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## Board of Education

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Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting  
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held November 18, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Jeannie Cole. Ms. Talicia Richardson was absent. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Dr. Chris Davis, Supervisor of Human Resources and Campus Support, 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.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

Jasmine David, sixth-grader at Trusty Elementary School, Terry Harris, sixth grader at Spradling Elementary School, Avery Lamb, fourth grader at Carnall Elementary School, Anthony Mendez, sixth grader at Morrison Elementary School, Eva Perry, sixth grader at Bonneville Elementary School, Daisy Raya, fifth grader at Howard Elementary School, Adeeb Samman, fourth grader at Cook Elementary, Liam Sparks, kindergartener at Euper Lane Elementary School, Kellie Thongkham, sixth grader at Sutton Elementary School, and Kennedy Totten, sixth grader, Woods Elementary School.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Conley Bone, Ms. Kristi Kindrick, Mr. Alex Catsavis and Jason Green spoke regarding the Arkansas Activities Association's decision to split Northside and Southside high schools into two conferences. Ms. Sherri Clark spoke regarding bullying-cyberbullying in the schools.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Professional Staff Recommendations**

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Dr. Davis to present the professional staff recommendations. There were no leaves of absence.

## **Resignations**

### Certified

None

### Classified

Carver, Jackie  
Johnson, Corey  
Hickey, Candice  
Neal, Kevin

## **Retirement**

### Certified

None

### Classified

Baer, Steven

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to accept the recommendation for resignations as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

## **Employment**

### Certified

Lincoln, Aaron  
Carlton, Bethany  
Morales, Brianda  
Roberts, Samantha  
Williams, Kizzy  
Kolvack, Linda

### Classified

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the minutes of the October 28 School Board Meeting, November 11 Work Session, October Financial Report, and November Student Services Report, Selection of a Voting Representative for the ASBA Delegate Assembly, Adoption of Policy 4.14 - Student Media and the Distribution of Literature for Second Reading, Approval of Student Handbook Change To Reflect Newly Adopted Student Policy 4.14 (Student Media) For 2019-2020

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES WITH TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 TO AND INCLUDING JUNE 30, 2022**

Mr. Warren presented a proposed budget of expenditures and the corresponding tax levy that must be published at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual school election that will be held in March 2020. This published budget documents the school tax rate of the current rate of 42.058 mills and the same rate approved by voters in the May 2018 school election. This proposed budget is based upon a projection of expenditures during the 2021-2022 fiscal year at the current millage rate. The act of publishing this budget is an action required to comply with Arkansas' constitutional provisions relative to the ad valorem tax.

The administration recommended that the Board approve the 2021-2022 proposed budget.

Ms. Keaton Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey to approve the proposed budget of expenditures and tax levy for 2021-2022 to be published as required by law. The vote passed 6/0.

**PRESENTATION - HATCHING RESULTS-DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING PROGRAM IN THE FORT SMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dr. Farrell stated that the State of Arkansas passed Act 190, The School Counseling Improvement Act in the Spring of 2019 which asked that each district to develop a K-12 comprehensive school counseling program. Dr. Farrell stated that the district wanted to partner with an organization that would help the district develop a comprehensive counseling program and decided upon Dr. Trish Hatch's Hatching Results based upon the three tiers of how counselors deliver services to students.

**PRESENTATION - AAA UPDATE**

As directed by the Board of Education at a previous board meeting, Mr. Marshall Ney, Legal Counsel for the District, reviewed research into similar lawsuits against the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA). He reviewed prior appellate decisions against the Arkansas Activities Association referencing Van Buren and Bryant school districts, which did not favor the districts. Mr. Ney suggested getting legislative support. Several board members expressed frustration and agreed getting legislative support might be best. Mr. Gilkey voiced that he was still interested in a lawsuit. Mr. Ney's opinion was that he would not be a good steward of the District's monies to file suit but would do so if the board chooses to do so. Ms. McFerran expressed thanks to Mr. Ney for his research into the matter and stated that the board was given a couple options to consider. She stated this was an informational presentation and no action would be taken at this time.

**PRESENTATION - PROPERTY UPDATE**

Dr. Morawski stated that the District is required annually to present to the State any unused or underutilized property. He stated that there are three properties on the list: Lincoln Gym, 1422 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newlon Road Property, Park Street/Newlon Road and Nolon Springs Cemetery, 4100 Block of Newlon Road. Mr. Bob Cooper, Property Consultant with Coop Ghan reviewed details of the properties. Mr. Ney reviewed the Arkansas laws associated with the unused or underutilized properties and options for the properties. After discussion, Ms. McFerran stated that this was an informational presentation and no action was required.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

There were no comments.

#### **ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Susan McFerran, President

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary