



Board of Education

Minutes

The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, March 14, 2022, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Ms. McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Dee Blackwell, Mr. Matt Blaylock, and Mr. Troy Eckelhoff and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. District administrators present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Darian Laves, Executive Director of Student Services; Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships; Ms. Nadine Brooks, Office Manager to the Superintendent and Mr. Marshall Ney, Friday Eldredge and Clark Attorney, was also in attendance.

A moment of silence was followed by the pledge of allegiance and mission statement.

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Marshall presented the following recognitions.

March Superintendent Star Students

Leevi Anderson , Spradling Elementary

Kimberlee Chacon, Beard Elementary

Isaac Haid, Cook Elementary

Bryan Henriquez Lara, Tilles Elementary

William Macias, Howard Elementary

Tabor Morrison, Cavanaugh Elementary

Lily Powell, Park Elementary

Other Recognitions

Ellie Bunnell, a senior at Southside High School, was named the Arkansas Journalist of the Year by the Journalism Education Association (JEA). Bunnell, the school's 'Southerner' yearbook editor, has contributed articles and photography to SouthworldOnline, the school's online newspaper, and submitted designs to the school's social media pages. She will be the only student in Arkansas to advance to the JEA Nationals in Los Angeles, CA, in April, and is eligible for a JEA scholarship, which awards \$3,000 to the top winner and \$1,000 each for up to four runner-up winners.

National Merit Finalists

Southside High School seniors Emma Paulus and Leen Samman have been named 2022 National Merit Scholarship Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors. Approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

Chaffin Quiz Bowl

The 8th Grade Chaffin Middle School Quiz Bowl Team consisting of Hieu Le, Hugo Yu, Alena Blackburn, Justin Han, Joshua Chung, Eric Fuhrman, Schuyler Henehan, Aerick Galdamez, and Erynn Hutson won the 7A State Championship at the Arkansas Governor's Quiz Bowl Association's (AGQBA) State Quiz Bowl Tournament on March 5 at Lake Hamilton. There were eight teams in their division and they won by defeating North Little Rock in the championship match. Schuyler Henehan and Justin Han were recognized as All-Tournament Players and will be invited to play in the state All-Star Tournament in April. This winning team is sponsored by Monica Welborn.

JROTC Precision

Braden Springs, Ashlyn Cancel, Mikayla McCall, and Edith Aquino-Valentin finished in first place in the state JROTC Rifle Precision competition. Over 70 cadets try out each year, but only 22 can call themselves a member of the Grizzly Battalion Rifle Team. The Northside JROTC program won either sporter, precision, or both state championships 22 out of the last 25 competitions. These students practice each morning at 6 AM and restrict their caffeine and sugar throughout the season. This team recognizes this kind of success because of their dedication and because of the support they receive from their sponsor and coach MSG Patrick Hanson.

Spradling HRS

Spradling Principal Elizabeth Love and the Spradling education team, have earned High-Reliability Schools Level 1 Accreditation. The High-Reliability School (HRS) program was created by Marzano Resources to help transform schools into organizations that take proactive steps to ensure student success. Educators learn to assess, monitor, and confirm the effectiveness of their schools. Schools must collect data and validate their performance. Certification is determined by Marzano Resources analysts in cooperation with school data teams. Level 1 certification means that Spradling Elementary School has established a culture that meets the "Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture" criteria. This is the foundation for every level that follows. Spradling is just the second school in the district to receive this accreditation.

Purple Star School Update

As an update to the Purple Star Schools presentation given by Dr. Michael Farrell in January: Ballman, Barling, Beard, Belle Point, Carnall, Cook, Darby, Orr, Park, Ramsey, Sutton and Woods have earned the Purple Star School designation by the Arkansas Council for Military Children.

Dr. Michael Farrell and his team of School Military Liaisons, invited board members to join FSPS at 5:30 p.m. on April 21 at Cook Elementary to celebrate the Military Families in our district.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mr. David Bourne spoke regarding mental health.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reported that during recent construction projects, Millage, Strategic Planning and COVID, the Board had gotten into a pattern of meeting twice a month for work sessions as well as regularly scheduled board meetings. He stated that after talking with the board president and members, future work sessions or called board meetings would be scheduled as needed.

Dr. Morawski reported that a Called Board Meeting was scheduled for March 28 for the annual superintendent evaluation.

Dr. Morawski provided an update on the following events and dates: Annual Retirement Picnic on May 12, high school graduations for Northside on May 19 and Southside on May 20, Adult Education Graduation on May 24, Peak Innovation Center Open House for prospective students earlier today on March 14, March 28 is the start date for all Peak students except CNAs, Spring Break scheduled for the week of March 21-25 for students and staff.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the February Financial Statement, February 28 Minutes, March Professional Staff Recommendations, and March Student Services Report,

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Note: at 5:55 p.m., Mr. Person recused himself from the following agenda item. Mr. Person has a family member employed by the District.

CONSIDER APPROVING A NONRECURRING SALARY PAYMENT IN FY22

Dr. Morawski stated that board members in previous discussions had asked administration to look into a salary payment for fulltime staff to show appreciation for the past year of challenging times due to COVID and Virtual Learning. The District administration identified an opportunity to reallocate approximately \$1.2 million of current year (FY22) expenditures to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) sources of funds. Additionally, a separate source of funds only available in FY22 had been identified for potential reclassifications from the District's operating fund.

The administration recommended the release of a nonrecurring salary payment of up to \$1,000 to each current (as of March 18, 2022), active full-time employee of the District hired on or before January 24, 2022 to be paid on March 18, 2022. The net amount to each full-time

employee after required withholdings, but not including any voluntary deductions, is just under \$600.

Dr. Morawski stated that Mr. Warren was available for questions related to this non-recurring salary payment.

Ms. Richardson asked Mr. Warren for clarification on who would receive the payment in regards to part-time employees based on times that these employees might work more than part-time and how many part-time employees are affected by not receiving the payment.

Mr. Warren stated that he was aware of four employees that were .5 fte status and also employees that were substitutes and hourly would not qualify.

Ms. Blackwell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve a nonrecurring salary payment to current, active full-time District employees of up to \$1,000.00 on March 18, 2022 as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

Note: At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Person returned to the meeting.

CONSIDER NAMING DISTRICT FACILITIES AND MASCOT POLICY

Dr. Morawski reported that on March 1, Policy Committee board members Mr. Blaylock, Mr. Person and Ms. Richardson met with administrative staff and Mr. Ney to review and edit the ASBA Model Policy for consideration and presentation to the full board for adoption at the March 14 Board meeting.

Mr. Mahan presented Policy 7.21 - Naming Facilities and Mascot Policy to Section 7 – Business and Financial Management for review and discussion. Mr. Mahan stated that the policy included guidelines based on Arkansas law, structure of funding, and options for names based upon, significant financial donor, or a person or place have a strong positive image to stand the test of time. Guidelines also included soliciting nominations for facility names from the public, publication requirements, option to choose a committee, and majoring vote by the Board at regular of special meeting.

Mr. Richardson stated concern as she had to the committee regarding items two and three related to naming facilities for individuals for commemoration and significant financial donors based on current situations in the United States.

Mr. Person stated that the committee did spend a significant amount of time on this policy and he's pleased with the policy and process in place. He stated that his opinion is that the Board should be afforded the opportunity to have maximum flexibility to name a facility after an individual of historical significance.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eckelhoff, to approve the addition of Policy 7.21 - Naming Facilities and Mascot Policy to Section 7 – Business and Financial Management as presented to be effective immediately upon board approval. The vote passed 6/1 with Ms. Richardson opposing.

Ms. McFerran thanked the committee for their time and commitment to this matter.

Note: At 6:10 p.m., Mr. Blaylock recused himself from the next two items.

CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK - DISTRICT INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND FACILITY STAKEHOLDER PLAN

Mr. Shaffer reviewed the process for hiring of construction manager at risk for the District Indoor Air Quality Improvement and Facility Stakeholder Plan. He provided the Selection Committee Members, Facility Stakeholder Plan Request for Qualifications, and Timeline for Construction Manager at Risk and Construction Manager Recommendations.

Arkansas State pre-approved ESSER funded project

Master Plan Resolution: **10/25/21**

Master Plan Public Meeting: **12/07/21**

Projects include but not limited to

Indoor Air Quality: **14.6 million**

Morrison Classroom Addition: **5 million**

Kimmons Cafeteria Expansion: **1.5 million**

Virtual Academy: **1.2 million**

Ramsey Classroom Addition: **1 million**

Service Center Freezer Upgrade: **900k**

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Construction Manager at Risk was issued and has been processed for current and future projects. A schedule of the Request for Qualifications activity is listed below.

Request for Qualifications published in newspaper: **02/13/2022**

Request for Qualifications published on FSPS website: **02/13/2022**

Submittals received: **02/28/2022**

Candidate Interviews / complete evals: **03/04/2022**

Recommendations to Board of Education: **03/14/2022**

Mr. Shaffer presented the grading rubric noting the scores of all six construction companies. Mr. Shaffer stated that the recommendation is that we approve all six construction managers to complete the projects since these projects include up to 24 campuses. The construction

companies included: Beshears Construction Inc., Nabholz, C.R. Crawford Construction, Legacy Construction Management, Clark Contractors, and Turn Key Construction Management.

Mr. Person noting the disparity between high and low scores, asked if the administration is confident that the manager with the lowest score capable of performing these duties, Mr. Shaffer stated that the administration is confident that the managers are capable of performing these duties.

Mr. Eckelhoff made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to award for Construction Manager at Risk for District Indoor Air Quality and Facility Stakeholder Plan projects to the most qualified contractor/s and thereafter to proceed with the execution of a construction contract with the most qualified contractor/s in a form approved by legal counsel. The vote passed 6/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK - PEAK INNOVATION COMMUNITY ROOM

Mr. Shaffer reviewed the process for hiring of Construction Manager at Risk for Peak Innovation Community Room. Mr. Shaffer provided list of committee members, timeline and scoring rubric.

Mr. Shaffer reviewed the following:

Projects estimate: **1 million**
ArcBest donation: **1 million**
Total Square Footage: **13,000 sq'**
Estimated Completion: **Oct 2022**
Community Room Usage
 Community Events
 School Competitions
 Professional Training
 Banquets

Request for Qualifications published in newspaper: **11/18/2021**

Request for Qualifications published on FSPS website: **11/21/2021**

Submittals received: **12/06/2021**

Candidate Interviews / complete evals: **03/07/2022**

Recommendations to Board of Education: **03/14/2022**

Mr. Shaffer stated that the administration's recommendation is Nabholz Construction for the Peak Community Room.

Mr. Person noted that three of the four committee members were not employed by the District. Mr. Shaffer stated all committee members were affiliated with Peak

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to award the Construction Manager at Risk for PEAK Innovation Center Community Room to the most qualified contractor and thereafter to proceed with the execution of a construction contract with the most qualified contractor in a form approved by our legal counsel. The vote passed 6/0.

PRESENTATION - ARCHITECT, ENGINEER, AND CMAR PROJECT ASSIGNMENT - PEAK COMMUNITY ROOM, DISTRICT INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND FACILITY STAKEHOLDER PLAN

Mr. Mahan and Mr. Shaffer provided an overview of engineering firms, architects and construction managers assigned to projects. Utilizing all the firms that submitted RFQs and were qualified would allow work to be going on at 20 to 24 campuses at the same time. Mr. Mahan stated that although the District has until September of 2024 to have all projects done, the plan was to have all projects done by June of 2024.

Ms. McFerran stated that this was an information item and no action was required.

Note: Mr. Blaylock returned at 6:46 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Mr. Eckelhoff commented that he enjoyed reading to Tilles Elementary kindergartners this past week and received a nice thank you card from them.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary