



## Board of Education

Minutes of  
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, December 12, 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. Richardson, vice president, called the meeting to order noting five board members were present. Other board members present were: Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Ms. Sandy Dixon and Mr. Phil Whiteaker. Ms. Dee Blackwell was not in attendance. 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. Shawn Shaffer, Executive Director of Facility Operations; Ms. Shari Cooper, Director of Communications; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance via Zoom.

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

Mr. Dalton Person arrived to the meeting at 5:38 PM.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

Ms. Cooper presented the following recognitions.

#### December Superintendent Star Awards

Ni'Osha Brown – Tilles Elementary  
Urial DeLaCruz – Ballman Elementary  
Julio Iraheta – Park Elementary  
Genesis Ramirez – Fairview Elementary  
Megan Ramirez Saavedra – Bonneville Elementary  
Lilly Sanchez – Spradling Elementary  
Anthony Smith Simpson – Howard Elementary  
Shekinah Thompson – Sutton Elementary  
Diamond Williams – Morrison Elementary

#### Arkansas Special Tennis of the Year Event

Nine teachers were recognized for their work in leading third graders across the district in participating in the Western Arkansas Tennis Association's tennis program. Last year's event had over 100 students participate. This event was named the 2022 Arkansas Special Tennis Event of the Year. The teachers recognized were Ashley White, Cook Elementary; Lisa Grace, Howard Elementary; Kimberly Sota, Fairview Elementary; Alyson Mason, Beard Elementary; Tori Stocking, Barling Elementary; Angela Brewer, Tilles Elementary; Stacy Glover and Autumn Harris, Euper Lane Elementary; and Brittany Martin, Trusty Elementary.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski reported that the input collected for the Continuous Improvement Plan is being reviewed and a final draft will be presented at the January regular board meeting.

District administration is reviewing information related to district demographics, attendance zones, and transfer policies. These findings will also be presented at the January regular board meeting.

The current economic conditions are pushing interest rates up which has increased the interest earnings on the District's fund balance. The District has taken steps to maximize those interest earnings. These actions could provide the District up to an additional \$200,000 over the remaining school year.

Board members Ms. Dixon and Mr. Whiteaker attended the Arkansas School Board Association conference on December 7-9, 2022 in Little Rock. Dr. Morawski also presented about the District's participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library project.

Dr. Morawski's report on Good Things Going On in the District included: Northside High School National Honor Society helped with the Antioch Youth and Family Thanksgiving giveaway, Southside High School Habitat for Humanity built and painted sheds serving the Fort Smith Community, Northside High School Student Council held a canned food drive. A total of 10,192 cans of nonperishable items were raised for the Salvation Army. Former Ballman Bear, Evan Smith, is building Ballman an outdoor classroom as part of his Eagle Scout project. Students from Spradling, Kimmons, and Northside helped assemble Christmas wreaths for the National Cemetery Christmas Honors. Students participated in the first Lego League tournament held at the Peak Innovation Center. Carnall, Cavanaugh, Fairview, and Howard Elementary students participated in gingerbread house making. Sunnymede Elementary students sang Christmas carols at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Jerry's Boys and Girls Club. 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders were able to tour the Be Pro Be Proud truck at the Peak Innovation Center.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included November 14 and November 28 Minutes, October and November Financial Report, December Professional Staff Recommendations and December Student Services Report.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed 6/0.

### **CONSIDER APPROVING ETHICS DISCLOSURE RESOLUTION**

Mr. Warren presented a resolution that would cover an employee that has a direct financial interest in a new vendor. The District desires to conduct business with this new vendor as the opportunity arises.

The administration recommended the Board approve the ethics disclosure and resolution as presented.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blaylock, to approve the ethics disclosure resolution. The motion passed 6-0.

### **PRESENTATION - DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Mr. Velasquez gave an update on the school based health clinic project in regards to funding. Pre-approval to use ESSER funds were received for this project. Also using reallocated funds from the Ramsey classroom project is also a possibility.

Mr. Velasquez also provided the status of each ongoing project and where those projects are in their construction steps.

This was an information item and no recommendation is required.

#### **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK**

Mr. Shaffer presented information concerning the hiring of construction manager at risk for the Peak drainage and additional parking. He presented the selection committee members, a recap of the project, the request for qualifications timelines and a grading rubric for each of the candidates.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the administration's recommendation is Nabholz Construction for the Peak drainage and additional parking.

Ms. Dixon expressed concern about using a contractor whose corporate office is not local as well as the rubric scoring system and experience in construction of the selection committee.

Mr. Person suggested making possible modifications to the rubric or different guidelines on how to obtain these scores.

Dr. Morawski stated this process was first developed at the direction of the Board. However, it is a process that can be amended if the board agrees. He also stated all of the firms are qualified to do the work and would all do a good job.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to award Construction Manager at Risk for Peak drainage and additional parking to Nabholz Construction Services as the most qualified contractor and thereafter to proceed with the execution of construction contract with Nabolz Construction in the form approved by our legal counsel. The motion passed 5-1 with Ms. Dixon opposing.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. Dixon shared a concern parents had regarding an assessment survey that was sent out.

Dr. Morawski explained the survey was meant to be voluntary however, some students were told incorrectly that it was not voluntary. The survey was issued from the state. The District determined to discontinue participating in the survey at this time.

The next regular board meeting is Monday, January 23, 2023.

Ms. Dixon thanked Ballman Elementary for their Christmas card and artwork.

Mr. Whiteaker stated in attending the ASBA Conference, he preferred the in person conferences for networking and being able to interact with other board members and superintendents from other districts.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

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Dee Blackwell, President

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Dalton Person, Secretary