



Board of Education

Minutes of The Board of Education

A Work Session of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, August 18, 2025, beginning at 5:31 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 six board members were present. Other board members present were: Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Ms. Brittney Hall, Mr. Brad Harding, Ms. Lynnett Lott, and Ms. Maria Martinez. Ms. Susan Krafft was not present. District administrators present included: Mr. Marty Mahan, Superintendent; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Kellie Cohen Minton, 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. Tyler Armstrong, Director of Community Engagement, and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

PRESENTATION – NOISE MITIGATION GRANT

Mr. Mahan presented a proposal around a noise mitigation grant in partnership with the City of Fort Smith.

Mr. Mahan reported the goal of the noise mitigation grant is to reduce the impact of the aviation noise to facilities within certain eligible parameters or an area experiencing an average of sound levels of 65 decibels or greater. Orr Learning Academy and Carnall Elementary were identified as falling within these parameters and are eligible for upgrades to exterior windows, door replacement, and roof enhancements.

Mr. Mahan stated the District will be investing \$435,063 to obtain over \$4.3 million in federal grants. The City of Fort Smith will be the benefactor of the grant money and will manage it.

The estimated start date is December 2025 with an estimated completion date of December 2026.

Mr. Teren Judd; Senior Advisor, The Roosevelt Group and Mr. Chris Hoover; Government Relations and Grant Manager, City of Fort Smith was also available to answer any questions regarding the noise mitigation grant.

PRESENTATION – ETHICS DISCLOSURE REVIEW

Mr. Charles Warren provided information on the ethics disclosure requirements for employees, administrators, and school board members.

Mr. Warren stated that Fort Smith Public Schools goes beyond state reporting requirements and also request employees to report any member of their household that might have a direct financial interest in a business.

PRESENTATION – DISTRICT BUDGET REVIEW

Mr. Warren presented a detailed analysis of the structure and functions of the district budget. Mr. Warren explained where financial sources come from, how money is spent, and how the different funds interact with one another.

Mr. Warren also reviewed the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

The 2025-2026 budget will be presented at the August 25, 2025 meeting as an action item.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be Monday, August 25, 2025.

Mr. Mahan updated the board on several events going on: he thanked the Information Systems team for their work on restoring services due to the recent cyber attack; a presentation will be given at the August 25 board meeting to inform the board of the vendor selected for identity theft protection; the Executive Director of Communication position is closed with interviews to be conducted; the Director of Athletics position remains open; Mr. Mahan invited board members to attend school visits with him; and the signature window for petitions is open to anyone interested in running in the annual school election.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Dalton Person, President

Susan Krafft, Secretary