

**ARKADELPHIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 9, 2016**

The Arkadelphia Board of Education met in special session Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office of the Administration Building, located At 235 North Eleventh Street.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Root, President ; Ms. Karrie Goodman, Secretary, Mr. Randy Turner, Ms. Gina White, Dr. Casey Motl, and Mr. Billy Groom. **Member absent:** Dr. Kenneth G. Harris, Jr., Vice President.

Dr. Root stated the purpose of the meeting was to consider the agenda planning session for the regular September board meeting, to consider agenda items as listed, and to conduct an employee hearing. A quorum was established with six (6) members present.

AGENDA PLANNING SESSION

The Board and Superintendent conducted the agenda planning session for the regular September board meeting.

PERSONNEL

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Ms. White, and carried 6-0 to approve:

EMPLOYMENT

Sara Cherry, Pre-K Paraprofessional; 184-day contract (191) – at scale; effective 8-22-2016.

RECESS

Dr. Root called for a recess at 5:50 p.m.

PERSONNEL HEARING

The Board President reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building for the purpose of conducting an employee hearing.

Dr. Jeff Root, President, stated that the Board would be conducting a hearing regarding the recommendation of the Superintendent to terminate the employment contract of Ms. Stephanie Reynolds.

Dr. Root stated the recommendation of the Superintendent as follows:

"The Administration recommends the Board terminate the contract of Stephanie Reynolds effective immediately for:

1. Striking a student with her hand and otherwise handling a student concerning a disciplinary matter in a manner not required by the incident, which occurred on or about May 2, 2016."

Dr. Root stated Ms. Reynolds was present, and represented by her attorney, Mr. Greg Alagood. The Administration was represented by Mr. Ed McCorkle, school attorney,

Dr. Root stated that Arkansas law in these proceedings provides that the hearing may be held in open or closed session at the discretion of the employee.

Dr. Root questioned Mr. Alagood, regarding Ms. Reynold's decision, to which Mr. Alagood replied the decision of Ms. Reynolds for a closed hearing. Mr. Alagood and Mr. McCorkle agreed that the witnesses be allowed to remain for the closed hearing; and no objections were heard.

The closed hearing began at 6:05 p.m.

The Board president called for a 15-minute recess in the hearing at 6:53 p.m. The closed hearing was reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

The Board president called for a Board executive session at 10:02 p.m.

Upon the return of the Board to the hearing, Dr. Root stated the Board was in open session at 11:42 p.m.

Dr. Root read the finding of fact statement for the hearing.

The Board voted 6-0 to approve the following finding of fact: Stephanie Reynolds struck a student with her hand and otherwise handled a student concerning a disciplinary matter in a manner not required by the incident which occurred on or about May 2, 2016.

A motion was made by Dr. Motl, seconded by Mr. Groom, and carried 6-0, to terminate the employment of Stephanie Reynolds immediately.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

MS. KARRIE GOODMAN, SECRETARY