

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT
March 18, 2014**

The Augusta Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in the Augusta High School Library. Debbie Briscoe, President, opened and presided over the meeting. Members present were Janice Collier, Leslie Collins, Angela Ryland, and Terry Shadwick. Members Susan Bengel and Robert Tripp were absent. Dr. Ray Nassar, Superintendent, was also present.

Thomas Garner gave the prayer.

The minutes for the February 18, 2014, regular meeting were approved as presented without reading.

Debbie Briscoe welcomed the visitors.

There was not a representative from the ACPEA present at the meeting.

Georgianna Lester, PPC representative, noted the committee has organized and elected officers.

Mr. Willard Ryland, Rural Empowerment Development Organization (REDO), addressed the board concerning the Cotton Plant properties. (attached)

Linder Anderson, CPE Principal, presented information concerning programs and activities taking place during the month.

Thomas Garner, AE and AHS Principal, presented information concerning programs and activities taking place during the month.

Michael Manning, Director of Student Services, had nothing to report.

Dr. Nassar presented the financial information to the board. He discussed the fires and the roofing projects.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Leslie Collins the board ratified payment of the bills.

Dr. Nassar presented the track and softball information.

Dr. Nassar presented information concerning 7th grade stipends in the amount of \$930.00 for football, and girls and boys basketball.

On a motion by Leslie Collins and a second by Angela Ryland the board approved adding the stipends to the salary schedule as presented by Dr. Nassar.

Thomas Garner presented the 2015SY calendar. (attached)

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Leslie Collins the board approved the calendar as presented.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Angela Ryland the board approved the AR School Boards Association Model Policy Contract Renewal.

On a motion by Angela Ryland and a second by Janice Collier the board approved participation in the ALE Consortia with Bald Knob School District for the 2015SY. (attached)

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Leslie Collins the board approved the bid by Pinnacle for the building materials and by RDR for construction of the replacement central office due to the fire.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Janice Collier the board approved the building request by the Class of 1989 to use the Augusta High School Auditorium on Friday and Saturday, July 25th and 26th, 2014, for a class reunion.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Leslie Collins the board approved the building request by the CWR District Association to use the High School Auditorium for their annual tea on Sunday, May 4, 2014.

Dr. Nassar presented information from Hazel Burnett, ADE Fiscal Dept., concerning fiscal intervention.

The board retired to executive session.

The board returned to open session.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Leslie Collins the board approved Dr. Nassar presenting a resolution to Tom Kimbrel, ADE Director, concerning the rehiring of an employee whose spouse is on the school board. The vote was 3-2 in favor of the motion.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Angela Ryland the board accepted the resignation of Gail Eldridge effective the end of her 2014SY contract.

On a motion by Leslie Collins and a second by Terry Shadwick the board accepted the resignation of Matthew White effective the end of his 2014SY contract.

Dr. Nassar discussed the property at the old Augusta Elementary School. He noted he was having a title search done on the property and that ARCare has not paid rent in 2 years. He will wait until after the ADE meeting to have further discussion concerning the Cotton Plant properties.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Leslie Collins the board was adjourned.

Board President

ATTEST: _____
Superintendent

Board Secretary



Rural
Empowerment
Development
Organization



RURAL EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

P O Box 141, Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

DATE: March 18, 2014

TO: Augusta School District
Dr. Nassar and The Augusta School Board
320 Sycamore
Augusta, AR 72006

BOARD MEMBERS

Elma Brown
Theodis Bunch
Michael Vicks
Richard Farmer
Linda Smith
Robert Stewart
Link Hubbard

EXEC. DIRECTOR

Willard C. Ryland

Dear Dr. Nassar and School Board members:

In light of the recent decisions to close the Cotton Plant Elementary School, I am requesting that the school district consider Rural Empowerment Development Organization (REDO) in the disposition of property located in Cotton Plant. Our garden and high tunnel projects along with our computer classes are continuing to grow and we are in need of shop, office and classroom space to operate our project.

The Rural Empowerment Development Organization (REDO) serves as local sponsor for activities in the Cotton Plant Community. We are also continuing our computer classes at the Cotton Plant Elementary School. We also is working with Mr. Brian Hurford, Vo-Ag instructor in fostering community projects to educate and promote the Farm to School initiatives to introduce healthy foods to our school systems.

REDO is request the donation of and or long term use of the following properties:

1. The Agriculture Shop (Move Computer classes from Cotton Plant Elementary School to this location)
2. The Bus shop building (To House Equipment and Freezers)
3. Land where high Tunnel and Community garden, and Equipment is currently located
4. The bus impound lot and greenhouse area where we currently have our storage building

Your consideration of this request will enable our organization to continue the work that we have already begun for many years to come. On behalf of REDO, We would like to thank you in advance for your support of our Community Projects. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

Best Regards,

/s/ **Willard C. Ryland**

Willard C. Ryland, Director REDO

Cc: Elma Brown, Board President

RURAL EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (REDO)

“Building School to Work Experiences Project”



Starter Plants raised by Vo Ag students and used in the High Tunnel and Community Garden



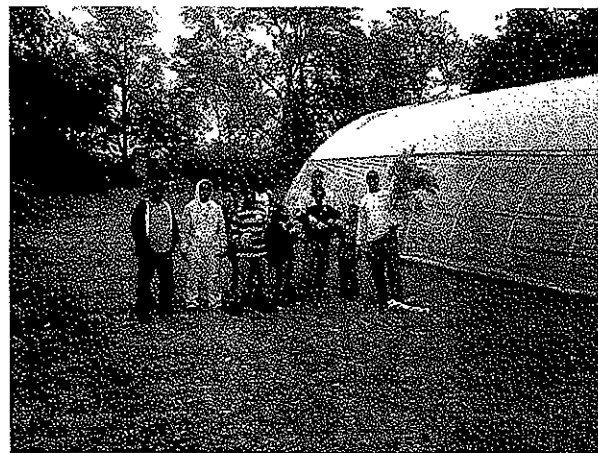
Monika Tucker Working on Community Service Hours for a chance to go to Canada (ARCARE's Initiative)



Community Garden Harvested Vegetables



Vo ag Instructor, Brain Hurtford at community and high tunnel, Workday for students



Educational Workday the high tunnel and community garden

Rural Empowerment Development Organization (REDO)

“Building School to Work Experiences Project”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The primary purpose of this project is to establish profitable and scalable agriculture enterprises in resource poor urban and rural communities. Our method of implementing this project will be hands-on training and business planning, on-the ground demonstration linked to Arkansas Delta Seeds of Change Value Added Initiative that demonstrates production, processing, storage, marketing and the distribution of healthy, high quality, safe and affordable food. The key objectives in “Building School to Work Experiences project are to: (1) Improve livelihood security by creating jobs in high tunnel food production and food hub operations, (2) Increase options for HS youth to learn and work in the local food industry, and (3) Increase food security and food access with year around supplies of fresh local vegetables. (4) Link workforce with industry at the high school level.

Communication concerning this request should be addressed to:

Willard C. Ryland – Executive Director
P. O. Box 141
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036
Telephone Number: 870.270.6305
Fax Number: 870.459.1088
E-mail Address: willardryland@sbcglobal.net

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Entrepreneurial Agriculture Business Enterprise Development: Building School to Work Experiences and Workforce Training

Project Description

This project will address education, business development, entrepreneurship emphasis and job training in agriculture food systems in the Arkansas Delta. It will advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce by addressing workforce development, collaborative partnerships, business development, and economic development infrastructure. It will facilitate income growth, job creation, and new employment opportunities. The project advances the State of Arkansas Consolidated Plan’s strategic goals for economic development by:

- A) Working to advance the incomes of Arkansas’ poorest region at a growth pace greater than the national average;
- B) Expanding entrepreneurship focusing on knowledge-based enterprises; and
- C) Taking advantage of the extraordinary agricultural assets of the Delta region of Arkansas.

This project is designed to implement a plan to create a sustainable agriculture food system in the Arkansas Delta and address and reduce “Food Desserts” in the Arkansas Delta. The plan was created and will be a part of the Arkansas Delta Seeds of Change (ADSOC). ADSOC is a coalition of representatives based in the delta region of Arkansas made up of agencies in the United State government with the Department of Agriculture being the primary one, and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Arkansas State government, post-secondary education institutions, financial lending institutions, public, and private community based organizations. One of the impacts that ADSOC was created to achieve is to increase the financial livelihood of people in the Arkansas Delta via the creation of agriculture related businesses enterprises.

Demand is high across the United States for locally and regionally grown food products and opportunities are increasing for farmers to meet this demand as local food systems are developed. Local growers face a myriad of challenges and barriers in accessing burgeoning local fresh fruit and vegetable markets. This project will identify and assist entrepreneurs to establish the necessary business enterprises that are needed to create financially productive food systems in the Delta. This project will provide new jobs and expand existing jobs in agriculture related business entities. This project will have a positive impact on the economic livelihood of communities, farmers and other individuals in the Arkansas Delta.

The long term goal of the project is to increase the commercial competitiveness of socially disadvantaged farmers in the vegetable industry. Using high tunnels allows for early and extended season growing and year around growing. The project will provide youth (male and female) with occupational experiences and learning in all components of the vegetable value chain including producing, harvesting, post-harvesting handling and storage, food safety, marketing, business planning and recordkeeping. The high tunnels and pack house ensure that high school students will gain real life experiencing in bringing high quality vegetables into the commercial market place in communities experiencing food desserts in Woodruff County and other communities throughout Eastern Arkansas. Overall, investing in high school youth will raise the “competitive bar” among poor farming communities. They are the future farmers of America and need to be equipped with new skills, knowledge and attitudes to create awareness and interest about the opportunities to engage in profitable farming today.



The related short-term or phase 1 objectives are: (1) Improve livelihood security by creating jobs in high tunnel food production and pack house operations, (2) Increase options for HS youth to learn and work in the local food industry, and (3) Increase food security and food access with year around supplies of fresh local vegetables in communities with food desserts.

The target population in this project is high school youth. Youth may be interested in owning and operating a business, but they lack the capital, financial management or viable technical skills to succeed. We are specifically targeting high school students in the Augusta High School Vocational Agriculture Program to build their practical and vocational skills in the local fresh produce industry, and facilitate a school to work career pathway.

Not enough young people have had exposure to entrepreneurship in agriculture, to evaluate farming as a potential career option. Although the Youth Entrepreneur Program championed by the

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation of Fargo, AR has contributed to increasing the number of African-Americans majoring in agriculture fields at college, African-American youth have not embraced farming as a career. If more experience is provided to learn the practical skills of operating farm enterprises in high school, African-American beginning farmers below the age of 30 will result.



Our goal is to partner with the Augusta, High School Vocational Agriculture Program (AHSVAP) to plan and implement a relevant school to work supervised occupation learning approach with students. The project team will: 1) operate the high tunnel in Cotton Plant and the greenhouse on the Augusta High School campus to facilitate early planting and seasonal extension of crops, and 2) Provide students at the AHSVAP with structured learning experiences that include practicums that will require them to demonstrate decision-making, hands-on skill

acquisitions, developing a group business plan and the provision of inputs and mentoring to implement the business plan. Demonstrating the skills of operating a pack house will also be a critical component, and provide students with an opportunity to earn income

We plan to provide students with a comprehensive supervised occupational experiences: 1) managing high tunnels, 2) producing vegetables in the high tunnels and on raised beds plastic mulch drip irrigation system, 3) writing and implementing business plans for student vegetable enterprises and 4) providing mentor support through the process of packing, storing, marketing and selling in various buyer clusters including farmer markets in cotton plant and Augusta, local restaurants, their own school, and other institutions.

This project will address business development, entrepreneurship emphasis and job training in agriculture food system in the Arkansas Delta. It will advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce by addressing workforce development, collaborative partnerships, business development, and economic development infrastructure. It will facilitate income growth, job creation, and new employment opportunities. The project advance Governor Mike Beebe's strategic goals for the economic development by: a) working to advance the income of Arkansas' poorest region at a growth pace greater than the national average; b) expanding entrepreneurship focusing on knowledge-based enterprises; and c) taking advantage of the extraordinary agricultural assets of the Delta region of Arkansas. Your continued support of this project will enhance the marketing and value added process, promote community and market gardens, farm to school markets for producer and enhance health eating habits for our youth in the Arkansas Delta and beyond.

AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2014 – 2015 School Calendar

August 18	1 st Day of School (Students)
September 1	Labor Day – School Closed
September 18	Parent-Teacher Conference
October 15	End 1 st Quarter (42 days)
November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break – School Closed
December 19	End 2 nd Quarter (42 days)
December 22 – January 2	Christmas Break – School Closed
January 5	Begin Spring Semester
January 19	MLK Day – School Closed
February 5	Parent-Teacher Conference
February 16	President’s Day – School Closed
March 13	End 3 rd Quarter (48 days)
March 23-27	Spring Break – School Closed
April 3	Good Friday – School Closed
May 15	Graduation
May 25	Memorial Day – School Closed
May 27	End 4 th Quarter (46 days)

178 Student Contact Days
10 Professional Development Days
2 Parent-Teacher Conference Days
190 TOTAL DAYS

1 st Make-up Day	January 19
2 nd Make-up Day	February 16
3 rd Make-up Day	April 3

*Any days missed due to inclement weather will be added to the end of the school year.

BALD KNOB SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALE CONSORTIA

The Bald Knob School District (Known as Lead District) will provide Alternative Learning Environment services for select students from Public School Districts (Known as Participating Districts) that are partnering with the Lead District for the 2014-2015 school year. The ALE will be known as the Bald Knob ALE Consortia. The ALE Consortia will serve students K-12 that have been screened and meet the criteria for eligibility as defined in the ALE Consortia Handbook prior to placement in the Alternative Learning Environment. The Lead District will employ three certified teachers and other staff as listed:

1. K-4
2. Middle Level certified in four content areas
3. High School Content Areas
4. ALE Director for .5 FTE
5. There will be two additional paraprofessionals for ALE (one paraprofessional provided by Bald Knob School District and one paraprofessional/ counselor provided by Families Inc).

Participating Districts Agree:

1. Purchase "Reserved Seats" that are priced as listed:
Reserved student seats (7- 12 grade students) will cost the Minimum Foundation Funding Per Student and the Alternative Learning Funding per student. Participating Districts will reserve a minimum of two 7 – 12 grade student /seats (MFP/ALE funding). The additional seats purchased beyond the first two seats will be \$5,000 per student for students in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade. Any additional student/seats needed by the participating districts throughout the year that are not reserved will be based upon availability and pro-rated on the \$5,000 per student/ seat amount on a quarterly basis.
2. The Participating Districts will make four equal quarterly payments on September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1 to pay for the reserved seats to participate in the ALE Consortia.
3. The Participating Districts will ensure that the ALE Consortia Director is provided the necessary support (i.e. phone conferences regarding student behavior, attendance



Arkansas School Boards Association

Invoice # 002027

P.O. Box 165460
Little Rock, AR 72216-5460
Voice: 501-492-4825
Fax: 501-492-4875
Email: kivy@arsba.org

Date: 02/12/2014

BILL TO: [Augusta School District
320 Sycamore
Augusta, AR 72006]

FOR: Policy Service

UNITS	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1	Model Policy Service Contract renewal	2,850.00
<p>Or you may pay annually Current Year Installment: \$ <u>950.⁰⁰</u></p>		TOTAL CHARGES 2,850.00

REMIT TO:
Arkansas School Boards Association
P.O. Box 165460
Little Rock, AR 72216-5460