



Board of Education

Minutes of The Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Wednesday, March 19, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dalton Person, president, called the meeting to order noting seven board members present. Other board members present were: Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Ms. Susan Krafft and Ms. Lynnett Lott. Mr. Gregory Carthon was in attendance via Zoom. District administrators present included: Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Allan Marshall, Chief Communications & Engagement Officer; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance.

PRESENTATION – SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM

Dr. Ken James and Dr. Megan Duncan with the search firm, McPherson Jacobson, gave a report on the superintendent search process.

Dr. James reported twenty candidates applied for the position. The candidates were from Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Arizona, Georgia, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Wyoming, Alabama, Oregon, and Kansas.

Dr. James and Dr. Duncan highlighted for the board the three recommended finalists for consideration: Mr. Jason Black, Deputy Superintendent, Conway Public Schools; Ms. Anne Martfeld, Assistant Superintendent, Pea Ridge School District; Mr. Marty Mahan, Deputy Superintendent, Fort Smith Public Schools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

At 6:32 PM the Board went into executive session to discuss the superintendent search.

Board members returned to open session at 7:37 PM.

SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT FINALIST(S)

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lott, to continue moving forward with candidates Mr. Jason Black, Ms. Anne Martfeld, and Mr. Marty Mahan as three finalists for the vacancy of the Superintendent of Fort Smith Public Schools with interviews scheduled for the first week of April. The vote passed 6-0. Mr. Carthon recused from voting due to attending the meeting remotely, as per policy.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

The next regular scheduled board meeting is March 31, 2025.

The superintendent interviews will be scheduled for April 1, April 2, and April 3, 2025.

Mr. Person congratulated the Northside Lady Bears on their basketball state championship.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Dalton Person, President

Davin Chitwood, Secretary