



North Little Rock
School District

Meeting the Moment ~ Leading Through Hard Decisions with Clarity and Unity

Dr. Rochelle Redus
North Little Rock School District ~ Board President



2026 Southern Region Leadership Conference



So
you have decided to
be a School Board
member



Understanding the Assignment

*Emotions
Were Higher
Than Clarity*





Reality check



- Hard decisions



- Limited resources



- Public pressure



- Internal differences

The Truth

Boards don't struggle because they care too little... but because they care deeply—just differently.



Board Member Volunteering



**Superintendent/
School Board Member
Luncheons**



Four Key Points to
Ponder.....

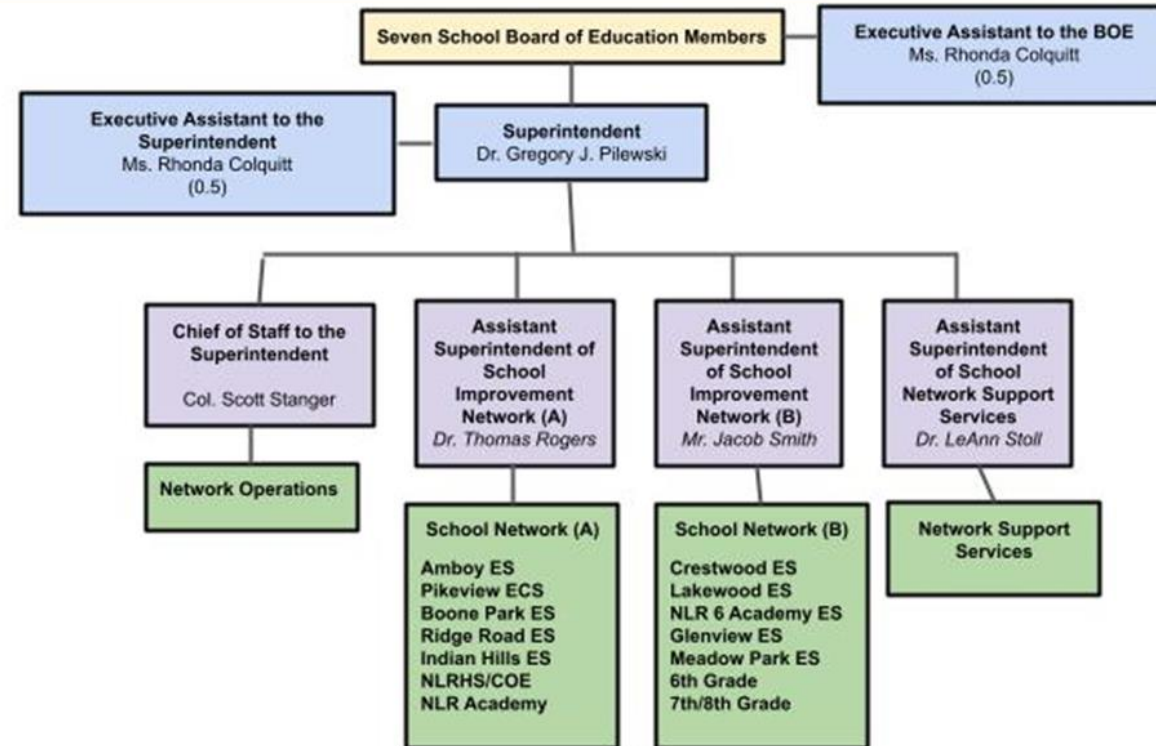
1st Point.....



*Clarity
Before
Consensus*

2nd point.....

Respect
the
Process



Revised: July 1, 2025

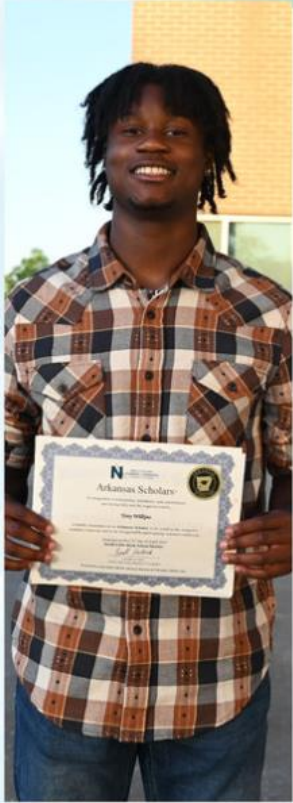
3rd point.....

