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## Board of Education

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### Minutes of The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, August 22, 2022, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Blackwell, president, called the meeting to order noting all seven board members were present. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Ms. Sandy Dixon and Mr. Phil Whiteaker. 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; Dr. Michael Farrell, Executive Director of Student Services; Mr. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Mr. Shawn Shaffer; Executive Director of Facility Operations; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Community and Business Partnerships; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance.

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

#### **RECOGNITIONS**

Ms. Marshall presented the following recognitions.

##### Southside Quiz Bowl

The Southside High School Quiz Bowl team, Jackson Austin, Jordan Kennedy, Isabel Nuno, Andrea Ortega, Vincente Otero, Dipa Patel, Sam Pritchard, Zain Rana, and Tzideny Romero, captured first place in the nation at the National Academic Championships Junior Varsity National Tournament. The quiz bowl team is coached by Josh Adams and Walter Woodie.

##### Aimee Brinkley

Aimee Brinkley, Pre-AP and AP Biology teacher at Northside High School, is the Fort Smith Schools Teacher of the Year. Ms. Brinkley has taught at Northside since 2004 and is a National Board Certified Teacher.

##### Charles Warren

Charles Warren, CPA, SFO and Chief Financial Officer of Fort Smith Public Schools has received the Outstanding CPA in Government Impact Award at the local level from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Warren has been with the district for 14 years.

##### Orr Elementary

Principal Dr. Dawn Childress and the Orr education team have completed the hard work necessary to earn High-Reliability Schools Level 2 Accreditation. Orr is the first school in the district to receive this level 2 accreditation.

### **ENERGY STAR AWARDS**

Mr. Shawn Shaffer recognized Fort Smith Public Schools buildings that earned the ENERGY STAR Certification. They include Beard, Bonneville, Carnall, Cavanaugh, Euper Lane, Fairview, Howard, Orr, Park, Spradling, Sunnymede, Sutton, Tilles, Woods, Chaffin, Ramsey, and Northside High School. To earn ENERGY STAR Certification, buildings must rate in the top 25 percent nationwide for energy efficiency.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski recognized that August 22, 2022 was the first day of school. It was a great day and a great start to the school year.

Dr. Morawski reported that the findings from the curriculum and instruction audit will be reported at the November board meeting.

Dr. Davis recognized the following employees in new positions in the District.

Caroline Neel – Director of Federal Programs and Strategic Initiatives  
Crystal Smith - Supervisor of Special Programs  
Amy Manley – Director of Recruitment and Retention  
Joseph Valesquez – Construction Project Manager  
Dana Rackley – Principal, Beard Elementary  
Clint Gillman – Principal, Cavanaugh Elementary  
Donna Jones – Principal, Bonneville Elementary  
JoAnna King – Principal, Sunnymede Elementary  
Jennifer Prado – Principal, Ramsey Middle School  
Jason Maherg – Principal, Darby Middle School  
Kristi Morris – Assistant Principal, Ballman/Bonneville Elementary  
Dana Brooks – Assistant Principal, Beard/Spradling Elementary  
Emily Moss – Assistant Principal, Darby Middle School

Dr. Morawski introduced the next process of strategic planning and the timeline for that plan, which includes a listening tour of staff, students, parents, and community groups. The information gathered will be reported back to the Board for feedback and setting goals for our internal processes.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the June and July Financial Statement, July 18 Minutes, August Professional Staff Recommendations, and August Student Services Report.

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

### **PRESENTATION - TUTOR ME**

Dr. Bone and representatives from Tutor Me introduced the Tutor Me program that is available to every student. Students can connect to a live tutor in over 300 subjects, including AP courses, and receive one-to-one tutoring. This service is free to students and available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Tutor Me can be accessed through the clever portal. This program is on a year-to-year basis and is paid for with Title I funds.

This was a presentation item and did not require action.

**PRESENTATION - GIFT FROM THE COACH RONNIE BATEMAN FOUNDATION**

Mr. Mahan introduced Mr. Prewitt, Principal at Southside High School, to present a gift from the Coach Ronnie Bateman Foundation.

The gift presented is a sculpture that will be located in front of the arena at Southside High School.

This was a presentation item and did not require action.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FEDERAL PROGRAMS STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES FOR PROGRAMS UNDER THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965, AS AMENDED BY THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT**

Ms. Neel reported this is a required document that is filed annually with the Department of Education, assuring that the District will spend federal funds in accordance to the guidelines set for each particular fund and for the purposes that they are intended. In addition, the Superintendent must sign this document attesting the compliance of all assurances.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the 2022-23 Federal Programs Statement of Assurances and authorize the Superintendent to sign the assurances for submission to the Arkansas Department of Education. The vote passed 7-0.

**CONSIDER APPROVING THE PAYOFF OF TWO BOND ISSUES**

Mr. Warren identified two bond issues that are eligible to be paid in full. Payoff of these bonds will develop extra cash flow to fund the certified salary schedule restructure.

The cost savings of these two bonds will free up \$600,000 of cash flow.

Mr. Chitwood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the resolution supporting the payoff of the two bond issues as listed. The vote passed 7-0.

**CONSIDER APPROVING THE PARTICIPATION IN CACFP FOR 2022-2023**

Mr. Warren presented the Child and Adult Care Food Program for approval. This program provides snacks for the Pre-K program.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the District's participation in the CACFP for 2022-23 school year. The motion passed 7-0.

**PRESENTATION - MILLAGE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

Mr. Mahan gave an update on the conclusion of Vision 2023. He highlighted the focal points of Vision 2023 were safety & security, expanded technology, a career and technical center, increased capacity in classrooms, and renovate aging schools.

Improvements include secure entryways with access control and key readers and enhanced lighting. Technology upgrades for each student K-12 to have their own device. Each of the high schools received new storm shelters, kitchen and cafeteria expansions, a new competition gymnasium, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade centers. Improvements also include permanent walls constructed at several elementary schools to enhance construction and security.

The excess funds of \$390,459.32 is a combination of millage funds, state funds specific to the millage, and grant funds.

This was a presentation item and did not require action.

#### **CONSIDER ADOPTING 2022-2023 DISTRICT BUDGET**

Mr. Warren summarized the four factors of funding: student count, state foundation, assessed value, and millage rate.

Mr. Warren provided a close look at the budget summary - legal fund balance for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Warren reviewed the capital projects fund, federal funds, and child nutrition fund budgets for the 2022-2023 school year. This included revenue and expenses.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to adopt the 2022-2023 financial budget as presented, authorizing the Administration to make adjustments as needed for DESE submission. The motion passed 7-0.

#### **PEAK INNOVATION CENTER EAST PARKING LOT DRAINAGE**

Ms. Blackwell asked if any Board members would like to recuse at this time.

Mr. Shaffer, along with associates of Halff Engineering, gave an update to the Peak Innovation Center east parking lot drainage.

Five options were presented as improvements for drainage at the East parking lot.

Recommendations to the Board were to perform onsite clean up, to continue to monitor conditions, and to accept some pooling in the east parking lot considering the investment it would cost to completely remedy the pooling. This recommendation would get pooling water out of the parking lot much quicker.

After some discussion, the Board requested a maintenance schedule to ensure this area is cleaned up quickly and that it remains clean as well as a better cost estimate of each of the options. This will be presented at a future board meeting.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

The next regular board meeting is Monday, September 26, 2022.

#### **ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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Dee Blackwell, President

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Dalton Person, Secretary