



Board of Education

Minutes of Called School Board Meeting
The Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held August 12, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were also present.

A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Ms. Penix to present the professional staff recommendations. There were no retirements and no leaves of absence.

Resignations

Certified

Jones, Brandon
Parker, Michael
Cook, Leslie

Classified

Brown, Jessica
Cruz, Kimberly
Biggs, Alva
May, Ashley
Roberts, Kendra
Adams, Whitney
Yadon, Mollie

Walker, English
Polanco, Rosa Garcia

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to accept the recommendations for resignations as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Employment

Certified

Thomas, Jennifer
Hafkesbring, Samantha
Colbert, Michael
Lattimore, Annie
LaRue, Rachel
Wheat, Randall
Dorn, Kathleen

Classified

Sanchez, Erick Cortez
Clark, Brandy
Puentas, Karen
Newhart, Sarah
Ayulo, Macy
Parga, Erika

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Introduction of New Administrators

Dr. Brubaker introduced Ms. Kathleen Dorn as Director of Adult Education.

Address Verification Updates

Dr. Brubaker reported that the District Class Sizing Committee met several times throughout the year to identify strategies to reduce the number of elementary students forced to transfer between schools due to space and state class size restrictions. One strategy recommended by the committee was to verify residency through a review of addresses.

Mr. Layes gave an update about the address verification process that took place last spring and over the summer. At the beginning of the summer, the addresses of 1,670 students out of over 7,000 remained to be verified. The Student Services Department organized an effort to verify the rest over the summer, which included repeated attempted contacts with families. Specific strategies included ParentLink phone calls, personal phone calls, mailed letters, notes posted

on doors, and home visits. At the time that registration began, less than 90 addresses needed to be verified.

This was an informational item and came with no recommendation.

School District Police Department

Dr. Brubaker reported that school police officer programs have expanded across the United States as security concerns have escalated. Act 629 of 2019 enabled school districts and other entities to establish police departments. On June 10, the Board approved establishing one in Fort Smith Public Schools. On July 11, 2019, the District's request to establish a police department was approved by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. The Vision 2023 Strategic Planning team identified additional School Resource Officers (SROs) as a high priority need. Citing recruitment and retention issues, the leadership of the Fort Smith Police Department said that the FSPD would not expand the number of officers at FSPS schools through the SRO program. As a result, the 2018 Millage Proposal did not include the three additional School Resource Officer (SRO) positions that were initially prioritized as a millage line item by the Citizens Committee.

The District has found other ways to enhance security within our schools. Arkansas law has allowed school districts to hire Certified School Security Officers (CSSOs). The district required that CSSO candidates also be licensed law enforcement officers. Through an innovative agreement with the Sebastian County Sheriff's Department, the three officers hired in 2018 have been overseen by that agency. The three CSSO positions were funded by cutting central office positions and reallocating other existing resources as part of the 2018-2019 budget.

In addition, the District has maintained its partnership with the City of Fort Smith to jointly fund and deploy four (4) School Resource Officers (SROs). The SRO program with FSPD represents an annual investment of approximately \$120,000 by the City of Fort Smith in the safety and security of our students

Mr. Huber, Supervisor of Safety and Security, and Mr. Hollenbeck, Director of Security and Facilities, will lead the department. The current Certified School Security Officers (CSSOs) will become Fort Smith Public Schools Police Officers.

Supervisor of Safety Security Eric Huber and Director of Security and Facilities Bill Hollenbeck will provide leadership for the department.

Mr. Hollenbeck introduced CSSOs Brian Beaver, Ray Whitson, and Joe Love and SROs Jeff Craighead, Tyler Lee, Travis Watkins, Trex Smith.

Student Media Policy

Dr. Brubaker shared an update regarding Act 912 which became effective late July and affects the district media policy. He reported that District administrators plan to meet with student media advisors next week when they are back on contract.

SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT AS EX-OFFICIO FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Dr. Brubaker reported that each year, the Fort Smith Public Schools Board of Directors designates the Superintendent as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary. This designation authorizes the Superintendent to make application for any and all Federal or State of Arkansas funds and to serve as the District's authorized representative for federal and state programs. This is a required annual approval.

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the annual authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to make application for any and all Federal/State funds and to serve as the authorized representative for these programs.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the annual authorization for the Superintendent to serve as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary for Fort Smith Public Schools for 2019/2020. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVING THE PAYOFF OF TWO BOND ISSUES

Mr. Warren reported that the following two bond issues were identified last year by the Administration to be paid in full in the 2019-2020 school year. The early pay off of these bonds will provide cash flow in 2019-2020 needed for the increase to the 2019-2020 base salary approved by the Board last spring.

- Refunding Bonds, Series 10/1/2010 with Merchants & Planters Bank as Trustee
- Refunding Bonds, Series 6/1/2011 with Farmers & Merchants Bank as Trustee

The following table reflects the payment that will be made for an estimated call date of September 17, 2019: **Description**

	Series 10/1/2010 Bonds	Series 6/1/2011 Bonds	Total Bonds
Principal	\$1,360,000.00	\$3,195,000.00	\$4,555,000.00
Accrued Interest	4,324.14	10,835.57	15,159.71
Trustee Fees	1,016.00	2,017.00	3,033.00
Total Payment	\$1,365,340.14	\$3,207,852.57	\$4,573,192.71

The payoffs will be required to be escrowed for 30 days before each bond is “called”. The resolution that is provided should be approved and signed to be released to each trustee. The administration recommended that the Board approve the resolution supporting the payoff of the two bond issues as listed.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth, to approve the resolution supporting the payoff of the two bond issues as listed. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER ADOPTING 2019-2020 DISTRICT BUDGET

Mr. Warren summarized the activity for the fiscal year of 2018-2019 and presented a financial budget for the fiscal year of 2019-2020. He stated that the District continues in a state of transition. These transitional events reflected in this budget include:

- Collection of new 5.558 millage in 2019
- Spending funds earmarked for the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Plan
- Planned early pay off of two bond issues
- Conversion to a Regulatory Audit fund balance

The use of sinking funds and state categorical funds are restrictive in nature, yet have significant impact on the “legal fund balance”. The Fund 2000/2001 (or Matrix Fund) continues to be the focus of Administration. The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) provides updated directives and corrections that may require the Administration to adjust details of this budget. We believe these adjustments to be immaterial.

The 2019-2020 financial budget with an expenditure total of \$235,606,909 will be brought back to the Board on August 26 for board approval. The Administration wishes to be allowed to make immaterial adjustments as required by ADE for final submission to ADE.

DEMOGRAPHER REPORT - PRESENTATION

Mr. Templeton of Templeton Demographics presented the 2019-2020 Demographic Update. The demographer shared information related to current conditions and projections on topics including student population trends, housing sales/forecasts, campus utilization and economic factors.

VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - PRESENTATION

Dr. Morawski reported that renovations at Morrison went well with teachers returning to classrooms. Mr. James Adams, of HPM, presented an update on projects completed during the summer of 2019. The projects includes security wall projects and security access control. He presented a look ahead on activities for Darby Junior High School, Ramsey Junior High School, Southside High School, and Northside updates also.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. McFerran read a letter that she had received from Dr. Richard Abernathy, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, informing her that Dr. Brubaker had been nominated for Superintendent of the Year for the State of Arkansas. Board members congratulated Dr. Brubaker for this nomination.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary