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**Board of Education**

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**ACTION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	Consider Approval of Student Handbook Changes for 2020-2021
<b>DATE:</b>	July 6, 2020
<b>RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR:</b>	Darian Layes Executive Director of Student Services
<b>VISION 2023 STRATEGY:</b>	2. Equity

**BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:**

Earlier this spring, the Board approved on second reading new student policies based on the Arkansas School Board Association model policies. The District Handbook Committee then met on June 4 and developed the attached thirteen recommendations for handbook changes to ensure that the 2020-2021 handbook aligns with the new student policies. The changes recommended by the handbook committee are presented here in redlined documents showing edits and changes from the previous year's handbook.

In addition, Change 12 and 13 are recommended but are outside reflections of board policy. Change 12 adds information concerning student well-being in the area of emotional health. Change 13 changes references to the "Arkansas Department of Education" to the "Department of Elementary and Secondary Education" (DESE) as reflected in state reorganization and in board policy revisions.

Approval of a handbook that aligns with the new student policies is an important milestone. Due to several changes made to education law in Arkansas during the most recent legislative session, additional work will need to be complete on the handbook over the next several months. In order to adapt to these changes, additional recommendations for policy updates and corresponding changes to the handbook will be prepared for the consideration of the Board. ASBA model policies designed to address these changes have recently become available. Because the handbook is now distributed

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electronically, future updates to it can also be posted for students and families as they are completed and approved. A notice that additional changes are expected to the handbook later this year is included in the attached document. Paper copies will also continue to be available at campuses for distribution to families who request them.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The administration recommends the attached handbook changes be approved for inclusion in the 2020-21 District Handbook.

If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

***Move to approve the attached changes to the 2020-21 FSPS District Handbook.***

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