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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, May 20, 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. Davin Chitwood, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Ms. Susan Krafft, Ms. Lynnett Lott, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. 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; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director, Community & Business Partnerships; 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 student Thealy Vanhsouphet placed first at the state FBLA conference in the Help Desk category and will compete at the National FBLA competition in June.

Wyatt Gudermuth and Conner Seiter placed first at the state SkillsUSA Drone competition. They will represent Arkansas at nationals in June.

Northside track athlete Cam Massey placed first in long jump at the State 6A track meet. Cam was also named the River Valley Democrat Gazette Male Track Athlete of the Year. Northside junior Cherish Blackmon was named the triple jump 6A state champion, 6A West Conference champion and was also named the River Valley Democrat Gazette Female Track Athlete of the Year.

Southside High School students participated in the Economics Arkansas Stock Market game and placed first in the high school division.

In addition to their high school diplomas, Seniors Chris Monk from Northside High School and Jonah Huoung from Southside High School both received their associate degrees in general studies from the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

The following schools were recognized for being named Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools: Ballman Elementary, Beard Elementary, Carnall Elementary, Cook Elementary, Euper Lane Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Howard Elementary, Morrison Elementary, Orr Elementary, Spradling Elementary, Trusty Elementary, and Woods Elementary.

Ballman Elementary received High-Reliability School (HRS) Level 2 Certification.

Ballman student, Rassesh Srivastava, was recognized for his bravery for performing the Heimlich maneuver on a fellow student.

#### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Juli Hough spoke on concerns regarding teacher retention.

Teresa Rambo spoke on concerns at the Opportunity Center at Sutton Elementary.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski informed the board of several key events. The Adult Education graduation ceremony will be held on May 21, 2024. A retirement reception for Chief Bill Hollenbeck will be on Thursday, May 23, 2024. The District will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day. The last day of school will be May 31, 2024 and professional development makeup days will be on June 3 and June 4, 2024. There will not be a scheduled June board meeting.

Dr. Morawski informed the board the elementary virtual school will not be in operation for the 2024-2025 school year. Virtual school will remain open for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Morawski's Good Things Going on in the District included: Northside High School teacher, Mr. Martin Hyatt, was named Fort Smith Public School's Teacher of the Year; the Fort Smith Public Schools Foundation awarded \$82,000 in scholarship and grants to students and employees; several students earned certifications through the Peak Health Sciences program; courtesy of the Gene Haas Foundation, PEAK Computer Integrated Machining graduates received tools and tool carts as graduation gifts; Hailey Whittaker, a senior at Northside, recently won Best Theme for her colored pencil artwork titled "The Natural State," which was on display at the Governor's mansion; Howard Elementary recently dedicated its new Little Tiger Library in honor of long-time board member Yvonne Keaton-Martin; Alex, Alayna, and Aniyah Arnold, students at Euper Lane Elementary have been recognized as the Military Kids of the Month by the Arkansas Council for Military Children; the Retirement and Rookies Picnic was held to celebrate staff who recently joined Fort Smith Public Schools or who were retiring this year.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the April Financial Report, April 16 and April 22 Minutes, May Professional Staff Recommendations, Student Services Report, the Community Service Learning Partner Site Applications, Adopting Board Governance and Operations Policy changes, Adopting Student Related Policy Changes, Adopting Business and Financial Management Policy Changes, Adopting Student Handbook Changes for 2024-2025, Approving the 2024-2025 Title I Part C Migrant Education Grant Assurances, and Approving the Arkansas Department of Education Federal Programs Statement of Assurances.

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

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

Dr. Morawski presented the Board the regular meeting schedule for the 2024-25 school year, noting the March meeting was scheduled after spring break and not including a meeting in June.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the 2024-2025 Board of Education meeting schedule. The vote passed 7-0.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVING A MUNICIPAL ADVISORY AGREEMENT**

Mr. Warren informed the Board that Stephens Incorporated (Stephens) provides the District with support regarding bond and millage issues. Stephens has requested that the District sign a five year agreement to continue this partnership. Mr. Warren explained there was no annual costs to use Stephens, the fees they earn are represented inside a bond issue or a bond refinancing.

Mr. Warren stated he recommended the five year term agreement due to existing rates and current economic conditions.

Mr. Chitwood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blaylock, to approve the municipal advisory agreement. The vote passed 7-0.

#### **PRESENTATION – ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

Ms. Domonique Alexander, Director of Special Education, presented to the Board an overview of the Special Education Department as well as the IStation results for students with disabilities in grades K-5.

Ms. Alexander informed the Board the department's continued improvement plan for students with disabilities include access to the general education classroom to the maximum extent possible, provide professional development to special education teachers in instructional strategies, and include special education teachers in professional learning communities in each building.

This is a presentation item. No action is required.

#### **PRESENTATION – SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT**

Fort Smith Public Schools Police Lieutenant Eric Huber reported on the distribution of expenditures of the Arkansas School Safety Grant. Through this grant Fort Smith Public Schools was awarded \$596,150.00.

Lt. Huber reported expenditures were spent on locks on classroom doors, internal and external access control in buildings, fencing, and enhanced radio communications.

This is a presentation item. No action is required.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, July 22, 2024.

Ms. Richardson urged the board and administration to work on a solution to build a track at Northside High School.

Mr. Chitwood inquired about the resources provided to students with drug related offences. Dr. Farrell answered that counselors and social workers are available to provide support and additional resources.

Mr. Blaylock asked for information regarding the use of the track at Southside High School for practice and field events.

Mr. Blaylock commended the principles at the high schools for the job that they do.

Mr. Person requested multiple options regarding costs and placement of a track.

Dr. Morawski thanked the Board for attending graduations and special events and for supporting our staff and students.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

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Dalton Person, President

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Davin Chitwood, Secretary