

Board of Education

Minutes of Committee Meeting
The Board of Education

A Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held November 13, 2017, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Mr. Greg Magness. Administrators present were Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Martin Mahan, Executive Director of Human Resources, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Terry Morawski, Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Dennis Siebenmorgen, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to meet as a Committee of the Whole. The vote passed 7/0.

ETHICS DISCLOSURES

Dr. Brubaker reported that § 6-24-101 et seq. and the ADE rules adopted pursuant to this section of state law regulate the issue known as “Ethics Disclosures.” Ethics disclosure promotes the transparency of the District entering into transactions with entities that are owned or controlled by District employees, the employee’s household, and for some employees, the employee’s family.

Since September, new disclosures need to be reviewed and approved. The list titled “Contract Disclosure Summary List” is a list of disclosures that should be reviewed for Board approval. Specific disclosure paperwork will be presented at the Board meeting in November. These disclosures will need to be read aloud at the November 27th Board meeting and approved by the School Board in a resolution.

This item comes without an administrative recommendation. It is for informational purposes only.

FIRE ALARM INSPECTIONS

Dr. Brubaker reported that the District released a bid for annual inspections of all district fire alarm systems. The bid was advertised on October 28, 2017 and bids were received on November 3, 2017. Five companies submitted bids for annual fees charged through a five year period. The bids are as follows: Marmic Fire and Safety at \$6,250/\$31,250, JE Systems at \$9,500/\$47,500, Gilbert Technologies at \$9,995/\$49,975, Alert Alarm at \$15,577/\$77,885, and Dunk Fire and Security at \$23,300/\$116,500.

The administration recommends the low bid from Marmic Fire and Safety and recommends board approval at the November 27, 2017 meeting. Members noted the great price range from low to high bid. Mr. Morawski assured the board that all bids included same specs and the low bid was submitted by a reputable company.

Ms. Richardson made a committee motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to present the bid of \$6,250 yearly with a 5 year bid total of \$31,250 from Marmic Fire and Safety for Spring of 2018 through Spring 2022 to the board on November 27. The vote passed 7/0.

FSPS 2018-2019 CALENDAR

Dr. Brubaker reported that the administration and the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association have met and agreed upon a calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. Dr. Floyd noted that because of a waiver granted by the Arkansas State Board of Education the school year may begin earlier than the date mandated by statute. Dr. Floyd reviewed calendar dates with members.

The administration recommended that the Board adopt the 2018-2019 calendar as presented.

Ms. Cole made a committee motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson to adopt the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER REPLACEMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS WITH WORK SESSIONS AND POSTPONE THE APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Dr. Brubaker reported that for a number of years, the Board has met as a Committee of the Whole prior to its regular meetings on the fourth Monday of the month. During Committee of the Whole meetings, the Board has discussed individual agenda items and made recommendations to the Board for further action at regular meetings. At regular meetings, agenda items that have come as recommendations from the Committee of the Whole have not required a second prior to taking a vote. This operating procedure stemmed from a time when committees made up of three Board members, as described in policies BDBA and BDE, met to discuss agenda items that could later be submitted as agenda items for the committee of the whole. These policies were last updated in 2000.

With Board and officer elections complete, the Board has an opportunity to modify the structure of its meetings to promote transparency, align more closely with its operations, simplify its procedures, and facilitate the efficient flow of information. The administration is also working with district counsel to update policies based on ASBA model policies. The following changes are recommended as an initial step toward modernizing the Board's operations:

- Replace Committee Meetings with Work Sessions.
- Postpone appointment of standing committees outlined in Policies BDE and BDBA pending the outcome of the policy review process.
- Replace the "Committee of the Whole" section of the regular Board meeting agenda with a "Work Session" section within the Consent Agenda for items that have been

discussed during the work session. Any item can be pulled for further discussion at the regular board meeting.

After discussion, Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to *move* to replace committee of the whole meetings with work sessions and to postpone appointment of the six standing committees outlined in Policies BDBA and BDE pending the outcome of the policy review process as described in the agenda. The vote passed 6/1 with Mr. Gilkey abstaining.

Dr. Brubaker invited board members to attend the Southside High School Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS) celebration. He reported on attending the Woods Elementary School Blue Ribbon ceremony in Washington D.C., Mr. Mahan's organization of an Aspiring Principals Institute, the Senior Tour, and stated the final Vision 2023 Strategic Planning session would be December 4.

Ms. McFerran invited board members to the Southside High School Band concert on December 4.

Ms. Richardson attended Howard Elementary School's awards program on Friday. She reported that Howard as an A+ School had a young man who spent a week introducing art to the students through the written word and poetry. She also asked board members to watch the "Louder than a Bomb" documentary on Netflix. She requested that Dr. Brubaker consider incorporating more of these art activities into the district.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms Keaton Martin, to adjourn at 6:12 p.m.