle as well. As a parent ambassador, she stated, the administration needs to check the temperature of teachers, parents and students and find out what is going on in the classroom. She added that the Robinson community loves and supports their schools. Additionally, she stated that



experienced employees fear retaliation from their employer or the possibility of being transferred and this is weighing on their mental health.

Beverly Glass, an employee of the District, as the Robinson Middle school Counselor, thanked the Board for their time. She stated that she has documentation of a hostile work environment. Ms. Glass stated that she has now taken a position for less money due to it. She stated that she has not shared the documents due to fear of retaliation. Ms. Glass added that nepotism is not a good idea. She expressed that she does want to return to her job at the District because she deeply cares about the welfare of students.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Vote to approve minutes from meeting on May 10, 2022

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Certified P.P.C. Presentation

Brenda Robinson, PPC Certified Chairperson, greeted the Board and hoped that everyone was having a good summer. Ms. Robinson started by sharing with the Board about a possible proposal that Governor Hutchinson would be taking to the Legislature about teacher pay raises and a proposed increase in the minimum salary of teachers to \$46,000 annually; but not during the special session. She stated that the PPC Committee continues to work on restructuring the certified salary schedule for veteran teachers. She added that the Legislature may be presenting something to Superintendents to review their surplus and whether or not Districts can sustain, etc. Ms. Robinson added that the special session would begin August 8. She expressed her appreciation to District administrators and professional staff.

Classified P.P.C. Presentation

There was no Classified PPC presentation.

Reports

2022-2023 School Choice Report - Dr. Janice Warren

Vote to accept 2022-2023 School Choice Report

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed



Financial Updates

Ms. Rowlett

Construction Updates

Jeffery Lynch presented in the absence of Curtis Johnson

Action Items - Old Business

There were no old business action items.

Action Items - New Business

Progress Learning (USA Test Prep) - Dr. Justin Luttrell

Vote to approve purchase of Progress Learning (USA Test Prep)

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Benchmark Workshop (K-5 Reading Curriculum Adoption) - Dr. Justin Luttrell

Vote to approve adoption of Benchmark Workshop (K-5 Reading Curriculum Adoption) - 2nd Option

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

MyPerspectives Reading Adoption 6-8 - Dr. Justin Luttrell

Vote to approve adoption of MyPerspectives Reading 6-8 Program

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Computer Science K-5 (Codelicious Grant) - Dr. Justin Luttrell



Vote to approve Computer Science K-5 (Codelicious Grant) pending approval

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Board Policies: 5.26.1 Alternative Learning Evaluation, 5.28 Enhanced Student Achievement Funding Expenditures, 7.5P Purchases and Procurement, 7.17.2 Non-discrimination in Food Service Programs - Dr. Yolaundra Williams

Vote to approve Board Policies 5.26.1, 5.28, 7.5P AND 7.17.2

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

HVAC BAS Peripherals Order for Integration Projects - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve HVAC BAS Peripherals Order for Integration Projects

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Sylvan Hills Middle Touch Ups - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Sylvan Hills Middle Touch Ups

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed



Crystal Hill Elementary Flooring - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Crystal Hill Elementary Flooring

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

William Jefferson Clinton Elementary Flooring - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve William Jefferson Clinton Elementary Flooring

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Lawson Elementary Updates - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Lawson Elementary Updates

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Maumelle High DVA Panels - Curtis Johnson

Vote to approve Maumelle High DVA Panels

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Tina Ward

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed



Computer Purchase for CTE Program Start Ups - Pam Black

Vote to approve Computer Purchase for CTE Program Start Ups

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Comments from the Board

Ms. Ward plugged a College Station community TLC Program held on Saturday mornings for middle school students. She stated it was a great program where students are writing and learning to think critically. Ms. Ward stated their first writing assignment was to write about something they wanted to see change in their community/world. She stated it was good to see students writing instead of being on their electronic devices.

Ms. Tait made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing issues and concepts in general related to the public comments of parents and/or make a statement to let parents know they are being heard and we take them seriously. The motion failed.

Mr. Thomas thanked the public/parents for coming and expressed that the Board is listening and cares about their concerns. He stated that the Board too has to follow the policies set forth. Mr. Thomas added that emails are not going unread and the Board will take care of things in order and by policy.

Ms. Smith stated that she went to an event two weeks ago at the Sherwood City Council for graduating seniors where they were given accolades and scholarships. She then shared that summer school was almost over and thanked the teachers for their efforts in participating with summer school.

Mrs. Gustafson shared that she had visited some District schools with Dr. McNulty in the Mills and Robinson feeders. She expressed that it was very instructive and inspiring to observe and she appreciated Dr. McNulty for chauffeuring her during the visits.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McNulty thanked the Board and the public for their comments. He then welcomed Mrs. Burgess to the floor to respond to the item about postings and openings. Mrs. Burgess stated that the team is working feverishly to get people hired to fill open positions. It was asked if there were more vacancies than previous years, Mrs. Burgess answered that it was about the same. She said that enrollment is up a few students from last year. Mrs. Burgess added that employees who resigned can reapply.



Dr. McNulty continued by sharing that the District is accessing Harvard Institute for professional development opportunities, strategic planning will be going on during the Administrator's Retreat, there is a grant for retention and promotion of professional staff that the District will look into. He then acknowledged the student who came forward and spoke to the Board and expressed that she did a great job. He then asked parents and community members to consider the source when you hear information, that the District does not retaliate and that the District does believe in giving everyone a voice. Dr. McNulty closed by stating that all communication has not been professional and that it does matter when you are communicating with others and how you do it.

Consent Agenda

Vote to approve Consent Agenda

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Employee Hearings/Level III Grievances

There were no employee hearings/Level III Grievances

Adjournment

Vote to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

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

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed