

**CHARLESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 27, 2014**

The Charleston Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building. Members present were: Mr. Trey Gage, Mr. Jeff Hayes, Mrs. Michele Schmitz, and Mr. Brian Verkamp. Mr. Joel McDonald was not present. Also present were Mr. Jeff Stubblefield, Superintendent; Mr. Shane Storey, High School Principal; Mrs. Melissa Moore, Middle School Principal; Mr. Carl Underwood, Elementary School Principal; Mrs. Susan Brown, Federal Coordinator and Curriculum Specialist, and Mrs. Rita Gramlich, District Treasurer.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeff Hayes and seconded by Mr. Brian Verkamp to elect Mr. Trey Gage as president, Mr. Brian Verkamp as vice-president, Mr. Joel McDonald as secretary, establish the regular meeting time as the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month at 6:00 p.m., and approve Michele Schmitz as Primary Disbursing Officer with Resolution as presented. A copy of the Resolution is attached. Motion carried 4-0.

Board members agreed to schedule high school graduation on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michele Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Brian Verkamp to approve the consent agenda as listed. Motion carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the September 15, 2014 regular meeting minutes
- B. Approval of the September 29, 2014 special meeting minutes
- C. Approval of the 2014—15 Period 3 financial statements

The Charleston School District's Annual Report to the Public was held on October 27, 2014. Mr. Jeff Stubblefield, Superintendent of the Charleston Schools and Mrs. Susan Brown, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs, presented the district's annual report to the Charleston School Board. The district's enrollment on October 1, 2014 was 876 students which is up by eight students from last year, with 40 Pre-K students in our First Step program. Currently our largest class on campus is the first grade class with 80 students enrolled. The smallest class is the sixth grade with 57 students. The district has seen a rise of 6.30% of low socio-economic students in the past five years. Currently 44% of students enrolled are eligibility for free or reduced lunches. Charleston graduated 68 students in 2014. The district had their Standards and Review State Department visit this past year and was fully accredited.

The Charleston Elementary School has implemented a new reading series this year. After looking at several different series and doing research on each one, Wonders, by McGraw Hill, was decided to be the best choice. The series focuses on key skills that provide a strong foundation for learning. Teachers are working on integrating this new series into the curriculum. The series came with leveled readers which teachers are using in their guided reading groups that meet individual student's needs.

Dibels, the Developmental Spelling Assessment, and the Arkansas Rapid Naming Screener have been administered to the students in first and second grade and kindergarten students will be screened mid-year in accordance with the Arkansas Dyslexia Law. Interventions will be provided for the students not meeting Benchmark scores.

Students go to the computer lab twice a week for Classworks. Classworks is an interactive, online supplemental program that provides on-grade level, rigorous instruction for the classroom and individualized independent instruction for each student. Teachers are implementing technology in the classroom with Chromebooks, iPads, nooks, and desktop computers. Students are researching information and presenting PowerPoint presentations.

Reading Recovery is provided for students whom have been identified as struggling readers. It is a twenty week intensive program where the students are instructed one on one in reading, word work, and writing.

The Charleston Middle School is continuing to expand our technology in the way of Chromebooks and wireless access points. Currently we have 160 Chromebooks and will add another 60 this fall. All students in the Middle School will be tested online this year under the PARCC Assessment. The Middle School has formed a four man team of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers involved in the Literacy Design Collaborative. The goal is to incorporate literacy in to the middle school content areas. The teachers collaborate and create modules that address the content standards in a research-proven format. They have received training and will have six on-site visits from the professional development trainers. The school has taken a proactive stance concerning on-line safety. The school hosted a Cyber Safety Night in August, conducted by the Attorney's General's Office. Several follow-up assemblies for students have been conducted in August, September, and October.

Average math scores for grades 3-6 were 91.25% proficient or advanced compared to the state's average of 75.25%. Literacy scores for the same grade span for the district were 87.5% proficient or advanced compared to the state's 78%. Average math scores for grades 7, 8, and end-of-course exams; Algebra I and Geometry were 87% proficient for advanced compared to the state's 70.25%. Our highest scores in math this year were in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and in Geometry were a 98% passing rate. The highest scores in literacy were 91% in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and a 90% in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The district's Science scores averaged was 59.3% compared to the state of 47%.

The Class of 2014 scored above the state average in all areas on the ACT (American College Test) which is an entrance exam for college and universities. 87% of the graduating class took the ACT. The composite average score for our students was a 21.2 and the state's was a 20.4. For the past three summers, the district has provided an ACT Prep class at the end of the school year for students taking the ACT. We feel that this has been very successful for students have increased their test scores.

According to the College Board, AP exams with a score of 3, 4, or 5 qualify for college credit for the course. This year 30% of the students who took AP Exams scored a three or better. We currently have 50 students who are taking concurrent college course on campus. Only one of the concurrent courses has tuition for the student. The high school has five student taking courses

from the Western Arkansas Technical Center in Fort Smith. These courses are free to the students with the district paying the tuition. These students have the opportunity to graduate high school with 18 hours of college credit.

Charleston Benchmark and  
End of Course Scores  
Percentage of Advanced  
and Proficient

Math	District	State
3rd	98	85
4th	95	76
5th	81	68
6th	91	72
7th	87	69
8th	78	63
Algebra I	85	75
Geometry	98	74

Literacy	District	State
3rd	87	77
4th	90	84
5th	91	82
6th	82	69
7th	86	77
8th	83	77
11th	78	72

The theme continues this year for the Charleston School District with “putting technology into the hands of the students,” Since starting the one-to-one initiative in the high school last year, we have added 230 chrome books to grades 3-8. All state mandated testing this year except for science, will be online. We have increased our 50 mg line of interest access to a 100 mg line through eRate and state funding. Mr. Stubblefield said, “Technology is evolving at a rapid pace and changing the way students learn. By providing the latest technology equipment and software, we ensure that teachers have the resources necessary to prepare students with the skills that are required to be successful in the world in which we live.” Putting more technology into the hands of young learners improves student academic performance, Stubblefield added.

Under the ESEA Accountability System, the Charleston Elementary School is “achieving” in percent tested and “needs improvement” for math and literacy. The Charleston High School is “achieving” in percent tested, literacy, and Graduation Rate and “needs improvement” for math. “We are very proud of our annual test scores, even though the district has a preliminary accountability status rating of “In Needs Improvement” Mr. Stubblefield was quoted, “along with 90% of the schools in Arkansas.” The teachers are working very hard to implement the Common Core State Standards and to increase student achievement. Resources, supplies, professional

development training, and purchase of technology have been put in place to give our teachers and students access to obtain our goals.

The Charleston School District also receives federal funds through the Title I program. The district spends these funds on: a Title I Reading Teacher/Reading Recovery Teacher, .33 FTE teacher, .20 FTE federal coordinator, and professional development, headphones, mice for chrome books, after school tutoring, and welfare students. Title II funds are used for classroom reduction teacher. Title VI funds are used for technology in the district.

Mr. Stubblefield concluded the annual report by providing information regarding the Pepsi contract with annual funding of \$6,521, starting teacher salary of \$35,850, and millage rate of 37.5 mills, employment of 103 fulltime members, Common Core, TESS, Bandwidth, Home and Virtual schools, ASBA policy, free and reduced lunches, and Dyslexia training.

Mr. Stubblefield reported that an audit is in progress of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Mr. Brian Verkamp and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hayes to advertise and accept sealed bids to disperse of a 1986 Chevrolet truck. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michele Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hayes to approve the CDWG quote for the sum of \$14,616.30 to purchase 60 Chromebooks with OS Management. Motion carried 4-0.

Section 3 of ASBA model policies with revisions as noted were discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Brian Verkamp and seconded by Mrs. Michele Schmitz to approve the Superintendent Mentoring Program Resolution as presented. Motion carried 4-0. The Resolution is attached to the original board minutes.

Board members discussed the pros and cons of adding a volleyball program. No action was taken at this time.

Mr. Stubblefield provided information regarding the elementary gymnasium storage project, Arkansas Division of Academic Facilities Partnership appeal, board member professional development, possible school based health clinic, and re-location of special education classroom. Mr. Stubblefield reported the girl's golf team finished as 2014 State Runner-Up. He also said the high school band has had Superior 1 rating for the past nine years.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michele Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hayes to accept the resignation of Gina Hamby, Middle School Paraprofessional, effective October 3, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michele Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hayes to accept the resignation of Nancy Murry, Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional, effective October 1, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michele Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hayes to employ Rebecca Groen, Middle School Paraprofessional, effective October 6, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michele Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hayes to employ Janet Sewell, Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional, effective October 13, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michele Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hayes to employ Alvena McCoy, Elementary Paraprofessional, effective October 23, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Trey Gage announced the board would go into executive session at 7:27 p.m.. Regular session resumed at 8:20 p.m..

A motion was made by Mr. Brian Verkamp and seconded by Mr. Michele Schmitz to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.. Motion carried 4-0.

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President

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Secretary