



Board of Education

Minutes of Called Board Meeting
The Board of Education

CALL TO ORDER

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, October 12, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901 and virtually.

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker reported that the board would have two hours of board training after the board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included: October Professional Staff Recommendations, October Student Services Report, and Minority Recruitment Report.

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

ALBERT PIKE RENAMING PROCESS

Dr. Brubaker reported that on August 24, the Board approved a resolution to “adopt a new name for Albert Pike Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year.” The resolution also calls for the process to involve Albert Pike Elementary School stakeholders.

On September 29, the district released an electronic survey to solicit input about potential names for Albert Pike Elementary School. A link was posted to the district web site for community access; the link was also sent directly to Albert Pike Elementary students, parents, and staff members.

People who preferred to fill out a paper copy of the survey had that option. Copies were available in the Albert Pike Elementary office and available upon request at the FSPS Service Center.

The results of all surveys were compiled and a summary shared with the Board. Extensive input was received from students, staff members, and the community; with over 800 responses as of October 7. Dr. Brubaker stated that based on discussions and the volume of stakeholder input, the Administration has developed two options for the Board to consider regarding the next steps in the process.

1. The Board may choose a new name for Albert Pike Elementary School.
2. The Board may name a Pike Renaming Committee to process the submitted suggestions to prepare for further consideration by the Board at a future meeting. If the Board selects this option, the following plan is recommended:
 - a. The Board discusses desired criteria for a new name for Albert Pike Elementary
 - b. The Board selects seven committee members to serve on the Pike Elementary Renaming Committee, with one member of the committee to be appointed by each Board member
 - c. Director of Elementary Education Dr. Mary Ann Johns and Albert Pike Elementary School Principal Mrs. Monica Austin each recruit one Albert Pike Elementary School parent and one staff member to serve on the committee, for a total of eleven members
 - d. The Pike Elementary Renaming Committee meets prior to the October 26 Board of Education Meeting to sort the names submitted through the survey into the following three categories:
 - **Category A:** Potential school names submitted through the survey that align with the board-recommended criteria
 - **Category B:** Potential school names submitted through the survey that **do not** align with the board-recommended criteria
 - **Category C:** Other school names submitted through the survey
 - e. The Board of Education meets on October 26, reviews the work of the committee, adopts a new name for Albert Pike Elementary, and authorizes the Superintendent and/or designee to make arrangements necessary to implement the adoption of the new name in time for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Brubaker stated that the administration recommends that the Board choose one of the two courses of action described or decide upon another option.

Mr. Gilkey made a motion to name the school Ray Baker Elementary. He stated that Mr. Baker was an outstanding teacher with the District for years and mayor of the city. This motion did not receive a second or vote.

Ms. McFerran stated she agreed Mr. Baker was a great man but she felt that the board should not name the school after a person. Ms. Richardson referenced the Southside High School naming process as a consideration. Mr. Person stated that, for a matter of record, Park Elementary was the favorite choice of Pike staff and students. Ms. Blackwell and Ms. Keaton-Martin both stated that Park Elementary was a good choice in their opinion.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Person, to adopt Park Elementary School as the new name for Albert Pike Elementary and authorize the Superintendent to make preparations necessary to implement the transition to the new name for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The vote passed 6/1 with Mr. Gilkey opposing.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE DEMOLITION OF THREE SCHOOL BUSES IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE DISTRICT PARTICIPATED IN A \$75,000 GRANT TO PURCHASE THREE NEW SCHOOL BUSES.

Mr. Warren reported that the buses have been delivered and placed in service. The grant requires the District to “scrap” three old buses. The three buses earmarked for demolition are as follows:

Bus #28	VIN 4DRBGAAN24A965037
Bus #29	VIN 4DRBGAAN44A965038
Bus #67	VIN 4DRBGAAN24A965040

District Policy Section 7.13 – Management and Disposal of District Property provides guidance on the disposal of fixed assets, although this grant requirement circumvents the sale of the buses at fair market value. The District believes the fair market value of the three buses is less than the financial benefit of the grant.

The Administration recommended the Board consider approving the demolition of the three school buses as listed above and there could be some collection of funds for the value of the buses’ scrap metal.

Ms. Richardson asked that buses be scrapped and recycled locally if possible.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to authorize the District to demolish for scrap the three school buses as listed above. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID FOR PEAK INNOVATION CENTER BUILDING ENVELOPE CONSTRUCTION PACKAGE

Dr. Morawski introduced Mr. George Watts who reported that a bid for a Peak Innovation Center Building Envelope Construction Package (the exterior of the building), was issued and has been processed as part of the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Program. A schedule of the bid activity is listed below.

Date	Construction RFQ Event
August 6, 2020	Bid Advertised on District Website
August 7 & 17, 2020	Bid Advertised in Newspaper
August 18, 2020	Pre-submittal Meeting
August 26 2020	Bid Deadline
August 26, 2020	Bid Opening
<i>October 12, 2020</i>	<i>Board Considers Award of Bid</i>

The administration recommended the Board of Education award the bid for the Peak Innovation Center Building Envelope Construction Package to Turn Key Construction Management and thereafter to proceed with the execution of a construction contract in a form approved by our legal counsel. Turn Key Construction was the only bidder.

Mr. Watts explained that although EDA requires that the bid be accepted and the contract must be signed in the amount the bid came in there is a value optimization process that will enable them to find deducts that will get the cost down to the targeted price.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to award the bid for the Peak Innovation Center Building Envelope Construction Package to Turn Key Construction Management and thereafter to proceed with the execution of a construction contract in a form approved by our legal counsel. The vote passed 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Mr. Gilkey asked about a Talk Business article regarding concurrent credit cuts if the upcoming tax fails. Dr. Brubaker said he would look into it.

Mr. Hanesworth asked for an overview of the Virtual School at the next meeting to bring board members up to date on progress.

Dr. Brubaker commended Dr. Udouj and Mr. Mahan for their work with the Virtual School program.

Ms. Richardson asked for an update as to what Plan B would be with COVID concerns should schools have to be closed.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and Mr. Haneworth adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. for Mr. Ney to present annual board training.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary