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## Board of Education

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Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting  
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held August 27, 2018, 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. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Wade Gilkey, Mr. Greg Magness, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Mr. Bill Haneworth was absent. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Ms. Richardson gave the Invocation.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

The consent agenda included the minutes of the July 30 Regular School Board Meeting and August 13 Work Session, July Financial Report, August Student Services Report, vehicle replacement, Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, selection of Superintendent as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary, and approval of the Millage Advisory Committee. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Professional Staff Recommendations**

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Mr. Mahan to present the professional staff recommendations. Mr. Mahan noted that there were no retirements or leaves of absence.

#### Resignations

Lee, Nathaniel  
Markham, Amy  
Gantt, Bryan

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greg Magness, to accept the resignations as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

## Recommendations for Employment

Allison, Susan  
Ahern, Lauren  
Elkins, Letitia  
Sharp, Leslie  
Prado, Jennifer  
Crossland, Melisa  
Hopkins, Melissa  
Jones, Christian  
Brannon, Rachel  
Jones, Robert  
Lively, Debra  
Pettigrew, Gary  
Erke, Susan  
Cogswell, Breck  
Mendenhall, Jessica  
Dean, Ruby

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

## Recognitions

Art teachers David King, LaDawna Dillman, Amy Fairfield, Lee Young, Cassandra Owens and Susan Allison and Northside and Southside art students were recognized for their visual arts contribution to the community's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. This bicentennial mural was displayed at the District's Arts&Sounds event in May and is now displayed at the District in the Service Center, Building B Auditorium.

Spradling Principal Robyn Dawson was recognized at the Summer Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators Conference with the 2018 Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals' "Above and Beyond Award." The award is given honoring the memory of Newtown Connecticut Elementary School principal, Dawn Hochsprung, and recognizes "over-and-above" service to students.

Ramsey Teacher Cindy Dean was recognized by Governor Asa Hutchinson for her dedication to the Arkansas Declaration of Learning Program. Dean was one of 26 educators to participate in the program for the third year. The program uses historic art and objects from state and national museums to develop lesson plans centered around civic engagement. Arkansas is the first state to participate in the program.

Southside Teacher Oretha Ferguson teaches Pre-AP English and is the co-author of The Classroom Management Book with Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong. She received the 2018 Arkansas Society for Technology in Education Leadership Award. It is "an internationally recognized awards program for educators in the field of educational technology integration in K-12 schools.

Northside High School Director of Bands Gordon Manley was recognized as a 2018 laureate of the John Philip Sousa Foundation by the Bandworld Legion of Honor. Recipients have served as directors for 15 years or more and have maintained a very high-quality concert band program throughout their careers. These laureates have also contributed significantly to the profession through dedication to bands and band music. Mr. Manley is a 32-year veteran music educator teaching band students at Kimmons, Northside, and Darby.

### Introduction of New Administrators

Mary Bellah was named Supervisor of Special Programs. Ms. Bellah has 20 years in educational leadership experience and 30 years of experience in PK-12 education. She was most recently the assistant principal for Howard and Spradling Elementary Schools.

Marna Boltuc was named the assistant principal at Woods and Barling Elementary Schools. Ms. Boltuc most recently served as a Math Instructional Facilitator at Spradling and Woods Elementary Schools. She has been active in the Arkansas Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Pilot Project at Spradling Elementary School and is a candidate for National Board Certification.

Dana Booth was named the assistant principal at Spradling Elementary School. Prior to this assignment, she was an instructional facilitator assigned to Spradling. Ms. Booth has had a variety of leadership roles within the school including Principal Designee, Mentor Teacher, ACSIP Program Manager, SIOP and Kagan. She also serves on the Professional Learning Community (PLC) Pilot Leadership Team.

Jimmy Cook was named the assistant principal at Tilles Elementary School. Mr. Cook has taught in County Line, Greenwood, and for the past five years was a Fort Smith Public Schools instructional facilitator focused on mathematics.

Laura Gladden was named the assistant principal at Bonneville and Ballman Elementary Schools. Ms. Gladden has served as an instructional facilitator for the past six years focusing this year on the Arkansas PLC Pilot Project at Ballman.

Hillary Key was named the assistant principal at Beard and Cavanaugh Elementary Schools. Ms. Key has taught 4th and 5th grades at Trusty and Euper Lane Elementary Schools for more than a decade.

Sarah Jane Mayer was named the assistant principal at Trusty and Morrison Elementary Schools. Prior to her return to Arkansas and Fort Smith as a teacher at Woods Elementary School, Ms. Mayer taught in Bitburg, Germany and served as a K-5 Teacher Leader in Vallejo, CA.

Jeff Prewitt was named the new assistant principal at Southside High School. He is an 18-year veteran educator with 17 of those years with Fort Smith Public Schools. He was an assistant principal at Ramsey for three years. Prior to that he was the Ramsey Head Football and Track Coach.

## **CONSIDER ADOPTING 2018-2019 DISTRICT BUDGET**

Mr. Warren reported that the 2018-2019 District financial budget had been reviewed at the September 10 work session. He reported that the focus was on the matrix fund which is based upon local revenue and state funding. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to adopt the 2018-2019 financial budget with an expenditure total of \$191,071,240 and to allow the Administration to make immaterial adjustments as required by ADE for final submission to ADE. The vote passed 6/0.

## **CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION TO MANAGE THE DISTRICT'S BANK OZK ACCOUNT**

Mr. Warren reported that the Administration desired to transfer funds from the Construction Bond Fund (CBF) to the District's checking account as funds are needed to pay for construction projects in the future. While the individual release of these funds from the CBF to the District's checking account is considered a transfer of funds, it could technically be considered a disbursement of funds, requiring approval from the School Board Disbursing Officer (SBDO). As multiple construction projects begin in earnest, the release of funds could be needed weekly. The resolution presented allows the district treasurer, to "transfer" or "disburse" the funds as needed. Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to allow the district treasurer to manage the District's Bank OZK account. The vote passed 6/0.

## **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. Cole commended the PTA School of Information members for the back to school meeting on September 21.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Lee Andra White, President of Fort Smith Council of PTAs spoke to the Board about membership and goals for 2018-2019.

Ms. Aimee Arzoumanian spoke about her child's transfer to a school outside their attendance area.

Mr. Chris Adamson spoke about his child's transfer to a school outside their attendance area.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:05 p.m., Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to retire into executive session to consider an employment issue. The vote passed 6/0.

Ms. McFerran reported that the Board would reconvene in public session following this executive session to present and vote on any action arrived at in private.

## **PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION**

At 6:15 p.m., board members reconvened in public session. Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to accept the personnel recommendation as presented in executive session. The vote passed 6/0.

## **ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

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Susan McFerran, President

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary