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## Board of Education

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Minutes of  
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, March 11, 2024, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Mr. Dalton Person, president, called the meeting to order noting six board members were present. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, and Ms. Susan Krafft. Ms. Sandy Dixon was not present. District administrators present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Michael Farrell, Executive Director of Student Services, Mr. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Mr. Shawn Shaffer; Executive Director of Facility Operations; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director, Community & Business Partnerships; Ms. Shari Cooper, Director, Communications; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance via Zoom.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Mahan presented the following recognitions:

Northside High School wrestler, Jesus Saldana, placed first at the Arkansas state high school wrestling tournament.

Dr. Terry Morawski earned national certification from the American Association of School Administrators.

Ms. Sandy Dixon was recognized for her service as a school board member.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski reported Friday, March 15 will be an increment weather makeup day. The second makeup day will be April 22, 2024. The spring break holiday will be March 18-22, 2024. A called board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. The campuses and district offices will be closed for Good Friday, March 29, 2024. The next regular school board meeting will be on April 22, 2024.

Dr. Morawski's Good Things Going on the District included: Southside High School won the 2024 7A West Regional Quiz Bowl tournament; in a heartwarming gesture, the Southside Maverick Soccer Team created a special video for 7-year-old Fairview student Manual Serna, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia; students from the Unmanned Aerial System (drone) programs at Northside and Southside High Schools assisted Snell Prosthetics & Orthotics with aerial photography and videography for the grand opening of their new location; Chaffin Middle School 8th graders placed at the Arkansas Council Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM) regional math contest held at UAFS. Katherine Apple clinched 1st place in Geometry, Jamizen Murphy 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Geometry, Evelyn Chung 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Algebra, and Vincent Lin received an honorable mention in Algebra; students from the Health Sciences Academy at

Darby Middle School competed at the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Competition where Meri Folmar secured 1<sup>st</sup> place in medical reading, Gabe Cox 1st place in medical terminology, Isabel Hansen 2<sup>nd</sup> place in math for health careers, and Seth Willis earned 2nd place for life-threatening situations; PEAK Innovation Center recently hosted the BePro BeProud Draft Day; ArcBest welcomed high school students Cooper Oxford and Sierra Smith from Southside and Mason Medlock and Kaylin Sysomphou from Northside to join the quotes and service team; elementary schools across the district celebrated Read Across America; during National School Breakfast Week, our elementary schools educated students about the importance of eating breakfast to fuel their day and excel in class. Congratulations to this month's Superintendent Stars: Chance Drake from Bonneville, Eban Robinson from Beard, Sean McDonald from Cook, Tegan Morrison from Cavanaugh, and Makayla Harvey from Barling.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the February Financial Statement, February 26 Minutes, March Professional Staff Recommendations, February Student Services Report, the Community Service Learning Partner Site Applications and an ethics disclosure resolution.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 6-0.

### **PRESENTATION – ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

The first choice of class selection is monitored as part of the district scorecard and how to improve processes. Dr. Jones reported that as a district 89.67% of the high school students received their first choice of classes. The reasons the student's first choices are denied include limited staffing, scheduling constraints, and class prerequisites.

Dr. Jones also shared the graduation speech application process and how selection of speakers work. In case of inclement weather on graduation, the parents and students were given a survey with four options: Option A: delayed start; Option B: Move to another Day; Option C: 2 ceremonies in the Arena and each student receives 10 tickets; or Option D: 1 ceremony in the arena and each student receives 5 tickets. Dr. Jones reported the parents were split among the four options at 25% each. The students overwhelmingly elected to have one ceremony. The administration recommended to have one ceremony in the arena and each student will receive 5 tickets. A livestream option will also be available.

This is a presentation item only and no action is required.

### **SCHOOL FINANCE UPDATE**

Mr. Warren reviewed the highlights of his 2024-25 school finance update from the February board meeting. These highlights include the four factors of funding and their sustainability factors.

Mr. Warren stated that the salary schedule that is currently used for certified and classified staff remain the same for the 2024-25 school year but noted that over the last three years, the district has added \$12,370,000 to the certified and classified salary schedules.

Mr. Warren informed the board the same presentation was given to the Certified and Classified Personal Policy Committees.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Krafft, to approve the 2024-25 certified salary schedules as presented. The vote passed 6-0.

At 6:02 P.M., Mr. Person recused himself from this agenda item. Mr. Person has a family member that that is a classified employee of the District.

Mr. Chitwood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Krafft, to approve the 2024-25 classified salary schedules as presented. The vote passed 5-0.

Note: Mr. Person returned to the meeting at 6:04 P.M.

**CONSIDER APPROVING THE 2024-2025 CERTIFIED STAFF CONTRACT RENEWALS**

Mr. Chitwood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the 2024-2025 certified staff contracts. The vote passed 6-0.

**BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

A called board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be Monday, April 22, 2024.

Ms. Krafft requested more information regarding the Education Service Cooperative being cut from the state budget. Dr. Morawski stated he could bring more information to the next board meeting.

Ms. Richardson thanked everyone that keeps children safe, especially in the crosswalks.

Mr. Whiteaker congratulated Dr. Morawski for achieving his national certification. Mr. Whiteaker thanked Chief Hollenbeck for his service to the District and wished everyone a good spring break.

Mr. Chitwood hoped everyone had a good spring break.

Mr. Blaylock requested an update on the Kimmons Middle School roof project at the next meeting.

Mr. Person recognized Ms. Dixon for her service to the board. The Peak review will take place at the March 26, 2024 meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education