

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Education Fort Smith Public Schools

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, September 25, 2017, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Susan McFerran. Mr. Hanesworth was absent. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Terry Morawski, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Martin Mahan, Executive Director of Human Resources, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, 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 Dr. Barry Owen gave the Invocation.

The consent agenda included the minutes of the August Regular School Board Meeting, the August Financial Report and the September Student Services Report. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Professional Staff Recommendations

Recommendation for Employment

Walters, Morgan

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote passed 6/0.

Leave of Absence

Pena, Isela

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Susan McFerran, to approve the leave of absence. The vote passed 6/0.

Recognitions

Dr. Brubaker and Dr. Mehl recognized the following staff and students:

Nancy Holliman and her 2016-2017 fourth grade class at Beard Elementary School as the Overall Winner of the Sumdog U.S. National Math Contest. A total of 28,640 students from 1,332 classes participated in the competition. Sumdog is an online math program that matches students with a similar skill level for fun and interactive math games.

The Fort Smith Public Schools Transportation Department for receiving the 2017 Transportation Safety Award presented by the Arkansas Association of Pupil Transportation. FSPS Transportation was the first to win the award in 2013. They won again in 2016 and captured a third win in 2017. The mechanics are Kelly Waltman, Shane Howard, Kevin Smith and Cliff Harris. The office staff includes Gail Carter, Jack Jedlicka and Stacy Sangster.

Principal Lori Griffin, Ballman Elementary School and Principal Robyn Dawson, Spradling Elementary School were among ten schools and one school district to receive an Arkansas Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Pilot Program grant presented by the Arkansas legislature. PLC schools will work with nationally recognized Solution Tree to develop the P-L-C At Work Process which will focus on improving student achievement by supporting collaboration among a school's instructional team and a relentless focus on learning and results. 83 schools applied to participate in this state-wide initiative. Fort Smith Public School District is the only school system to receive two pilot program grants.

The following ten elementary students were introduced as Superintendent's Star Awards for September: Ashley Andino Galdamez, fourth grader at Trusty Elementary, Sarah Adams, fourth grader at Woods Elementary, Jyrin Blocker, sixth grader at Cook Elementary, Allison Velasquez, preschooler at Morrison Elementary, Alexis Wells, sixth grader at Howard Elementary, Maxon Blackwell, fourth grader at Euper Lane Elementary, Jamarion Johnson, sixth grader at Spradling Elementary, Kara Khantharinh, sixth grader at Sutton Elementary, Addee Nelke, fourth grader at Bonneville Elementary and Keyanna Peterson, first grader at Carnall Elementary

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP)

Ms. Cole reported that the district Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) assurances must be uploaded electronically and submitted in Indistar annually to assure the district's eligibility for funds included in the ACSIP. The Superintendent must provide an original signature attesting to compliance for each program included in the assurances Ms. Cole made a committee motion that the Board approve the 2017-2018 ACSIP assurances and authorize the Superintendent to sign the assurances so they may be uploaded and submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education on or before the October 1, 2017 deadline. The vote passed 6/0.

Secondary Science Textbook Selection Committee

Ms. Cole reported that the district policy is that an official textbook selection committee designated be approved by the Board of Education. Recommendations have been secured from each secondary principal for teachers to serve on the full Textbook Selection Committee for Secondary Science. These committee members will evaluate textbooks and make recommendations. The recommendations will then be presented by members of the official Secondary Science Textbook Committee to the Curriculum Committee of the School Board for approval and adoption during the spring semester.

Ms. Cole made a committee motion to approve Leslie Brodie, Aimee Brinkley, Terry Overbey, Gia Bethel, and community representative Tim Hearn as the official Secondary Science Textbook Committee. These members will present to the Curriculum Committee of the School Board. The vote passed 6/0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ethics Disclosures

Dr. Mehl reported that disclosures provided by new employees or by employees acquiring new financial interests in a business, are brought to the Board for review and approval. The Board reviews all previously approved disclosures every two years. Disclosures requiring ADE approval are to be reviewed and approved every two years. This month marks this two year benchmark.

Dr. Mehl reported that the list titled "Continued Disclosure Summary" is a list of disclosures previously approved by the Board. This list is merely informative and no resolution is required. Additionally, no formal reading is required at a Board meeting.

The listed titled "Contract Disclosure Summary" is a list of new disclosures that should be reviewed for Board approval. These disclosures are to be read aloud and approved by the School Board in a resolution. The reading aloud of each employee and each business cannot be waived.

The list title "Disclosure Summary for ADE" is a list of new disclosures that require a renewal by the School Board. These disclosures are to be read aloud and approved by the School Board in specific resolutions. These disclosures will be sent to ADE for review and approval. The reading of these resolutions can be waived, but the reading aloud the name of each employee and each business cannot be waived.

Dr. Mehl yielded to Mr. Warren to read the disclosures aloud. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to waive the formal reading of the resolutions. The vote passed 6/0.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the ethics disclosures read aloud and authorize the Administration to forward all required ethics disclosures to ADE for approval. The vote passed 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. Susan McFerran presented Dr. Mehl with a plaque for her years of service to the Board of Education. Board members and administrators expressed appreciation for her 12 years of service.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No one was present for citizens participation.

CLOSED PERSONNEL APPEAL HEARING

At 6 p.m. the Board moved to the conference room for a closed session to hear a personnel appeal.

After extended testimony, the Board went into executive session at 10:15 p.m. and came out of executive session at 10:30 p.m. Dr. Mehl reported that the decision of the Board was unanimous on the following written conclusions:

The teacher engaged in conduct that resulted in action by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (“DHS”) mandating corrective action. “The teacher will be under corrective action. She cannot be left alone with the children and cannot have disciplinary control over the children.”

The District must comply with the corrective action mandated by the DHS.

The teacher’s conduct violated GBC Principle I, Item A.

The teacher’s conduct violated GBC Principle II, Item C.

The teacher’s conduct violated GBC Principle IV, Item A

The teacher’s conduct violated Arkansas Educator’s Code of Conduct Standard One.

The teacher engaged in conduct that materially interferes with the proper performance of her duties.

There is other just and reasonable cause for the teacher's termination.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to adopt the written conclusions as read. The vote passed 6/0.

Mr. Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to uphold the recommendation of the superintendent to terminate the teacher's contract. The vote passed 6/0.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Susan McFerran, Vice President

Bill Hanesworth, Secretary