



Board of Education

Minutes

The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, December 14, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901 and virtually per COVID-19 CDC guidelines.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. Ms. Dee Blackwell and Mr. Wade Gilkey. Dr. Terry Morawski, Incoming Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, 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.

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Featherston Marshall presented the following recognitions for January.

January Star Awards

Alondra Altamirano Botello, Ballman Elementary School

Logan Blalock , Bonneville Elementary School

Ahtziri Buenrostro, Spradling Elementary School

Amari Bullock, Carnall Elementary School

Anh (Anna) Chung, Cook Elementary

Tessa Dalton, Morrison Elementary School

Lynzee (Lindsey) Dominguez, Barling Elementary School

Linda Escobedo-Perez, Sunnymede Elementary School

Sebastian Figueroa Noyola, Trusty Elementary School

Jezreel Garcia, Howard Elementary School

Rudy Gaspar-Cruz, Tilles Elementary School

Jackson Gill, Fairview Elementary School

Ryan Homsombath, Beard Elementary School

Deanna Kilgore, Cavanaugh Elementary School

Adrianna Le, Orr Elementary School

Isaac Rivera, Sutton Elementary School

Zander Sparks, Woods Elementary School

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McKenzie Taylor, Pike Elementary School

Other Recognitions

HIGH RELIABILITY TEACHER COHORT 1

The High Reliability Teacher program encourages and celebrates teacher effectiveness. Participants will receive intensive support as they implement and deepen their understanding of instructional strategies and student learning for a cycle of continuous improvement. The Level 1 and Level 2 High Reliable Teacher certification qualifies an educator to earn the Master Teacher Professional designation. Three FSPS teachers have been selected to attend the program. Kyle Bates and Joshua Bogdon, teachers at Spradling Elementary and Sunshine Burch, teacher at Morrison Elementary.

Chloe's Cozy Drive

Fairview Elementary third-grader Chloe Durham decided that she wanted to help others this holiday season. Chloe asked friends and family to donate blankets both new and gently used to make sure those in need are able to stay home this winter. Chloe collected over 300 blankets to donate to The Next Step Homeless Services.

Chancellor Chat

Dr. Gary Udouj, Director of Career Education and District Innovation and Spradling Elementary Principal Robyn Dawson spoke at Dr. Terrisa Riley's virtual Chancellor Chat on November 17 that was focused on Community Collaborations.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for Citizens Participation.

SUPERINTENDENT/DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reported on attending the Middle School Kickoff Conference at the Fort Smith Convention Center on December 7

The official Peak Center groundbreaking on December 7

Dr. Morawski and Mr. Mahan attended Ms. Susanna Post' official recognition as State Teacher of the Year

Dr. Morawski reported on the launch of new quarantine guidelines - reduced to 7 and 10 days

Dr. Morawski reported that School of Innovation applications were approved for Southside, Peak, and Darby

Dr. Morawski recognized the promotion of two staff members: B Ballman Elementary 5th and 6th grade teacher Sonia Guerrero replaces Ms. Regina Thompson. Ms. Thompson retired as of December 31, 2020
Mr. Marty Mahan was named Deputy Superintendent. Mr. Mahan served as Assistant Superintendent prior to this assignment and has almost 30 years employment in education in various administrative positions.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included: October 26, November 10 and November 30 Minutes, November Financial Report, November and December Professional Staff Recommendations, December Student Services Report and approval of ethics disclosure. Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER CHANGES TO BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATURE CARDS

Mr. Warren reported that the District maintains two bank accounts that require the signature of the Disbursing Officer of the School District Board of Education (DO-BOE). Mr. Warren reported that although there is no change to the Disbursing Officer, the signature cards need to be updated with the signature of the new Superintendent. The two bank accounts (both at Centennial Bank) are as follows:

General Account	Account# 502651950
Payroll Account	Account# 502651969

The Administration recommended that the Board authorize the Administration to update the signature cards at the bank accounts listed above to remove Dr. Douglas Brubaker and add Dr. Terrence "Terry" Morawski. Mr. Hanesworth would remain as primary Board Disbursing Officer and Ms. Richardson would remain the Alternate Board Disbursing Officer.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to remove Dr. Douglas Brubaker and add Dr. Terrence "Terry" Morawski as signer to the General Account (#502651950) and Payroll Account (#502651969) at Centennial Bank for Fort Smith School District #100. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS

Mr. Warren reported that Section 7.13 of the District policies allows the Superintendent to submit a list of surplus commodities to the Board for authorization to sell surplus commodities. These commodities presented were requested to be auctioned to the general public at a date to be set in the spring of 2021. Commodities not sold are considered to have no fair market value and will be disposed by the District.

Ms. Richardson asked how the public were notified. Mr. Warren indicated that the auctioneer hired took care of advertising. Ms. Richardson asked if the auction were virtual or in person. Mr. Warren stated that the hope is to be able to have the auction in person if it is safe to do so.

After discussion, the Administration recommended that the Board consider authorizing the sale or disposal of the listed commodities.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Miss Keaton-Martin, to authorize the sale or disposal of commodities as listed. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVING "DISTRICT COVID-19 LEAVE" RESOLUTION

Dr. Morawski reported that the federal and state COVID-19 leave provided to District employees is set to expire at the end of December. The District wanted to encourage employees to quarantine when required (for the sake of safety to students and staff) without fear of losing excess amounts District sick leave.

Dr. Morawski reported that until additional federal or state COVID-19 leave is provided to employees, the Administration believes that as much as ten extra days of leave should be provided to employees quarantined for testing positive or for being designated as a close contact. Dr. Morawski commended Mr. Warren, District team and Mr. Ney for their efforts to present a resolution for board approval. The resolution presented is not a change in policy, but a new procedure to be applied by the District by the Payroll Office. The resolution outlines restrictions and details of this procedure that will start in January.

The administration recommended the board consider approving the resolution and grant up to ten days of "District COVID-19 Leave" District employees.

Mr. Person commended the District for bridging the gap until Federal or State funds are possibly provided.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey to approve the "District COVID-19 Leave" resolution presented. The vote passed 7/0.

PRESENTATION - #ONTRACK UPDATE

Dr. McDonald presented an update to board members on the effort District staff are making to get students that were failing (virtual and onsite) engaged. She compared data from 2019 to 2020 by grade level. Dr. McDonald presented this same data for students that had a Zero in one or more classes. Dr. McDonald highlighted how the #OnTrack program has helped to get students back in the classroom or attending virtually. Numerous meetings with school counselors, high school teachers and district administrators resulted in a plan of action to reach out to students and parents. Media and community leaders reached out in a call for action to get the message out to get students to help get them engaged. An OnTrack day was provided to high school students with a 67% attendance. Principals and teachers were pleased with the learning that was accomplished on that date. Hotlines were provided at high schools to assist students. A credit recovery plan is being sent to students in danger of failing. Dr. McDonald stated that a press conference is scheduled with the mayor to further get the word out to the community in hopes of helping to get students engaged.

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Mr. Mahan commended the high school principals and staff for the work they've put into this effort.

Board members expressed thanks to the staff for the recovery plan in place.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Mr. Person asked what help can be provided to principals to get through the next four days to get through the semester.

Mr. Hanesworth asked about social workers and staff going to homes of students that are not reachable.

Mr. Hanesworth expressed thanks to staff and board members for their commitment to the District.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary