

Earle School District
Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2011
5:00 PM - Central Office Boardroom

AGENDA

Board President, Mr. E. Cox:

Call to Order
Declaration of Quorum
Approval of Previous Minutes

Financial Report: Mr. Hicks, Business Manager

Topics for Discussion: Mr. Nicks, Superintendent

- First Week of School
- Enrollment
- Fiscal Distress
- ACSIP
- School Budget
- Open House, Earle Elementary – 8/30/2011
- Open House, Earle High School/Annual Report to the Public – 9/1/2011
- Hourly Salary Schedule
- Miscellaneous

****EXECUTIVE SESSION****

ADJOURNMENT

Earle School District
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 25, 2011 – 5:00 PM

The Earle School Board of Directors conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2011, at 5:00 PM in the central office boardroom. Those in attendance were: Eric Cox, President, Arthur Berry, Secretary, Sarah Johnson and April Nance. Also in attendance were Mr. Nicks, Superintendent and Mr. Hicks, Business Manager.

A declaration of a quorum was made after roll call, board members were given the opportunity to review and approve the previous meeting's minutes. It was motioned by Mr. Arthur Berry to accept the minutes. Mrs. Sarah Johnson seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mr. E. Cox: “We we will now have the financial report from business manager, Mr. Hicks.

Mr. Hicks: “We ended the year with a legal balance \$1,850,000.00.

Mr. E. Cox: “And that includes, after all the loans having been paid, what you would call 'our money'?”

Mr. Hicks: “That's correct.

Mr. E. Cox: “Okay. Anybody got any questions for Mr. Hicks?”

Mr. Nicks: “Now, you're also aware that we have not received any State aid for July or August, so we're still bouncing along pretty well.”

Mr. E. Cox: “Can we get a motion to accept Mr. Hicks' financial report?”

Ms. Nance motioned and Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion to accept the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. E. Cox: “Alright, the next items will be brought up for discussion by the superintendent, Mr. Nicks.”

Mr. Nicks: “Alright, very few, if any, action items tonight. Just wanted to bring you up to date on where we are. The first week of school, some of you were able to get out and I hope all of you will get out on the campuses at some point and kind of see how things are going. We're pleased, we're excited about what's happening. I think we have a really good climate on both campuses, teachers are working hard; administrators are out in the classrooms, in the hallways... everything is off to a really good start. Kids are excited. We haven't had any major problems, the kids are doing really well. I try to be as visible

as possible on both campuses. I think it's going well. If you've got any problems or complaints, please let us know because as soon as we can get on those things the better off we are."

Ms. Johnson: "Do we have very many new students?"

Mr. Nicks: "We have new students. We'll talk about enrollment, we can move into that unless you've got some questions about the first week of school. Enrollment is up quite a bit; I say that compared to where we projected to be when we'd come back. I think the State had us projected to be around 650. We're well over 700 students. 315 or so at the high school; over 400 in PK-6, so the enrollment is really good. We're picking up some students, and, of course we've lost some. I think we've gained more than we've lost. We had a big drop the year before but if we can stay around seven hundred students, we're pretty excited about where we are. We know that the enrollment depends on how well we can provide for the kids. So, if you know people who have not brought kids to school, Sunday when you're at church, talk to them. Let them know that these days count against them when they're keeping them home, if they have plans to move them to another school, and they haven't moved them, they need to bring them to school because these days count against them. There are no more excused absences, they are excessive absences and I was directed by the State to tell these parents that these days will count against the students, if they have not been enrolled, if they've not returned to school, so any opportunity you have to tell them, please tell them for us. I know a lot of them won't come until after Labor Day."

Mr. Nicks: "Of course, we're still in Fiscal Distress, the next item on the agenda. I wanted to bring you up to date. We've had one visit from the Department of Ed. We are scheduled to have a formal visit in September; and at some point they will want to meet with the Board of education to discuss the particulars of their visit. We're very hopeful and positive. I think we're as sound as we can be from a financial standpoint. We've held spending to a minimum. We're pretty excited about that. We think that we'll be finished with all of this by next year. And we're hopeful that once we have this initial budget visit and they see where we are, I think we'll be okay, so just keep your calendars kind of clean so that when they let us know when they're coming, we may get you to come up and be a part of that."

"The ACSIP Plan, the annual school improvement program that we have to complete; both campuses are working on those this week and they will go to Hot Springs on Monday to finalize that. Mr. Hicks and I have met with the folks who help us do our ASCIP Plan and we've put the finances in place, so now we'll get the actual Plan in place, so we can get it submitted and approved". "That's where all the Title I and federal monies are generated from." "We hope to do a lot more with technology this year, along with some summer and after-school programs and that's also where your SES providers money comes from." "The budget is still around September 15th. Mr. Hicks and I have been working on that, putting the final numbers in. We'll get that compiled and ready to submit by next week, so our budget will be our very critical item coming up within the next two weeks." "Any questions about that? I know you'll have specific questions once

we have the budget in front of us. Do keep in mind all the emphasis that the State has put on making sure that everything is in place, okay?"

"Open House is next Tuesday at the elementary school." "Start time is at 6:00 PM, Ms. Forrest?"

Ms. Forrest: "Yes, that's correct."

Mr. Nicks: "6:00 PM next Tuesday" (8/30/2011). "We'd like for you all to be there, if possible. I believe we'll start out in the cafeteria and we'll go from there. Open House and the Annual Report to the Public will be at the high school on Thursday night of next week, and it will start at 6:00 PM. We'll give our report to the public and then we'll go from there."

Mr. Nicks: "One final item is the Hourly Salary Schedule. You have a copy of the proposed schedule we'll use for hourly employees and/or payroll situations that require hourly wages. We'll need your approval on this."

A brief discussion of the Hourly Salary Scheduled was held; after which the motion was made and seconded to accept. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nicks: "That's basically all we have this week." "We don't have any other action items, unless, of course, you have some. Other than that, it's been a good start to the school year, and I think things are going pretty well."

Mr. E. Cox: "Does anyone have any questions or concerns? Do we need an Executive Session?"

Mr. Nicks: "Not unless you all have something... we can put it on the agenda Ms. Forrest may have something she wants to add." *Mrs. Forrest made the Board aware of a student's need for assistance which had been cared for that day. Ms. Forrest had taken the student and parent shopping for clothes and supplies. She also reminded members of the supply packets in the Parent Center and that she is still accepting contributions from churches and local organizations.*

Mr. Nicks: "Let me say this: if there are students or families that are in need, let us know. We have some monies set aside to help in whatever areas that we can. "Not only here in the District, but there are other agencies that we can put them in touch with. So, if you know folks out there that are in need of help, let us know. Let's not leave them out there; let's find some way to get them some help."

"Well, that's basically everything I have. Do you have any questions?" *There were no questions raised.*"

Mr. E. Cox: "Alright, can we get a motion to adjourn?" *Mr. Arthur Berry moved to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Sarah Johnson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.*



Board President



Board Secretary



Date