



Board of Education

Minutes of The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, November 17, 2025, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Phil Whiteaker, vice-president, called the meeting to order noting six board members were present. Other board members present were: Ms. Susan Krafft, Ms. Brittney Hall, Mr. Brad Harding, Ms. Lynnett Lott, and Ms. Maria Martinez. Mr. Dalton Person was not present. District administrators present included: Mr. Marty Mahan, Superintendent; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Kellie Cohen Minton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Michael Farrell, Executive Director of Student Services; Mr. Shawn Shaffer, Executive Director of Facility Operations; Mr. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Ms. Kimberly Mundell, Executive Director of Communications and Engagement; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance.

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Tracy Person was named the 2025 Martha Stone Educational Office Professional of the Year from the Arkansas Association of Office Administrative Professionals.

Mr. Dennis Siebenmorgen received the Arkansas Association of Office Administrative Professionals 2025 Educational Administrator of the Year award.

Ms. Susan Krafft received the Certificate of Boardsmanship from the Arkansas School Boards Association. This award is presented to school board members that have completed at least 25 training hours.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mahan informed the board that 1,640 students and parents may have been impacted by the cybersecurity event that occurred in July. Mr. Mahan reported, to date, 454 retirees,

resignees, and current staff have signed up for the identity theft protection offered by the District.

Mr. Mahan notified the board of several key events: a board work session is scheduled for January 12, 2026, to review the Darby School Based Health Center; April 7, 2026 a board work session will be held to review the Transportation and Child Nutrition Department; and board training will be held in February at the Marshals Museum.

Mr. Mahan reported the luxury vinyl plank flooring in the Southside High School Commons area is bowing.

Mr. Mahan's Good Things Going on in the District include: Cavanaugh first graders viewed Native American artifacts and studied their traditional practices; Tilles Elementary held its first-ever Parent Recognition Ceremony, Howard Elementary students honed their library research skills studying peanut butter; Woods Elementary held a coin drive raising \$700 for The Whitney Marsh Foundation; Euper Lane fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Passage, received a \$500 award from Arvest for the We Love Teachers campaign; Chaffin Middle School students collected 624 pairs of socks for Fort Smith's Hope Campus; Southside High School celebrated biology students who passed the End of Course exam; Orr Learning Academy launched a positive behavior reinforcement store; the 10th Annual iCan Career Expo was held at Peak Innovation Center; the first quarter FSPS Foundation winners were: Lexi Bates, Ignite Award; Martha Elizondo, Kind Counts Award; and Raydell Barbey, Every Day Leader Award; Veterans Day was celebrated across the district; bus drivers David Moon and Robert Salisbury transported over 200 families at Family Day at Fort Chaffee; Congratulations to this month's Superintendent's Stars: Brylee Morris, Sunnymede; Josue Perez, Morrison; Jefred Pineda Herrera, Sutton; Sofia Picazo-Rivas, Spradling; Emely Enamorado Najera, Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the October Financial Report, October 21 & October 27 Minutes, November Professional Staff Recommendations, Consider Adopting Student Related Policy Changes (Section 4.47), Consider Amendment to the 2025-2026 Student Handbook, Consider Adopting Certified Personnel Policy Changes, Consider Adopting Classified Personnel Policy Changes, and Consider Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Commodities.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lott, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 6-0.

CONSIDER APPROVING THE PEAK INFRASTRUCTURE DRAINAGE PHASE 4 DESIGN

Mr. Nate Deason, MAHG Architecture, reviewed the first three phases of the roof and site drainage improvements at Peak Innovation Center. These phases focused primarily on overflow drains on the warehouse and main building and site drainage improvements. Phase 1 and Phase 2 are substantially complete.

Representatives from Mickle Griffin presented the Phase 4 drainage infrastructure analysis and improvements work scope. The analysis and design on this phase would cost \$204,313 to complete.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harding, to approve the Peak infrastructure drainage phase 4 design. The vote passed 6-0.

PRESENTATION - DEMOGRAPHICS REVIEW

Mr. Hudson Huff with Zonda Demographics presented a Fort Smith housing and economic conditions update and how these impact our student enrollment. These trends forecast enrollment to remain within a range of 12,850 to 13,050 students over the next three to five years.

This is a presentation item only. No action is required.

PRESENTATION – BOARD POLICY 4.5 SCHOOL CHOICE

Dr. Michael Farrell provided the board with information regarding the new school choice laws in Arkansas that expand to interdistrict and intradistrict transfer options.

This is a presentation item only. No action is required.

CONSIDER APPROVING THE RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE MILLAGE RATE LEVY OF 41.50 MILLS

Mr. Charles Warren informed the board the district was notified by Sebastian County officials that the assessment growth in 2025 reappraisal exceeded 10%. Arkansas Code Ark. Code Ann. §26-26-402 et seq. requires school districts to roll back the millage rate with the reappraisal.

Mr. Warren also stated the administration worked with county officials to calculate the millage be rolled back from 42.058 mills to 41.50 mills for the 2025 assessment. The net impact to the district is an estimated decrease in local and state funding of \$3.6 million.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hall, to approve the resolution certifying the millage rate of 41.50 mills to be levied. The vote passed 6-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES WITH TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2027 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2028

Mr. Warren provided the proposed budget of expenditures and the corresponding tax levy. It is a requirement to publish the budget and tax levy prior to the March 2026 board election. The proposed budget is an estimation for the period of July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028 and is based on the adjusted rate of 41.50 mills.

Ms. Lott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Krafft, to approve the proposed budget of expenditures and tax levy for the 2027-2028 to be published by law. The vote passed 6-0.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT – PRESENTATION – ANALYSIS OF STUDENT ARTIFACTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE

Ms. Laura Gladden, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, provided an overview and the analysis of K-10 student work in English Language Arts, mathematics, and science.

This is a presentation item only. No action is required.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Mahan presented the 2024-2025 Annual Report to the Public, which included key topics such as graduation rates, academic achievements, enrollment trends, and financial data.

This is a presentation item only. No action is required.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2025.

Mr. Harding proposed conducting a work session to receive an overview of the Communications Department's communications strategies.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Dalton Person, President

Susan Krafft, Secretary