

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER ONE
OF TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District Number One of Tulsa County, Oklahoma was held on March 24, 2015, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the Cheryl Selman Room, ground floor level, at the Charles C. Mason Education Service Center, 3027 South New Haven Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting was given by service of written notice of the meeting to the office of the County Clerk of Tulsa County, Oklahoma, as required by Title 25, O.S. (2001), § 311.5 and by posting the attached agenda and recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools in prominent public view in the enclosed glass display case at the main door of the Charles C. Mason Education Service Center on March 23, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of Title 25, O.S. (2001), § 311.9.

PRESENT: Wilbert Collins
Ruth Ann Fate
Leigh Goodson
Shawna Keller
Gary Percefull
Suzanne Schreiber
Lana Turner-Addison

ABSENT: None

OPENING EXERCISES

Dr. Lana Turner-Addison, president of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum of the Board was present; therefore, the meeting was qualified to consider the agenda items. Dr. Turner-Addison led the flag salute.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Gary Percefull made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shawna Keller and passed by the following vote: AYE: Wilbert Collins, Leigh Goodson, Shawna Keller, Gary Percefull, Suzanne Schreiber, Ruth Ann Fate, and Lana Turner-Addison; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Visitors were recognized by President Turner-Addison.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/RESOLUTIONS

C-1. Superintendent's special presentations and awards.

Dr. Ballard presented "TPS in the News" accompanied by a slide show.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Turner-Addison stated that the Board had received copies of the minutes of the following meetings of the Board of Education and asked for a motion.

Regular Meeting
March 2, 2015

Special Meeting
March 2, 2015

Ms. Ruth Ann Fate moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Shawna Keller. The motion passed by the following vote: AYE: Wilbert Collins, Ruth Ann Fate, Leigh Goodson, Shawna Keller, Gary Percefull, Suzanne Schreiber, and Lana Turner-Addison; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Gary Percefull made a motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Wilbert Collins. The motion passed by the following vote: AYE: Wilbert Collins, Ruth Ann Fate, Leigh Goodson, Shawna Keller, Gary Percefull, Suzanne Schreiber, and Lana Turner-Addison; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

ACTION AGENDA

F-1. Postfact approval to renew an agreement with the Asia Society to continue Washington High School's status as a member of the Hanban-Asia Society Confucius Classrooms Network, an international partnership dedicated to building the field of Chinese language teachers and learning in American schools, September 1, 2014, to August 31, 2015.

Dr. Leigh Goodson made a motion to approve item F-1 and the motion was seconded by Ms. Shawna Keller.

Dr. Oliver Wallace responded to questions from members of the Board. Dr. Lana Turner-Addison reminded staff that postfact agenda items were highly discouraged and asked that all due diligence be observed by following proper agenda protocol.

President Turner-Addison called for the vote and the motion passed by the following vote: AYE: Wilbert Collins, Ruth Ann Fate, Leigh Goodson, Shawna Keller, Gary Percefull, Suzanne Schreiber, and Lana Turner-Addison; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

F-2. Purchase services from Debbie Diller & Associates, educational consulting, Houston, Texas, to provide technical assistance and professional development activities to the administration and faculty at Skelly Elementary School during the 2014-2015 school year.

Ms. Ruth Ann Fate made a motion to approve item F-2 and the motion was seconded by Ms. Shawna Keller. The motion passed by the following vote: AYE: Wilbert Collins, Ruth Ann Fate, Leigh Goodson, Shawna Keller, Gary Percefull, Suzanne Schreiber, and Lana Turner-Addison; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

F-3. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to close all Tulsa Public Schools on March 30, 2015, so that students, staff and patrons may participate at the Oklahoma Capitol on March 30, 2015, in the *Brighter Future* education rally with the March 30 school day to be made up in a manner required by law.

Dr. Ballard read the following statement:

"I have received some comments this morning questioning my decision to recommend to the Board that TPS be closed so our teachers can attend the Education Rally on March 30 in Oklahoma City. Here is my rationale.

"Initially, I had reservations about participating in the Rally when it was first announced. I had decided not to make a quick judgment, but see how issues developed at the legislature and to collect the thoughts and feelings of TPS teachers.

"Ultimately, I decided to recommend to the TPS Board that we close school so teachers could attend the rally. I did this for several reasons.

"There have been several anti-public school issues before the Oklahoma legislature this year. There was a bill to eliminate AP History; there was strong support for vouchers that was finally "laid over" until next year; and education funding continues to be a strong issue. The legislature held in place approximately \$200 million in tax cuts, and there is constant publicity out of the

legislature regarding the \$611 million shortfall. I believe a strong lobby day from educators and supporters is essential to getting our message across.

"We know we have a severe teacher shortage in Oklahoma. Our state started the 2014-15 school year about 1,000 teachers short, and that shortage impacts rural, suburban and urban areas. It's also important to mention that Oklahoma has 40,000 more public school students than in 2010, yet we have fewer teachers. It is critical that Oklahoma increase teacher pay. The average teacher salary is more than \$3,200 below the regional average and the lowest among surrounding states. If we are to be successful in making a meaningful impact on student achievement, it's time our legislators get serious about adequately funding public education.

"Testing continues to be a huge problem in Oklahoma. Just yesterday, huge trucks pulled up at our Enrollment Center to deposit box after box of state-mandated tests. Educators need to lobby for reduced and more significant testing.

"The rally was called for by the Oklahoma Parent Teacher Association and is strongly supported by the Tulsa Public Schools Council of PTAs.

"State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister has put forth a workable plan for increasing teacher pay and, at the same time, increasing time on instruction. She will be a featured speaker at the rally and her plan will be one of the main areas of focus. I believe we should strongly support her and her initiatives.

"The Tulsa Teachers Classroom Teachers Association has met with me several times, shared results of their survey and asked me to turn out school and support the rally. In addition to input from TCTA, I worked diligently to get input from teachers directly prior to making this recommendation. I spent time with my two teacher advisory committees, met with principals and even encouraged them to do surveys of teachers in their buildings.

"To suggest we didn't get input from teachers just simply isn't true.

"Canceling school on Monday is the right thing to do.

"One of the strongest factors in my decision-making is that I seriously question whether we can have quality learning in TPS on March 30. Today, we remain over 40 teachers short of having a full teaching force, a circumstance that hasn't changed much since the beginning of the school year. Today we have 158 requests for teacher substitutes and we can only fill about 80 percent of the requests. I have heard superintendents say they will stay in school on March 30 and fill in with substitutes; one superintendent told me he was approving 10 percent of his teachers to go. Ten percent of the TPS teacher force would equate to 280 teachers. That means with normal substitute demands added to teachers attending the education rally, we could be short as many as 450 to 500 teachers. If that scenario developed, we would not have quality learning on that day.

"By calling off school on March 30, we could use our one remaining snow day left in the calendar and students would still be dismissed before Memorial Day.

"Testing can be moved back for the state-mandated tests. There is flexibility in the testing window. There is a testing issue for two high schools where students will be taking retests for the End of Instruction Exam. We are working diligently to address that issue.

"I recognize that closing school creates a hardship for parents and employers. I wish it wasn't necessary. However, given the gravity and magnitude of the issues faced by public education in Oklahoma, I believe we have no choice but to support the rally and to make this recommendation to the Board. This is where I stand on this issue."

Dr. Lana Turner-Addison called on the following who had signed to speak to item F-3.

Mr. Darryl Bright, concerned citizen, spoke in support of closing schools for the education rally

Ms. Etta Taylor, Tulsa County PTA President, spoke in support of closing schools for the education rally

Mr. Nathaniel Morris, Nathan Hale High School teacher, spoke in support of the rally, but in opposition of closing schools

Ms. Shawna Mott-Wright, TCTA Vice President, spoke in support of closing school for the education rally

Mr. Gary Percefull made a motion to approve item F-3 and the motion was seconded by Ms. Ruth Ann Fate.

Ms. Suzanne Schreiber read the following statement.

"I have heard from many of my constituents today upon last night's news about the Board considering TPS closing on March 30 to support the *Brighter Future* rally at the state capitol. Parents, caregivers, community leaders, and even teachers, many of whom attended last year's rally, expressed concerns about the efficacy of the rally forum and the effect of cancelling schools with little notice on family logistics, economics and, given the timeliness of closure, optimal instructional time. As a working mom and a parent of TPS students of varied ages, these concerns resonated with me. I believe there are equally effective ways to support the rally without the negative repercussions on families and kids. I support increased teacher pay and wholeheartedly will show my support by contacting my legislators face-to-face and asking them to take an honest look at the budget and answer the question for themselves whether they are doing their level best to pay teachers commensurate with the immense amount of responsibility we charge them with everyday shaping the future of our kids and our state. I will urge them to look in every nook and cranny of the budget including the impending personal income tax cut, corporate tax loopholes, and government waste to find the funds absolutely necessary to properly educate our children and retain and recruit teachers. I will urge them to have the courage to match their rhetoric and stated priorities of 'our kids come' first and I urge my constituents to do the same now and at every opportunity."

Dr. Leigh Goodson asked for a report on how closing schools on March 30 would impact the District's testing schedule. Chief Accountability Officer Mr. Chris Johnson briefed the Board on the school sites' flexibility to set testing schedules and to meet testing deadline requirements. He also explained the impact closing schools would have on end-of-instruction make-up tests and the sites' ability to ensure opportunities to complete tests for all students.

Mr. Gary Percefull said that the District would most likely have a significant number of teachers wishing to attend the rally who would be taking personal business days that the District was obligated to honor, increasing the number of substitute requests, which, he said, would greatly impact whether or not the District could provide a quality learning opportunity for students on that day.

Dr. Turner-Addison said that she had received several concerns from her constituents, many of whom were in favor of holding class on March 30. She said that she had been struggling with how she would vote on the recommendation, but that ultimately, she had to strongly consider the impact of the collective voice of the public being heard by legislators and the impact that could have on funding for public education. Dr. Turner-Addison said that she also gave strong consideration on the impact that holding class on March 30 with a significant number of substitute teachers would have on the ability to ensure an optimal learning opportunity for students. She said that many of the concerns her constituents voiced was the loss of an instructional day before mandated testing. Dr. Turner-Addison asked teachers and administrators to work together to ensure that every opportunity was given to students to be prepared for those tests.

Dr. Turner-Addison called for the vote and the motion passed by the following vote:
AYE: Wilbert Collins, Ruth Ann Fate, Leigh Goodson, Shawna Keller, Gary Percefull and Lana Turner-Addison; NAY: Suzanne Schreiber; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

INFORMATION AGENDA

Dr. Ballard presented the information agenda, calling on staff to present items submitted by each of them. Staff responded to questions from members of the Board of Education.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/CONCERNS

A policy committee meeting report was presented by Ms. Suzanne Schreiber. Ms. Schreiber said that the Board's approval this evening of policy 4103, Hiring Employees, ensures that employees have proper certification, where applicable, before being employed within the District.

A charter schools committee meeting was presented by Ms. Suzanne Schreiber. Ms. Schreiber said that the committee met and discussed the charter compact, which included an operational update regarding Marshall Elementary School and the East Tulsa Academy facility at the site of the former Mayo Demonstration School.

An NSBA conference report was presented by Ms. Ruth Ann Fate. Ms. Fate reported that she, Dr. Ballard, and several Board members attended the conference held in Nashville where Mr. John Tuttle, Oklahoman and former superintendent of Kellyville Public Schools, was named president of the National School Boards Association. She gave a brief report on several of the conference sessions.

Dr. Lana Turner-Addison gave a brief report on the recent NSBA conference, which included sessions on leading with purpose, college and career readiness standards, and strategic planning. She announced that she would be giving a more comprehensive report on the conference at a forthcoming Board meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were none.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Ballard presented several brief reports, including his participation in the NSBA conference, a recent article in the El Paso Times about Tulsa's Project Schoolhouse, and continued consulting with Superintendent elect Dr. Deborah Gist.

OTHER NONROUTINE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

There were no nonroutine items.

NEW BUSINESS

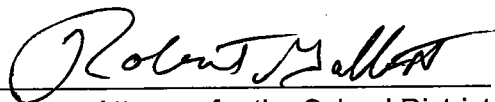
There was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS


President Turner-Addison announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education would be held on Monday, April 6, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cheryl Selman room at the Charles C. Mason Education Service Center, 3027 South New Haven Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the **meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion made by Ms. Suzanne Schreiber and seconded by Dr. Leigh Goodson. The motion passed by the following vote:** AYE: Wilbert Collins, Ruth Ann Fate, Leigh Goodson, Shawna Keller, Gary Percefull, Suzanne Schreiber, and Lana Turner-Addison; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

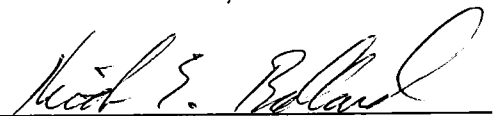
Let the record show the meeting was digitally recorded. The recording is on file as a matter of record.



Attorney for the School District



President, Board of Education



Superintendent of Schools



Clerk, Board of Education



Date of Board Approval