



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, September 22, 2025, 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, Ms. Susan Krafft, Ms. Brittney Hall, Mr. Brad Harding, Ms. Lynnett Lott, and Ms. Maria Martinez. 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. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Mr. Tyler Armstrong, Director of Community Engagement, and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance.

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Tiffany Bone presented the following recognitions:

Cook Elementary and Howard Elementary were recognized for achieving High Reliability Schools level two certification.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Ms. Joe Elsken spoke on advertisement funds.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mahan announced that each board member was given a Superintendent Challenge Coin for the great work they do for the district.

Mr. Mahan reported that enrollment for this school year is down 462 students. The impact to the district will be about \$4.5 million. Mr. Mahan also informed the board federal funds that was withheld this year was about \$1.5 million.

An October board work session is scheduled and will be focused on construction and procurement. This meeting will be held in Building G.

Mr. Mahan stated the Department of Education released letter grades with twelve schools improving their grade.

Mr. Mahan requested that one school board member volunteer to serve on the Fort Smith Wellness Committee.

Mr. Mahan reported a letter will be going out to current and past employees offering them identity theft protection for one full year.

Mr. Mahan's Good Things Going on in the District include: elementary schools across the district celebrated Grandparents Day; Beard Elementary 3 -5 graders created animated stories; Three Darby Middle School students helped Officer Cox push a stalled vehicle during after-school pickup; the Child Nutrition team at Kimmons Middle School is encouraging students by adding positive affirmations to lunches; the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council met for the first time this school year; Students Schuyler Henehan, Justin Han, and Hieu Le from Southside High School and Cody Goodson from Northside High School were named National Merit semifinalists; congratulations to this month's Superintendent's Stars: Adalynn Deramus, Beard Elementary; AnnaLynn Ingram, Carnall Elementary; Khalil Cannon, Fairview Elementary; Inabiyah Akmal, Cavanaugh Elementary; Oscar Mikles, Ballman Elementary, and Amar Yasin, Cook Elementary.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the July and August Financial Report, August 18 and August 25 Minutes, September Professional Staff Recommendations, Student Services Report, the Selection of the Superintendent as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary, Consider Approving the Ethics Disclosure Resolution, and Consider Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Technology Assets.

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Mr. Mahan presented a proposal to partner with local media stations to purchase advertisement slots to promote the school district. The television spots would include four different variations of thirty seconds spots and would run from October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 at the total cost of \$38,250. The television advertising is part of Mr. Mahan's performance goals 1.1 Develop a Comprehensive Communication and Marketing Plan.

Mr. Mahan also informed the board that two billboards located on Rogers Avenue would also be used to promote the District. The District has used billboard advertising in the past and this expenditure is part of the current Communications Department budget.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hall, to approve the funding for a partnership with local media stations to purchase advertisement slots. The vote passed 4-3 with Mr. Harding, Ms. Martinez, and Mr. Whiteaker opposing.

PRESENTATION – ARKANSAS PREVENTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (APNA) SURVEY

Dr. Michael Farrell informed the Board the APNA survey is a tool used in Arkansas to assess the prevention-related needs of youth. It targets youth behaviors around areas of substance use, violence, and the attitudes of students that predict these.

Due to the decrease in the number of students taking the APNA survey, it is recommended that students in Grades 8, 10, and 12 would use an opt out format. There will be three ways to opt out: a parent letter will be sent from the principal to each student and the letter will contain a parent link and a QR code to opt out, an opt out written note sent to the school counselor, or students can opt out on administration day.

This is an informational item only. An action item will be placed on the October 27, 2025 board meeting agenda for consideration.

PRESENTATION – EMPLOYEE EXIT AND ENGAGEMENT SURVEY DATA

Dr. Amy Manley, Director of Recruitment and Retention, shared insights gained from the employee exit and engagement surveys. Dr. Manley also highlighted strategies that support retention and employee satisfaction.

This is a presentation only. No action is required.

PRESENTATION – ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT – SAMR MODEL SCHOOL EXPANSION TO K-2

Dr. Lori Yates, Director of Information Systems, presented the plan to expand the model pilot school at Tilles Elementary from grades 3-5 to include K-2. The Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition (SAMR) model is used to enhance student engagement and success.

This is a presentation only. No action is required.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PRE-LITIGATION

At 6:58 PM the Board and Mr. Mahan went into executive session to discuss pre-litigation.

Board members and Mr. Mahan returned to open session at 7:36 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

The October work session will be October 21, 2025 at the Service Center, Building G Conference Room.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be Monday, October 27, 2025.

Ms. Maria Martinez volunteered to serve on the Fort Smith Wellness Committee.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Dalton Person, President

Susan Krafft, Secretary