



Board of Education

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting
The Board of Education

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held September 28, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, 3205 Jenny Lind Road, and virtually per COVID-19 CDC guidelines.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Dee Blackwell, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were also present.

A moment of silence was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for citizens' participation

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker reported that the District had just finished its fifth week of school.

Dr. Brubaker reported that the school-based health grant had received final approval.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included: August 2020 Financial Report, September Professional Staff Recommendations, September Student Services Report, September Current Proposals, Bids and Renewals, Designation of October 12 as a called board meeting.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SUPPORT POSITIONS

Dr. Brubaker reported that as of September 25, K-12 enrollment in the district's virtual program is 2,755 students, which is approximately 20% of FSPS students. The volume of contacts with the Student Services Office has grown significantly over the past year due to communication between students' families and department staff. The work of district nurses and social workers has also expanded significantly as families' needs for their services has increased. As a result, an

additional student services secretary position is recommended to support these functions within the student services team.

A special education financial coordinator position is also recommended in order to maintain compliance with financial regulations, maximize federal and state budget allocations, and to supervise Medicaid billing more effectively.

Federal and Categorical funds have been identified to fund these positions, which will minimize the impact on the district's operating budget. The costs related to these positions are listed below:

Position	Funding Source	Contract Length	Budget
Special Education Financial Coordinator	IDEA and ARMAC	250	\$87,830
Student Services Secretary	ESA	250	\$60,546

The administration recommended that the Board approve the two positions. Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to approve the addition of the support positions. The vote passed 7/0

ALBERT PIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENAMING UPDATE

Dr. Brubaker reported that recently, the Board approved a resolution to "adopt a new name for Albert Pike Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year." The resolution called for the process to involve Albert Pike Elementary School stakeholders.

Dr. Brubaker referenced a survey to be released on Tuesday, September 29. A link to the survey will be available on the district web site and social media for community access. The survey link will also be sent to the families of all Albert Pike Elementary School students and to members of the Albert Pike Elementary School staff. Community members who would prefer a paper form because they do not have technology could call the district office to request one. The survey will close on October 8, and the results will be presented to the Board during the called board meeting on October 12.

Dr. Brubaker reported that this agenda item is informational and does not come with a recommendation. Dr. Brubaker asked for feedback from board members.

Ms. McFerran stated that people she had conversations with didn't see the need for a committee. Ms. McFerran stated that she was pleased with the survey provided and hoped that the board could make a decision for a new name at the next board meeting.

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Featherston Marshall presented the following recognitions.

Superintendent's Stars Awards

Khamron Brown, Euper Lane Elementary School
Katherine Cardona Caretto, Trusty Elementary School
Ellie Haid, Cook Elementary School
Jonnathan Iraheta, Howard Elementary School
Gabriel Longoria, Bonneville Elementary School
Tae Mason Morrison Elementary School
Brooklyn McKinney, Carnall Elementary School
Luis Juarez Medina, Sutton Elementary Principal
Lyna Vo, Spradling Elementary School

Other Recognitions

PPE Donations

HPM donated hand sanitizer and gloves to Darby, Fairview and Woods. "You Matter Fort Smith" gave face shields to Woods Elementary and the Fort Smith chapter of the Million Masks Challenge donated over 1,000 masks to the district nurses.

United Way of Fort Smith

United Way of Fort Smith presented Dr. Brubaker with a check for their Virtual School Supply drive, "Fill the Bus".

National Merit Semi-Finalists

Four students from Southside High School: Jaicie Clayton, Jackson Hannon, Jackson Minnick, and Haris Rana were named 2021 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

Administration Appointments

Liana Bolton is serving as the assistant principal at Euper Lane and Orr Elementary Schools. Prior to this assignment, Mrs. Bolton has served most recently as the assistant principal at Southside High School where she has been since 2013.

Michelle Burnett is now serving as the assistant principal at Southside High School. Mrs. Burnett has been a part of the Fort Smith Public Schools since 1996. Since then, she has worked as a teacher at Howard and Orr Elementary Schools and has also worked as an ESL certified staff and an elementary counselor and was most recently the assistant principal at Euper Lane and Orr Elementary Schools.

Martha McEntire is now serving as the Supervisor of Child Nutrition. Ms. McEntire has worked in child nutrition for 18 years, 16 of those years being with the Fort Smith Public School District. Since 2004, Ms. McEntire has been a child nutrition worker, a cafeteria manager, a senior cafeteria manager and most recently, the lead cafeteria manager for the district.

Kerri Tucker joins the FSPS team as the School Based Health Center Coordinator. Prior to this assignment, Kerri has worked as the Director of Support Services at Harbor View Mercy Hospital, Chief Operating Officer and most recently Interim CEO at Perspectives Behavioral Health Management. Kerri has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from the University of Arkansas and is also an Arkansas Licensed Social Worker. She will begin work focused on developing Fort Smith's first School-Based Health Center.

Miranda Watson is serving as the assistant principal at Barling and Woods Elementary Schools. Ms. Watson has been a part of the Fort Smith Public Schools since graduating with her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith in Early Childhood Education. She earned a Masters in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. She served as a teacher at both Sunnymede and Tilles Elementary Schools and was most recently the Title I Elementary Specialist at Tilles Elementary and is ESL certified.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Brubaker provided the annual report to the public. He noted that the District had 2,039 employees as of June 2020, 14,788 students enrolled for 2019-2020, and 1,001 graduates for 2020, with \$9,538,493 awarded in scholarships. Dr. Brubaker reported on the District's response to COVID-19, highlighting learning online, 286,404 meals served to students from March through May 2020, and Park & Learn WIFI zones at buildings. He reported \$69 million capital improvement investments in 2019 for FSPS building permits, Professional Learning Communities, donations, grants and other commitments for the Peak Innovation Center, \$500,000 School-Based Health Center Grant, \$100,000 Fruits and Vegetables Grant, LifeSaver School Award presented to Fort Smith School District by the Arkansas Chapter of American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the financial actual revenue sources.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER

Mr. Marshall Ney of Friday, Eldredge and Clark, and District Attorney reported that the State is now requiring that Districts submit existing employees background checks as well as new hires. He noted that sometimes an employee will receive notice that their background check did not pass. An employee will receive notice and be given 30 days to petition the board for a waiver to continue employment. Mr. Ney noted that the legislation has required that this type of employee issue, because it is a disqualifying factor for employment and documents related to it are subject to the Freedom of Information Act, must be handled in public instead of in closed session as most personnel matters are. Mr. Ney advised the board that they have the power but no obligation to issue a waiver if they choose to do so. He added that the legislation has suggested that the age of the employee, the circumstances surrounding the instance, the length of time from disqualifying incident, character and potential threat posed by employee to students, are things that can be considered by the board. The board was asked to consider these things and then adopt a resolution if the board decided to grant the waiver to employee Ann Davis. Ms. Davis presented the board with an explanation regarding the offense that occurred. Board members questioned Ms. Davis, Mr. Ney, Ms. Penix and Dr. Chris Davis of

Human Resources regarding the disqualifying incident. The board also reviewed the resolution drafted by Mr. Ney. After discussion, Mr. Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to grant the waiver. The vote passed 7/0.

The board took a brief break to read a resolution that Mr. Ney had drafted in the event the Board approved the waiver.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the resolution as written. The vote passed 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. McFerran commended staff for quick responses when issues arise.

Ms. Richardson expressed thanks also to all the teachers, administration, janitorial and cafeteria staff who work hard to keep buildings clean and safe.

Ms. Keaton-Martin stated that she was happy to meet in person.

Mr. Hanesworth thanked the staff for all their hard work.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary