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## Board of Education

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Minutes of Called School Board Meeting  
The Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held June 3, 2019, 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. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. 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, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present for Citizens' Participation.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Mr. Mahan to present the professional staff recommendations.

### **Professional Staff Recommendations**

#### **Resignations**

##### Certified

Matthews, Staci

Loum, Crystal

Holloway, Kristen

Smither, Donella

Vongphachanh, Kimberly

Walden, Amy

House, Amy

Kesner, Rachel

Hill, Benjamin

Hightower-Wilson, Tyler

Classified

None

**Retirements**

Certified

Greer, Deborah

Carter, Randall

Goins, Dana

Classified

None

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to accept the recommendations for resignations and retirements as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

**Employment**

Certified

McKnight, Shannon

Birkhoff, Shannon

Kyrouac, Mariah

McShan, Ashley

Mullins, John

Slocum, Michele

Young, Joni

Neumeier, Lainie

Udoudj, Gary

Bates, Kyle

Ramirez, Merary

Webber, Laci

Classified

Patel, Puja

Pesetsky, Gabrielle

Patterson, Stacy

Evans, Stephen

Schoggins, Elise

Waguespack, Andrea

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

**Leaves of Absence**

Certified

Stanton, Wyann

Classified

None

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the recommendation for leave of absence as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

### **Technology Department Recommendations**

Dr. Brubaker reported that in preparation for the expansion of the District's 1:1 technology program, the District engaged the Consortium on School Networking (CoSN) to conduct a peer review of FSPS technology operations. He noted that CoSN is the leading national professional association for school system technology leaders. One key CoSN recommendation was to strengthen the coordination and planning function for technology within the district. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology, was named Executive Director of Technology to perform these functions. Other recommendations included the establishment of a separate role tasked with establishing baseline key performance indicators (KPIs) for technology services and the development of strategies for continuous improvement. Dr. Brubaker reported that a new position, Director of Technology Operations, was recommended to address these needs. This role will also provide day-to-day oversight of end-user services, campus support, and technology inventory management. This position will be funded by achieving efficiencies in the technology budget. The administration's recommendation was that the Board approve the reorganization of the Technology Department so that the new director can be in place in time to facilitate preparations for the school year.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to approve the addition of the Director of Technology Operations position. After discussion, the vote passed 7/0.

### **Introduction of New Administrators**

Dr. Brubaker introduced Dr. Gary Udouj as the District's first Director of the Career Education Center and District Innovation. He reported that Dr. Udouj is a Fort Smith native, Southside High School graduate and has much success in the District. Dr. Udouj expressed excitement and thanks for the opportunity.

### **Board Calendar for June**

Dr. Brubaker reported that staff was striving to get all agenda items to the Board at the next June 10 meeting in order to not meet for a third time on June 24. All board members were in agreement.

**CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT'S APPLICATION TO THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR A WAIVER FOR MAY 28, 29, AND 30, 2019 AS THE RESULT OF HISTORIC, UNPRECEDENTED, AND CATASTROPHIC FLOODING IN THE DISTRICT - Action**

Dr. Brubaker reported that Standard of Accreditation 1-A.5.1 requires that each public school provide a minimum of 178 days of student/teacher interaction. This requirement can be waived by the Arkansas State Board of Education (SBOE).

The District has asked the Arkansas SBOE to grant relief from the requirements of conducting school and requiring students and staff members to report on the final three (3) days of the 2018-2019 school year due to the historic, unprecedented, and catastrophic flooding that has afflicted our community. The decision to cancel classes was made in the interest of student and staff safety. The waiver request includes details about the extreme circumstances that required taking this step.

The administration recommended that the Board adopt the resolution. Dr. Brubaker noted the support letters provided.

Mr. Wade Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to adopt the resolution in support of the District's waiver request. The vote passed 7/0.

**ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2019 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION FOR THE SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FORT SMITH**

Dr. Brubaker reported that results of the 2019 School Board Election for the Special School District of Fort Smith (Fort Smith Public Schools were certified on this date, June 3, by the Sebastian County Board of Election Commissioners. A copy of the signed original certification is included in the electronic agenda.

He reported that this is an information item and no action was recommended at this meeting. The administration will recommend that the Board acknowledge receipt of the election results during its June 10 meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Discussion**

Dr. Brubaker reported that Arkansas Code §6-13-618 (2016) indicates that election of officers is to take place "At the first regular meeting following the later of the certification of the results of the annual school election or the certification of the results of a runoff election, the Board of Directors of each school district shall organize by electing:

- (1) One (1) of their number president;
- (2) One (1) of their number vice president; and

(3) A secretary who may be, but need not be, a member of the Board of Directors”

Dr. Brubaker reported that according to counsel, a meeting that is on the Board’s schedule can be considered a regular board meeting. The next meeting that is on the Board’s annual schedule is June 10. He noted that discussion about the election of officers may be conducted at any public meeting of the Board in compliance with the Arkansas FOIA.

The administration recommends that the Board elect its officers during the June 10 Board meeting.

Mr. Gilkey nominated Ms. McFerran for Board President. Ms. Keaton-Martin nominated Ms. Richardson as Vice-President. Ms. Richardson nominated Ms. Keaton-Martin for secretary.

Ms. McFerran reported that election of officers will take place at the June 10 Board meeting.

#### **DESIGNATION OF BOARD DISBURSING OFFICERS - Discussion**

Dr. Brubaker reported that Act 671 of 2003 requires that at the first regular meeting following the annual school election, the Board of Education of each school district designate one of its members who shall serve as the primary board disbursing officer of the District. According to counsel, a meeting that is on the Board’s schedule can be considered a regular board meeting. The Board may designate one or more of its members as an alternate board disbursing officer in the absence of the designated primary board officer. The President and Vice-President have traditionally been designated as the primary and alternate board disbursing officers, respectively.

The administration recommended that the Board designate a Primary Board Disbursing Officer and Alternate Board Disbursing Officer and adopt the resolution at its June 10 meeting. There was no further discussion.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. McFerran thanked the students and families, staff, and community for the efforts and patience endured from the flooding this past week.

Mr. Hanesworth suggested that the Board honor the Superintendent’s Stars in front of their peers at the schools.

Ms. Keaton-Martin congratulated Dr. Udouj on his new position.

Mr. Gilkey suggested that the District be a part of the recovery process for the families displaced from the recent flooding.

Ms. Richardson noted that the Red Cross will continue those efforts and thanked the District staff for their involvement and support with that effort.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Susan McFerran, President

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary