

Minutes of Committee Meeting

The Board of Trustees Fort Smith Public Schools

A Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, August 14, 2017, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B.

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to meet as a Committee of the Whole. Board members present were Dr. Deanie Mehl, Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin and Mr. Wade Gilkey. Administrators present were Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Terry Morawski, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Martin Mahan, Executive Director of Human Resources and Support Services, 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, Mr. Dennis Siebenmorgen, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent.

BUDGET - 2017-2018

Mr. Warren presented the 2017-2018 budget in a new format. The report summarized the activity for the fiscal year of 2016-2017 and presented a budget for the fiscal year of 2017-2018. He discussed each page in depth and answered questions from board members. After discussion, Ms. Talicia Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth, to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the 2017-2018 financial budget as presented with an ending projected total fund balance of \$25,395,707. The vote passed 7/0.

SANITATION BIDS

Dr. Brubaker reminded the Board of the Sanitation temporary arrangements while rebidding. The bid process was completed on August 10 when bids were publicly opened. 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 is for a three year and nine-month service contract in the amount of \$307,594.00. Mr. Morawski reported that the winning bid was \$1,000 less annually than the previous bid. Mr. Morawski and Mr. Siebenmorgen toured the recycling facility and recycling is included in the bid.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to recommend to the Board of Education 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 to get back on the regular three year cycle. The vote passed 7/0.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR FUNDS 2017/2018

Dr. Mehl reported that as required by law the Fort Smith Public Schools Board of Directors annually designate the Superintendent as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary. This authorizes the application for any and all Federal or State of Arkansas funds and to serve as the District's authorized representative for federal and state programs as required.

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Talicia Richardson to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the annual authorization for the Superintendent to serve as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary for Fort Smith Public Schools. 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. He presented two options which 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. Dr. Brubaker presented draft resolutions prepared for each of the two options.

Members discussed reasons to hold the election in the spring versus the November primaries. After discussion, Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to recommend to the Board of Education to set the 2018 Board election during the spring when the preferential primaries are held by adopting Draft Resolution A. Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth, to waive the formal reading of the drafted resolutions. The vote passed 7/0. The motion on the floor to adopt the spring election date passed 5/2 with Mr. Hanesworth and Mr. Gilkey opposing.

POLICY DJC AMENDED - FIRST READING

Dr. Brubaker reported that the last time the FSPS Policy DJC was amended was 1998. He reported that Legislation with Act 1124 of 2017 changed the minimum amount that requires school districts to solicit bids from \$10,000 to \$20,000. He noted that this act became effective August 1, 2017. If approved, the Fort Smith School District policy DJC would be amended to reflect this new threshold. Dr. Brubaker reported that the Administration recommends that the Committee recommend the amended District Policy DJC by striking \$10,000 and substituting \$20,000.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to amend for first reading District Policy DJC by striking references to the amount of "\$10,000" and replacing the stricken amount of \$10,000 with "\$20,000".

Mr. Gilkey expressed concern in changing the threshold from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Dr. Brubaker stated that it is intended to ease the time consuming processing of bidding and staff time involved and give the District the opportunity to operate more efficiently. He added that most Districts were using the \$20,000 threshold. Mr. Hanesworth asked if a report could be generated on a monthly basis that reflects spending less than \$20,000. Ms. Richardson expressed concern that it might create more work for staff if the intention of changing the minimum bid amount is to create less work. After discussion, Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to table the motion on the floor until the Board meeting. The vote passed 7/0. Mr. Warren stated that he will visit with Mr. Bandy, Purchasing Supervisor and look into time involved in creating monthly reports. Dr. Brubaker stated that this amendment is not time sensitive and might be brought to the Board at a later date outside of the two weeks until Board meeting if more time is needed.

Dr. Mehl thanked all administrators in attendance and wished all a successful first day of school.

Dr. Brubaker reported that parents had been encouraged to submit First Day of School Photos through the FSPS website and social media. He reported that there will be a Preschool presentation at the August 28 Board Meeting. He reported that one of the Superintendent goals is to recognize younger kids through Star Awards beginning in September. He reported that a Strategic Planning list was almost complete. He reported on meeting with the Superintendent Student Advisory Council, progress on the Website and link to social media outlets, and logo. Dr. Brubaker reported on additional items for the next Board meeting that weren't available by committee meeting.

Ms. McFerran commended the staff at Southside for their efforts during the recent issues with water damage.

Ms. Richardson asked as a new board member if a list of properties owned by the District could be provided to the Board of Education.

Ms. Yvonn Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson to adjourn. There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.