

## **Minutes of Regular Meeting**

### **The Board of Education Fort Smith Public Schools**

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, August 28, 2017, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B.

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Susan McFerran. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Terry Morawski, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Martin Mahan, Executive Director of Human Resources, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Mr. Charles Warren gave the Invocation.

The consent agenda included the minutes of the July Regular School Board Meeting and the July Financial Report. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

#### Recognitions

Dr. Brubaker recognized Lori Griffin, principal at Ballman Elementary School for her election as the President Elect for the Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals. Ms. Griffin was also recognized for appointment by the Governor to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Regional Education Board.

Mr. Brad Ray, assistant principal of Northside High School, was recognized for his election as the President Elect for the Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals.

#### Introduction of New Administrators

Dr. Brubaker introduced two new administrators: Mr. Ed Hansen, assistant principal at Tilles Elementary School and Dr. Christopher Johnson, principal of Kimmons Junior High School.

Dr. Brubaker introduced Northside High School seniors Isaiah Joe and Hannah Krehbiel and Southside seniors Dania Rahal and Okla Ben Smith. These students participated as members of the Strategic Planning Team from August 24 through 26.

#### Strategic Planning Overview

Dr. Brubaker reported that the Vision 2023 Strategic Planning Team developed a series of belief statements, objectives, a mission statement and parameters to guide the development of the District's 5-year plan. Dr. Brubaker reported that the next step will be action teams of 25 or more people who will tackle individual strategies and determine specific action steps.

#### Professional Staff Recommendations

##### **Resignations and Retirements**

Pratt, Greg

Stegal, Sandra

Jackson, Marlin

Williams, Andrew

Perry, James

Lee, Mary Amanda

Sumpter, Sarah

Hancock, Danielle

Fitting, Caleb

Hotubbee, Dawn

##### **Retirement**

Mendoza, Kathreen

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth, to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote passed 7/0.

##### **Recommendations for Employment**

Stec, Julie

Spencer, Frances

Warren, Aimee

Hill, Benjamin

Dean, Tessa

McCabe, Lucinda

Youngblood, Natasha

Mink, Ivy  
Gayer, Rachel  
Smither, Donella  
Bershers, Angela  
Canfield, Laura  
Stinson, Jordan  
Lucas, Adam  
Hotz, David  
McKissic, Tammy  
Yarbrough, Nicholas  
Ramey, Amra  
Palmer, Jessica  
Watkins, Kimberly  
Lauver, Maxine  
Kennedy, Clayton  
Hotubbee, Dawn  
Stocking, Victoria  
Allensworth, Hollie  
Robertson, Stacey  
Manning, Lauren  
Huynh, Thao

Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote passed 7/0.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

##### Refunding of Bonds

Mr. Warren reported that bids on the refunding of bonds that the Board approved in May came in better than projected with a savings of more than \$778,000. The estimated savings in the FY18 fiscal year will be approximately \$466,000. This reduction in debt service payment has already been incorporated in the 2017-18 budget. The Administration recommended that the Board approve the bid from Raymond James & Associates, Inc. for the Refunding Bonds, Series 2017 bond issue of \$9,165,000. Additionally, the Administration recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution to issue the Refunding Bonds, Series 2017 for \$9,165,000.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to accept the bid from Raymond James & Associates, Inc. The vote passed 7/0. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to waive the formal reading of the resolution. The vote passed 7/0. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the resolution to issue the Refunding of Bonds. The vote passed 7/0.

### Properties

Mr. Morawski reported that the Master Facility Planning RFQ process began on July 21. The District received five responses from qualified firms. These RFQ submissions were reviewed by a committee on August 11, 2017. This committee consisted of Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, and Terry Morawski, Chief Operations Officer. Firms were scored and a ranking list was developed. Mr. Morawski briefed the Board on the process and the timeliness and how it relates to Strategic Planning. Mr. Morawski introduced the top ranked Corgan, Childers Architects to the Board who spoke briefly about their experience and plans for the District. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to authorize the administration to negotiate and award a contract with the highest ranked firm for Districtwide Facility Master Planning. The vote passed 7/0.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

#### 2017-2018 FSPS District Budget

Mr. Hanesworth reported that the FSPS District Budget was presented at the August 14 Committee meeting. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to recommend that the Board approve the 2017-2018 financial budget as presented with an ending projected total fund balance of \$25,395,708 allowing the Administration to make adjustments to the budget as required by the Arkansas Department of Education for final submission purposes. The vote passed 7/0.

#### Sanitation Bids

Mr. Hanesworth reported that Sanitation contracts were rebid after being tabled from earlier bids. Sanitation services were publicly opened on August 10 in the Buildings and Grounds office at the Service Center. Three companies submitted bids: Altes Sanitation Services, the City of Fort Smith, and Waste Management. The low bidder was The City of Fort Smith. The City's bid for a three-year and nine-month service contract was \$307,594.00. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to recommend the low bid of \$307, 594 from the City of Fort Smith for commercial sanitation services for a three year and nine-month period to begin October 1, 2017. The vote passed 7/0.

#### Authorization for Superintendent to Apply for Funds

Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to designate the Superintendent as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary and approve the annual authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to

make application for any and all Federal/State funds and to serve as the authorized representative for these programs. The vote passed 7/0.

#### School Board Election Resolutions - 2018

Dr. Brubaker reported that under Act 910 of 2017, the Board must approve a resolution before February 2018 regarding when the school board elections will be held in 2018. The options are (1) during the spring when the preferential primaries are held or (2) in November on the date that the general election takes place in even-numbered years or, in odd-numbered years, on the date that a general election would take place in an even-numbered year.

Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to recommended adoption of the resolution, which would designate the election date on the same date as the preferential primary (Spring date). Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to waive the formal reading of the resolution. After discussion, the vote passed with a 6/1 vote with Mr. Gilkey opposing.

#### FSPS Preschool Program Presentation

Dr. Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Parent & Community Services, made a brief presentation on the FSPS Early Childhood Program. Her presentation provided an overview of services and information about the long-term benefits to students and the community.

### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. Susan McFerran commended Mr. Travis Biggs and Southside High School staff for the time and effort spent coordinating cleanup and repair of damage caused by rainstorms during renovations. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin congratulated Dr. Brubaker on his completion of his Arkansas licensure requirements. Ms. Cole commented on the positive comments she had received from people participating in the Vision 2023 Strategic Planning. Ms. Cole also commended Citizen Mr. John Priester for donating airline miles for Chaffin Quiz bowl students. Mr. Wade Gilkey commended Ms. Richardson for her commitment to the Strategic Planning process.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Chance Cole spoke on behalf of his daughter, Mary Alex Cole, currently a Trinity Junior High School student. He asked that the Board reconsider and allow Mary Alex to play tennis at Northside High School. President Mehl stated that she understood the timeliness of Mr. and Ms. Cole's request. Dr. Brubaker stated that because he had just recently learned of the Cole's

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request, he and administration would get in touch with Arkansas Activities Association and get an answer to the Coles as soon as eligibility could be determined.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Deanie Mehl, President

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Bill Hanesworth, Secretary