

NORTH LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

December 19, 2013

The North Little Rock School District Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 19, 2013, in the Board Room of the Administration Building of the North Little Rock School District, 2700 Poplar Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Board President J.T. Zakrzewski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chloe Emmerling, Crestwood Elementary Fifth Grader, gave the invocation and led the flag salute.

Board President Zakrzewski read the Mission and Vision Statement of the North Little Rock School District.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present

J.T. Zakrzewski, President
Scott A. Miller, Vice President
Ron Treat, Secretary
Luke King, Member
Scott Teague, Member

Absent

Dorothy Williams, Parliamentarian
Darrell Montgomery, Disbursing Officer

Others Present

Mr. Kelly Rodgers, Superintendent; Dr. Beth Stewart, Assistant Superintendent; Denise Drennan, Chief Financial Officer; Gregg Thompson, Executive Director of Human Resources; Micheal Stone, Executive Director of Student & Equity Services; Rosie Coleman, Executive Director of Elementary Education; Susan Shurley, Executive Director for Special Services; Greg Daniels, Administrative Director of Information Services and additional staff members and Darlene Holmes, Superintendent's secretary, were also present. NLR CAT-TV (video) and Brian Drause (audio) recorded the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE/EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Shara Brazear, Communication Specialist, presented two new members to the Superintendent's Honor Roll. They were Cassie Sweeney, NLRHS West Campus Math Teacher and Tammy Leker, Crestwood Elementary After-School Coordinator for the continued work in our district with our students. Jody Edrington was recognized for her work in the getting a Crayola Grant for Redwood Early Childhood Center. Harriet Pool was recognized for the national Journal for Reading Recovery that shared the story of her efforts of continuing to work with one of her many students.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

MOTION

Scott Teague moved to accept the November 21, 2013 (Regular), and December 5, 2013 (Special) minutes as printed. Scott Miller seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

NEW BUSINESS

Amend the Agenda

MOTION

Scott Miller moved to amend the agenda to include the Project Price Proposals for Phase 3 for Lakewood Elementary and Structural Steel for Area A-B for NLRHS. Scott Teague seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

Licensed Personnel Policy Committee

Anita Bell, LPPC member, stated their committee had two proposals for the Board to add two new policies to the Licensed Personnel Section.

The first one was: **“3.49---TEACHERS' REMOVAL OF STUDENT FROM CLASSROOM**

Note and advisement: This policy is adopted by the Board of Directors in order to bring the District into compliance with ADE rules concerning student discipline, and to incorporate the provisions of A.C.A. § 6-18-511. However, teachers should be aware that federal law governing a student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan, or status as an individual with a disability will supersede Arkansas law. In many cases, removing a student from a classroom due to behavioral problems, will violate a student's IEP, violate a student's 504 plan, or constitute discrimination against the student due to a disability that affects the student's ability to conform his or her behavior. Teachers have been successfully sued for IEP and 504 plan violations in other jurisdictions, and teachers need to understand that violating a student's rights is outside of the scope of his or her employment, and no insurance is available or provided by the school district for either legal defense or to pay a money judgment. Teachers who rely on this law and this policy to exclude a student with special needs or a disability are assuming a grave personal risk. A teacher may remove a student from class whose behavior the teacher has documented to be repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach the students in the class or whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it interferes with the ability of the student's other classmates to learn. Students who have been removed from their classroom by a teacher shall be sent to the principal's or principal's designee's office for appropriate discipline. The teacher's principal or the principal's designee may:

1. Place the student into another appropriate classroom;
2. Place the student into in-school suspension;
3. Place the student into the District's alternative learning environment;
4. Return the student to the class; or
5. Take other appropriate action consistent with the District's student discipline policies and state and federal law.

If a teacher removes a student from class two (2) times during any nine-week grading period, the principal or the principal's designee may not return the student to the teacher's

class unless a conference has been held for the purpose of determining the cause of the problem and possible solutions. The conference is to be held with the following individuals present:

1. The principal or the principal's designee;
2. The teacher;
3. The school counselor;
4. The parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis; and
5. The student, if appropriate.

However, the failure of the parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis to attend the conference does not prevent any action from being taken as a result of the conference.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-511

Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for the Development, Review and Revision of School District Student Discipline and School Safety Policies”

MOTION

Scott Teague moved to accept new Board Policy 3.49 TEACHERS' REMOVAL OF STUDENT FROM CLASSROOM as presented by the Licensed Personnel Policies Committee. Ron Treat seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

The second proposal was for new Board policy: **“3.50—ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATOR CERTIFICATION**

Continuing Administrators

The Superintendent or designee shall determine and notify in writing by August 31 of any current or prior contract year, those currently employed administrators who will be responsible for conducting Teacher Excellence Support System (hereinafter TESS) evaluations. All currently employed administrators so notified shall have until December 31 of the contract year to successfully complete all training and certification requirements for evaluators as set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education. It shall constitute just and reasonable cause for nonrenewal of the contract of employment for any administrator who is required to obtain and maintain TESS evaluator certification, as a term and condition of employment, to fail to do so by December 31 of any contract year.

Newly Hired or Promoted Administrators

All newly hired or newly promoted administrators, as a term and condition of their acceptance of their contract of employment for their administrative position, are required to obtain and maintain evaluator certification for TESS on or before December 31 of the initial administrative contract year, unless they are explicitly excused from such a contractual requirement by board action at the time of the hire or promotion. It shall constitute just and reasonable cause for nonrenewal of the contract of employment for any newly hired or newly promoted administrator who is required to obtain and maintain TESS evaluator certification, as a term and condition of employment, to fail to do so by December 31 of any contract year.

Legal Reference: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Teacher Excellence and Support System 4.05”

MOTION

Scott Teague moved to accept the Licensed Personnel Policies Committee's recommendation for new Board Policy 3.50 ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATOR CERTIFICATION as presented. Scott Miller seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski
NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

Classified Personnel Policy Committee

Jarvis Dickerson, CPPC Chair, stated their committee didn't have any proposals at this time.

2012 – 2013 School Year Audit

Denise Drennan, CFO, presented Hudson, Cisne & Co as the auditors. Mr. Corey Moline and Mr. Mark Glover and they explained there were no findings in any area presented. They expressed their gratitude to Denise Drennan and her staff for their assistance.

MOTION

Scott Teague moved to accept the 2012 – 2013 school year audit as presented. Scott Miller seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski
NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

Board Goals

Mr. Rodgers presented the Board Goals as priorities for our staff: Finances, Capital Improvement Program, Student Achievement, Communication, and Safety in all areas.

MOTION

Ron Treat moved to accept the Board Goals as presented by Administration. Scott Miller seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski
NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

2014 – 2015 Course Catalog

Dr. Beth Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, presented the course catalog. She explained the differences in last year and updating new requirements that were passed during the last legislative session.

MOTION

Scott Miller moved to accept the 2014 – 2015 Course catalog as presented. Scott Teague seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski
NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

RSP & Associates Demographic Study

Mr. Rodgers explained it was time to look at where attendance lines and areas for the new schools will be drawn. RSP & Associates has the information and can help with that information.

MOTION

Scott Miller moved to accept Administration's recommendation to proceed with finalizing a contract with RSP & Associates for the demographic study. Scott Teague seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

Phase II Architects Contracts

Brian Brown, Director of Finance, presented the architects agreements for Indian Hills Elementary and Ridgeroad Middle for approval.

MOTION

Scott Teague moved to accept the architect agreements as presented for Indian Hills Elementary and Ridgeroad Middle with Lewis, Elliott, McMorran, Vaden, Ragsdale & Woodward, Inc. Luke King seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

RFQ for architectural and engineering services for the parking lot design work between Main Street and Poplar Street

Mr. Brown explained the need for an RFQ to see about the cost of two different possibilities. One will be strictly for parking lot and the other will be a parking lot with a potential of a pedestrian bridge over Main Street.

MOTION

Scott Teague moved to accept Administration's recommendation for two Requests for Qualifications to be issued for parking lot and parking lot with pedestrian bridge work. Scott Miller seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

Project Price Proposal for Structural Steel for Area A-B for NLRHS

Mr. Chuck Hesselbein with Baldwin & Shell explained the need for the approval to expedite the work at the high school.

MOTION

Scott Miller moved to accept the Project Price Proposal for Structural Steel for Area A-B for the NLRHS as presented. Scott Teague seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

Project Price Proposal for Phase 3 for Lakewood Elementary

Gerald Cound, Director of Facilities Management, stated there continues to have logistical problems that are site related but hopes this proposal will help with the progress of construction at Lakewood Elementary.

MOTION

Scott Miller moved to accept the Project Price Proposal for Phase 3 Building Package Conformed Set at Lakewood Elementary as presented. Ron Treat seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

Consent Agenda

Mr. Rodgers recommended the Board accept the financial, personnel, bid items, and regular bills on pages O-1 through T-18.

MOTION

Scott Teague moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Ron Treat seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Micheal Stone, Executive Director of Student Services and Equity, presented an update on communications with the public concerning the Desegregation Case and the Fairness Hearing in Federal Court on January 13-14, 2014.

Gerald Cound updated the Board on the Capital Improvement Plan with the change orders, minority participation report, soft costs and projected cost as printed in the agenda.

Natalie Ghoti with Eric Rob and Isaac, Inc. along with Shara Brazear updated the Board on the public communication aspects of the Capital Improvement Plan progress.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Ron Treat moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott Miller seconded the motion.

YEAS: King, Miller, Teague, Treat, and Zakrzewski

NAYS: None (Montgomery and Williams – absent)

President Zakrzewski declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

J.T. Zakrzewski, President

Darlene Holmes, Recording Secretary