



---

## Board of Education

---

Minutes of  
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, October 28, 2024, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Dalton Person, president, called the meeting to order noting seven board members were present. Other board members present were: Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Ms. Susan Krafft, Ms. Lynnett Lott, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Mr. Davin Chitwood joined via Zoom. 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. Shawn Shaffer, Executive Director of Facility Operations; Mr. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director, Community & Business Partnerships; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Ms. Katherine Campbell of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, was also in attendance via Zoom.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Mahan presented the following recognitions:

Fort Smith Virtual Academy was recognized for achieving High Reliability Schools Level 1 certification.

Woods Elementary and Sunnymede Elementary was recognized for achieving High Reliability Schools Level 2 certification.

### **CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Daniel Williams spoke on the funding of a noise mitigation grant resolution.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski informed the board of several key events: A Veterans Day assembly will be held at Southside High School on November 11; the Southside High School Advanced Placement Academic Awards Assembly will be on November 18 in the arena; the next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21. The December regular scheduled board meeting will be December 16.

Dr. Morawski briefed the board that demolition is ongoing to the former Go Ye and Mr. Rob's buildings on B Street in front of Northside High School. Dr. Morawski stated that discussions will continue regarding possible improvements to that area.

Dr. Morawski stated the use of Yonder pouches for the phone free environment has started at Ramsey Middle School and Kimmons Middle School.

Dr. Morawski's Good Things Going on in the District included: Peak hosted the third annual iCan Career Expo for eighth graders from Fort Smith Public Schools and students across the River Valley; Coach Jim Rowland was honored by dedicating a permanent seat and plaque in the very spot where he cheered for students at Fort Smith events; October is National Principal's Month; and Congratulations to this month's Superintendent's Stars: Mike Pompepak from Sutton, Aleah Nelson from Tilles, Elmer Amaya from Sunnymede, Brigit Villanueva from Spradling, Missy Perales from Howard, Ana Enamorado from Park, Lavi'anna Denmark from Fairview, Lucy Hamlet from Ballman, and Ethan Adams from Morrison.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the September Financial Report, September 23 Minutes, October Professional Staff Recommendations, September Student Services Report, and the School Choice Staffing Capacity Resolution.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7-0.

#### **PRESENTATION – SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIAL**

Mr. Jeff Prewitt, Southside High School principal, presented to the board a memorial in honor of Coach Aaron Kareus. A statute to memorialize Coach Kareus and his love for running will be placed inside the football stadium where student athletes gather during track meets. Mr. Prewitt stated the cost of the statute is covered by fundraising efforts and the classes of 2023 and 2024 donating their class gifts. Coach Kareus was a teacher and cross country coach at Southside High School.

This is a presentation item. No action is required.

#### **PRESENTATION – DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATE**

Mr. Hudson Huff with Zonda Education presented an update to the district's demographics and zoning. Mr. Huff provided information concerning current economic trends and development, population trends, and a housing market overview. Mr. Huff also provided a ten year forecast of Fort Smith Public Schools by grade and campus level.

This is a presentation item. No action is required.

#### **SELECTION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

Dr. Morawski reported that the Arkansas School Boards Association Delegate Assembly would meet at 4:00 PM, Wednesday, December 11, 2024 during the ASBA Annual Conference in Little Rock.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blaylock, to designate Mr. Whiteaker as the voting representative at the ASBA Annual Conference in Little Rock. The vote passed 7-0.

#### **PRESENTATION – MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK UPDATE**

Mr. Galen Hunter, Principal at MAHG Architecture, presented to the board the estimated costs to upgrade the existing tracks at each of the middle school campuses. These costs were broken down to include resurfacing the track and an estimate to include adding a turf infield. Mr. Hunter also presented the estimated costs and architectural drawings of building a full-size regulation track at Kimmons Middle School and Darby Middle School.

Dr. Morawski reiterated the costs presented are estimates at current construction costs so if the project is delayed these costs could increase. Dr. Morawski also requested feedback from the board on rolling out these renovations over a ten-year time period; updating one track every two years as well as input on project prioritization.

After discussion, the board agreed to request administration provide more information regarding the reconfiguration of a full-size competition track at Darby to be presented at a later board meeting.

This is a presentation item. No action is required.

### **PRESENTATION – ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT – ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

Ms. Krystle Smith, Supervisor, Special Programs explained that Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses that students can earn college credit when they score a three or higher on the AP exam.

Ms. Smith showed the percentage of students that scored a three or higher in each of the courses while also showing the yearly percentages for 2023, 2024, as well as the state average. Ms. Smith highlighted each of the courses where the average for students at Fort Smith Public Schools were higher than the state average.

Ms. Smith also presented the five year trends for Northside High School and Southside High School of students scoring a three or higher on an AP Exam. The information provided showed more students are scoring a three or higher on the exam as well as an increase in students taking the AP Exams.

This is a presentation item. No action is required.

### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

The next regular board meeting will be Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Ms. Krafft reported that both Northside High School and Southside High School girls' volleyball teams will be competing in the state tournament.

Ms. Richardson commended everyone that contributed to the success of the iCan Career Expo hosted at Peak Innovation Center October 15-16, 2024.

Mr. Whiteaker congratulated the students that scored three and above on the Advanced Placement Tests.

Mr. Chitwood was pleased to see the increase in the number of students scoring a three or higher on the Advanced Placement Tests. He congratulated the teachers for their work as well.

Mr. Person stated he was looking forward to the Long Range Facility Committee's report at a future board meeting.

Dr. Morawski addressed the funding of a noise mitigation grant resolution. Dr. Morawski stated the City of Fort Smith would participate in a grant related to noise mitigation for the schools impacted by the direct flight path of fighter jets to minimize noise. At this time, it is unclear how much funds might be available.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

---

Dalton Person, President

---

Davin Chitwood, Secretary