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## Board of Education

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### **ACTION**

**TITLE:** Adopt Corrected Legal Description of District Boundaries

**DATE:** September 18, 2018

**RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR:** Doug Brubaker, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

### **BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:**

During the May Primary Elections, a voter who resides in the Fort Smith School District was told that he was not eligible to vote in the Fort Smith Public Schools millage issue because voter registration records indicated that he was a resident of the Greenwood School District.

Upon discovery of the error, the Arkansas Geographic Information System (GIS) Office researched the matter and confirmed that both school districts properly petitioned the Arkansas State Board of Education in November of 2003 to amend school district boundary lines associated with federal lands that were released for redevelopment to the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority. The proposed boundary changes were officially adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Education on November 10, 2003, but for reasons unknown revisions were never entered into the statewide map of school district boundaries that is used by the county clerk for election purposes.

The Total Assessment Solutions Corporation (TASC) ArcGIS system, which is used by the county assessor, does include the changes that were approved by the State Board of Education in 2003.

To resolve this matter, the Arkansas GIS Office collaborated with the Arkansas Department of Education and Sebastian County officials to make appropriate corrections at the state and county level. Since there have not been any changes in school attendance or tax parcel allocations since the State Board of Education's approval in November of 2003, the Arkansas GIS Office made the necessary corrections in the state's system immediately.

Clearly, a lot of growth has taken place in Fort Chaffee. This includes the completion of I-49 and substantial upgrades in infrastructure to accommodate residential and commercial growth. As a result of this growth, the Arkansas GIS Office drafted legal descriptions for the Greenwood and Fort Smith School Districts that contain only technical corrections.

The Arkansas GIS Office and the ADE recommended that both districts adopt these legal descriptions to place on file with the County Clerk's Office for historical purposes.

It is important to reemphasize that the legal descriptions represent only technical changes and do not change how the Sebastian County Assessor allocates real estate parcels to the Fort Smith and Greenwood School Districts.

The preceding information was reported during the Board's August 13 work session. On August 16, the Sebastian County Assessor's Office reported the results of an internal review of the boundary between the Fort Smith and Lavaca School Districts as documented in the TASC ArcGIS system. This review indicated that another correction was needed. Sebastian County Assessor's Office staff identified a discrepancy between its map and the legal description of the boundary between the two districts as drafted by the Arkansas GIS Office and based on the boundary changes approved by the Arkansas State Board of Education in 2003.

A subsequent review of historical records verified that the attached legal description drafted by the Arkansas GIS Office is correct. The assessor's database has been updated to reflect this correction. Among the parcels that had been allocated to FSPS in error, three were subject to taxation for one year. The total amount of revenue sent to Fort Smith for these parcels was \$259.50. This revenue is not subject to recapture.

Each of the District's boundaries with neighboring school districts has now been verified by county and state officials. Adoption of the legal description drafted by Arkansas GIS is now appropriate.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The administration recommends that the Board adopt the corrected legal description for the Fort Smith School District. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

***Move to adopt the corrected legal description for the Fort Smith School District.***