Disagree
Without
Division





We Strive to Reach the Whole Child—Academically, Socially, and Emotionally



Stay Student - Centered



Class schedule					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00					
8:30					
9:00					
9:30					
10:00					
10:30					
11:00					
11:30					
12:00					

“Real Decisions We Faced”

- Budget cuts
- Schedule changes
- Outsourcing
- Construction Projects

Additional Challenges We Navigate

3rd Grade Retention

Serving One of the Largest
Middle Schools in Arkansas

Student Attendance
Challenges





North Little Rock
School District

North Little Rock School Board of Directors

for **TWO** consecutive years



Ms. Dorothy Williams
Zone 1



Mr. Henry Taylor
Zone 2



Dr. Rochelle Redus
Zone 3



Ms. Angela Person-West
Zone 4



Mrs. Cindy Temple
Zone 5



Mrs. Valerie McLean
Zone 6



Mrs. Natalie Wankum
Zone 7

When Governance Gets Interesting.....



North Little Rock
School District

North Little Rock School Board of Directors

Current



Ms. Crystal Barker
Zone 1 –
Newly Elected



Mr. Henry Taylor
Zone 2 –
2nd full year



Dr. Rochelle Redus
Zone 3



Mr. Kevin Newsom
Zone 4 –
Newly Elected



Mrs. Cindy Temple
Zone 5



Mrs. Victoria Scott
Zone 7 – Newly Elected

VACANT
Zone 6 – Waiting on
Appointment

Significant board turnover

Maintaining continuity during change

Preserving institutional knowledge

Supporting new leadership

2022 ASBA School Board of Excellence in Leadership Award



Districts are Chosen Based on (8) Criteria

- Support for student achievement
- Support educational improvement projects
- Demonstrate a code of ethics
- Maintain harmony and supportive relationships between members of the board and the Superintendent
- Function as a policy making body
- Provides oversight on district finances and budgeting
- Participates in training and improvement programs
- Support community awareness and support

Lessons Learned



-
- Not every decision feels good
 - Process matters
 - Tone matters
-

Communication Protocols

- Weekly School Board Member Reports
- Monthly one on one Communication Meetings
- Superintendent's Top 5 Things you Should Know
- Diligent formally Board Docs
- Annual Retreats





Daily Communication

Example #1

Dear Board of Education Members this text message is for informational purposes only so please do not reply all.

This is to inform you of a developing situation posted on social media by the Sherwood Police Department that is causing a ½ mile evacuation of all residence. This evacuation includes a portion of the Indian Hills attendance zone around windsor valley. We are working on a communication to parents that if a bus route is impacted in that area we will route to Indian Hills ES cafeteria as a reunification site for parents to pick up their child. I will update you as I learn more.

If you have any questions please reach out to me individually.

Thank you for you for your ongoing support!

Example #2

Dear Board of Education Members this text message is for informational purposes only so please do not reply all.

This is to inform you of a water main break at the 6th grade campus impacting A-Wing and the auditorium complex. Restrooms in those areas will not be in use. However, this will not impact instruction or school operations. Maintenance is on campus now preparing to begin repairs. I will update you as I lean more.

If you have any questions please reach out to me individually.

Thank you for you for your ongoing support!



Dr. Gregory J. Pilewski
Superintendent



Listening Beyond the Board Room

- **Let's Talk Forums**
- Superintendent-led community conversations
- District updates on key issues and initiatives
- Opportunity for community questions and feedback
- Board attendance in support and awareness

Let's Talk

with **Dr. Gregory J. Pilewski**
Superintendent of Schools

The North Little Rock School District will host a Town Hall-style session at regional areas across the district to collect feedback, clarify information, and answer questions in preparation for the 2026-2027 school year.

5:30-6:30PM

Dates

Date	Location	For families of
April 27	Glenview Elementary School	Glenview, Meadow Park, and NLR Academy
May 4	Ridge Road Elementary School	Ridge Road, Pike View, Crestwood, Lakewood, Indian Hills, and NLRMS
May 11	Boone Park Elementary School	Boone Park, NLR 6, Amboy, and NLRHS/COE

NLR



Reflection Activity: Communication Check-In

1. Are you getting the information you need when you need it?
2. How would you rate the communication you are currently receiving on a scale of 0-5?
3. What are your preferred sources of communication/information?
4. What do you want to know, and when do you want to know about it?
5. Within internal resources and channels, how easy is it for you to find what you are looking for?

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a fjord or lake at dusk or dawn. The sky is a deep blue with scattered, soft white and pinkish clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow on the clouds and the peaks of the mountains. The mountains are dark and rugged, with some snow or light-colored rock visible on their peaks. The water in the foreground is very still, acting as a perfect mirror for the sky and the mountains. The reflection is sharp and clear, creating a symmetrical image. In the distance, a small cluster of white buildings is visible on the right side of the lake. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

REFLECTION

Practical Tools

- Ask clarifying questions
- 

- Listen fully
- 

- Respect Governance Roles
- 

- Support majority decisions

“It’s not about winning the
vote...

it’s about leading the
outcome.”

“One
band.
One
sound.”



“Meeting the Moment”



Lead with **clarity**.

Lead with **respect**.

Lead **together!**



North Little Rock
School District

Contact and Questions



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